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THE YEAR THAT IS GONE.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year and look back on the twelve months that have passed we have much to make us thankful and much to give us quiet confidence in the future. In the wider sphere of national life, the year 1942, after many disasters and setbacks and many falsified hopes, has ended with the general situation at least brighter than it has been since the war began. In the narrower life of the Exercise we have held our own, and there are as yet no signs of any general decay and loss of interest such as might reasonably be expected to result from so long a silence of the bells. On the contrary, there is every evidence that, once peace and something like normal times return, the Exercise will be able to set about the task of rehabilitating the art of change ringing with far fewer difficulties than at one time seemed certain.

The great test was, of course, the victory ringing of last November. It was in every way a great event for ringers; great, because it gave them an opportunity which they did not fail to rise to; and especially great because it showed unmistakably how strong and deep is the hold church bells have on the sentiment and affection of the people of England. It was not merely that church-people love church bells because of the message they bring and the associations they have. That we could have been quite sure of. The wonder was that so many unexpected people showed how greatly the bells affected them, often almost in spite of themselves.

This is a cause of deep satisfaction to us ringers, and it lays a great responsibility on us, too. We must do everything to avoid anything like causing annoyance; and if we can do that, we need not fear any serious opposition to our ringing from the general public.

One excellent result of the victory ringing was that many ringers who had become lukewarm and had absented themselves from the belfry perhaps for years suddenly found their old enthusiasm reawakened. They made their way back to the steeples, and many of them fully intend to resume their places in the band when the ban is lifted. We hope it may be so.

Those men who form the leaders and the backbone of the Exercise, and to whom we look to maintain the art, have not failed us, and everywhere the evidence is that they are doing everything that can be done to keep interest alive. One gratifying sign is the number of hand-bell peals. In 1941 one hundred and forty-eight were rung. Last year the number reached two hundred and sixteen. Most notable was the large number on the

(Continued on page 2.)

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higher numbers. There were no fewer than six peals of
Bob Maximus, ten of Stedman Cinques, twelve of Sted-
man Caters, and fifteen of Plain Bob Royal.By the death of Mr. John S. Goldsmith, the Exercise
and 'The Ringing World' suffered a grievous loss. So
far, it has been possible to carry on this journal. No
final settlement has yet been made, but it is hoped to
reach one shortly. Ringers, however, must not lose
sight of the fact that whether or not they are to still
enjoy the benefits of a weekly paper depends entirely on
how far they support any scheme that may be put for-
ward, and whether the circulation can be increased to the
point which will give reasonable financial security.**HANDBELL PEAL.**

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

CLARENCE H. DOBBIE... .. 1 2 | *WALTER H. DOBBIE... .. 5-6
BETTY SPICE... .. 3-4 | J. H. E. SPICE... .. 7-8

Composed by J. A. TOLLOPE (C.C. Collection No. 14).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on an 'inside' pair.

DAGENHAM.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

AT 1, ST. GILES CLOSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... 1-2 | JAMES BULLOCK 3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK 5-6

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—Mr. G. Playle.

The peal was rung as a 74th birthday compliment to the umpire,
who has been a ringers at the Parish Church for 59 years.**THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.**

TRIBUTE FROM TASMANIA.

The following letter has been received from Mr. A. R. Wilson, hon.
secretary of the Holy Trinity Association, Hobart:—Dear Mr. Trollope.—It was with deep regret that the bad news
reached me of the death of our dear friend, Mr. Goldsmith. The
tower flag was flown at half-mast and a muffled peal of Doubles was
rung out of respect. During his stay at Hobart he made many
friends, and they all deeply regretted his death. He stayed with
me, and my sister naturally, together with myself, would like you to
express our sympathy to his relatives. May 'The Ringing World'
long continue. We send to all our English friends war-time Christ-
mas and New Year greetings.—A. R. Wilson.**GUNWALLOE CHURCH BELLS.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading Mr. Ernest Morris' very interesting account of
the 'Detached Towers of England,' now appearing in 'The Ringing
World,' I see he states, in reference to the most unusual one of the
church at Gunwalloe, Cornwall, that it has three bells. This was
formerly true, but in 1926 my firm, Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., was
asked to undertake their restoration. Two of the old bells were found
to be badly cracked and broken and the remaining one, the treble,
of exceedingly poor tone. The old framework was in the last stages of
decay. In the circumstances it was decided to recast and augment
them, and the tower now contains a most musical little chime of six
bells in the key of E flat played by clavier.I feel that Mr. Morris and others may be interested to have the
foregoing information. The tower, if such it can rightly be called,
must almost certainly be unique. It is at sea level and, as indicated
in Mr. Morris' article, the solid granite of the cliff face is utilised
for the landward half, the seaward half only being built up in
masonry. Occasionally, when there is a very high tide and rough
weather, the seawater actually washes into the ground floor chamber.
I believe the church is only used during the summer months.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. A FAMOUS LONDON COMPANY.

(Being part of the twelfth chapter of an unpublished History of London Ringing by J. A. Trollope.)

The Society of Cumberland Youths was named after the youngest son of King George the Second, and out of the political events of the mid-eighteenth century. That much is certain, but most of the details of the account that has come down to us and that passes for history are embellishments supplied by men's fancies, and have no foundation in fact. Osborn tells us that in his time (that is a century ago) the tradition was that when the Duke of Cumberland returned to London after the Battle of Culloden, he entered the metropolis by the old North Road through Kingsland and Shoreditch. The London Scholars welcomed him with a merry peal on the bells of Shoreditch Church, and to show their loyalty and joy at his safe return they changed their name, and afterwards, to commemorate the event, an appropriate and ornamental medal with the likeness of the Royal Duke on his charger, enamelled in gold, was presented to the society, which medal is usually worn by the Master at the society's meetings.

The official rule book of the society, issued in 1891, contains substantially the same account, but other writers have allowed their fancy some freedom, and we are usually told that the Duke was so pleased with his greeting that he desired an interview with the ringers, congratulated them, and himself presented the medal.

The account, given in a history of Shoreditch Church written by Mr. Bradley, at one time secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths, is still more circumstantial. 'It is thought by some that the Duke was riding on horseback whilst a peal was being rung on the eight bells, and that he was so charmed by the music that he entered the tower and afterwards presented the two bells which then made them ten.

'He certainly was a ringer and the founder of the Cumberland Society . . . and the medal was presented to the Society by the Duke himself in 1746.

'The Duke also presented a large oil painting of himself to the society, and this hung in the centre porch until the bells could be no longer rung, when it was removed to St. Martin-in-the-Fields.'

Osborn was secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths, and it is quite certain he knew all that there was to be known about the matter in his time. As he says nothing about any personal intervention of the Duke and nothing about his having presented the medal, we may take it that there is no truth in that part of the tradition. The story of the Duke being a ringer and presenting the two trebles, and the story of the oil painting are hardly worth notice. We should have heard something more about them if they had been true. Actually what was moved from Shoreditch to St. Martin's was a couple of peal boards, which still exist.

The tradition, then, is narrowed down first to the statement that the society is the same as the London Scholars with changed name, and secondly that the change was made because the ringers were the first to greet the victor of Culloden on his return to London. I think I can show that neither statement is true, but to understand how the name really was taken we must glance briefly at the

political events of the time and the part the Duke of Cumberland played in them.

William Augustus was the third son of King George the Second. He was born in London on April 15th, 1721, but by race was entirely German. He entered the army at an early age and, like his father and most of his family, was conspicuous for personal bravery. He was wounded at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, and in 1745 he was appointed Captain General of all the British forces at home and in the field. It was an office which no one had held since the great Duke of Marlborough.

England was then in the middle of one of the many wars with France, and on May 31st, 1745, an English and Hanoverian army, commanded by the Duke, was defeated at Fontenoy by Marshal Saxe. It seemed to Charles Edward, the grandson of James the Second, the last Stuart King of England, an excellent opportunity to try to re-establish the fortunes of his house; and so with a few friends he landed in August on the coast of Scotland. In a short time he was joined by many of the Highlanders, and with an army that grew as he advanced, he marched on Edinburgh, where he proclaimed his father as King James the Eighth.

A victory at Prestonpans over an English army under Sir John Cope put all Scotland in his power, and he then prepared to invade England. As General Wade was gathering forces at Newcastle, he took the western route. Carlisle was captured after a feeble resistance, and the invaders marched through Lancashire by Preston and Manchester to Derby, which they reached on December 4th. In London the news created a panic; there was a run on the Bank of England, which is said to have been reduced to the expedient of paying out in sixpences in order to gain time; and 'Black Friday' was long remembered in the City.

At Derby, Prince Charles was only a hundred and twenty miles from London, and the question has often been argued what would have happened if he had pushed on rapidly. At Finchley there was a force made up of guards and train-bands, and a victory over them, not impossible in the circumstances, would have given him the capital. But the citizens were bitterly hostile; the weavers of Shoreditch and Spitalfields offered the Government a thousand men; and two armies were marching to the relief of London, one under the Duke of Cumberland, who had been recalled from Flanders, and the other further north under General Wade. It could only have been a matter of time before the gallant band of invaders was surrounded by overwhelming force and cut to pieces. Charles Edward had all along only a gambler's chance. His one hope was a rising in England in his favour, and that did not happen. Even in Lancashire, which was strongly Tory and Jacobite, though the people cheered him as he marched through, they did not join his standard. Sir Watkins Wynn (a member of the Society of College Youths), who was the most influential man in North Wales, sent promises but sat still and did nothing. To go forward was to go to almost certain destruction. So the officers of the Prince's army thought, and much against his will they persuaded him to retreat. With that, all hope of success was gone.

Carlisle was reached on December 19th, on the return march, and, leaving a small garrison there, the Highland

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

army fell back to Glasgow. The fear of a French invasion had called Cumberland to the south. His command was taken by General Hawley, who was badly beaten in a fight near Falkirk, and then Charles Edward and his army retreated to the Highlands, where, after one or two minor successes, they were finally overwhelmed on Cul-loden Moor (April 16th, 1746) by a superior army under Cumberland, who had resumed the command.

Two rather curious incidents happened in connection with this raid. Ten days after the Highlanders abandoned Carlisle, the small garrison left behind surrendered to Cumberland's army. The Duke treated the city not as an English town recovered from invaders, or as the capital of his own Duchy, but more like a captured enemy town. The mayor, town clerk, and eight other citizens were arrested and sent to London and, though the Cathedral clergy had been conspicuous in their loyalty to King George, the church was used as a prison for captured rebels and suffered so much from damage and defilement that it was months before it was again fit for divine service.

A demand was made by a Major Belfour in the Duke's name for the bells as a perquisite to the train of artillery, a demand which, naturally, 'was a surprise upon the members of the Chapter, and very ill relished by them.' Prebendary Wilson and two others waited on the Duke to desire his protection, and pointed out that the bells were the property of the dean and chapter, given them in their charter, and that the town had not any right in them.

The Duke received them coldly and refused to interfere. If it was a perquisite to a train, he told them, they could say nothing against it. This answer, of course, did not satisfy, and Wilson wrote to Dr. Waugh, the Chancellor of the diocese, who was in London, asking his advice and help. 'A moderate composition,' he wrote, 'would, I believe, pacify the claimant, but I'm firmly resolved at present, as are my two brethren, not to admit to any'; and he goes on indignantly, 'Is this the reward of all our toil? If the major takes them down, which he still threatens, I doubt not that the Lord Chief Justice would oblige him to replace them.'

In his reply, Dr. Waugh said the news had surprised him not a little. He had heard something about it, but could not believe the demand was made in earnest. He was fully persuaded that no law of the land and no military law would justify Mr. Belfour's demand. Every person he had spoken to had expressed surprise, and an old lieutenant-general of great reputation with whom he had dined (and others in that way of great consideration) was out of patience at the mention of it. He heartily and readily joined in the resolution of not paying one farthing as a composition.

The clergy's resolute stand had the desired effect. A few days later Wilson wrote to Waugh that the Dean (who apparently was away from the city) had assured him 'that the officers of the train are acquainted how agreeable that demand is to their superiors. Mr. Belfour has left the town without pressing the thing further. I imagine we shall hear no more from him, and that he is ashamed of the length he has gone. He has reason to be so, for it was scandalous, unprecedented, and illegal demand, and this he ought to be made sensible of. I have no patience when I think of it.'

In a later letter he wrote, 'No further demand has been made of our bells, and from your letters we are encouraged not to fear any.'

So the matter dropped and partly, perhaps, because the exigencies of the war had called Major Belfour away to other things. The demand was, of course illegal, but not so unprecedented as Mr. Wilson supposed. The Duke of Cumberland and his officers had been trained in the German wars, and here was a general idea that the officer commanding the artillery had the right to the church bells of any captured place as a personal perquisite. There is nothing very strange in the Duke's attitude, but it is not what we should have expected from the man who a few months later is supposed to have been so captivated by Shoreditch bells.

(To be continued.)

A LETTER FROM INDIA.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—During May we called at a South African port, and, hearing there was a peal of bells in the town, I spent the first possible moment in tracking them down.

I was fortunate upon reaching the tower to find one of the local ringers performing on the hand apparatus, and, after canvassing among the Services canteens in the town, we collected enough to raise the back six (they are a peal of eight recast by Taylors, of Loughborough, about 20 years ago). Judging by the back six they are a very nice peal, and I was disappointed not to hear the full eight. However, we were able to manage Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles and some rounds with the less experienced visitors.

The local band only ring call changes, but are very meticulous strikers. The visiting ringers came from all branches of the Services, and among them was a ringer in the Royal Navy whose ship had been in action and who had sustained a broken spine. Although encased in plaster of paris, he nobly volunteered to stand in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, which, unfortunately, was unsuccessful due to someone hammering on the door for admittance. On opening the door we found another ringer, who had heard the bells and come to join us. We had not time that evening to start again for our 'quarter,' so after a few touches for the late arrival we reluctantly lowered the bells and sought entertainment of a different kind. The hospitality in the town was most exceptional, so you may imagine our shore leave was most enjoyable.

The following took place in India a few weeks ago. I was proceeding one Sunday evening to the Garrison Cinema at some barracks where I had arrived a few days previously, when I heard three bells being chimed with the regularity of clockwork. Following the sound, I came to the church and ascended the belfry stairs, where I found a native pulling three levers operating the hammers. He no doubt found it monotonous, but it sounded almost automatic. It had the effect, however, of sending me to church instead of the cinema.

I was grieved to read of the loss to the Exercise by the death of Mr. Goldsmith. I hope 'The Ringing World' will still be able to carry on. I look forward to it out here, although the news is three months old, just as much as when I received it on Friday of publication.

B. G. KEY (Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford).

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NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NORWICH.**

A very successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, December 12th, in Norwich. Ringing took place during the afternoon on the eight at St. Giles', with clappers tied, and after the service, at which the general secretary was the preacher, 30 sat down to tea in the Suckling House. The towers represented were Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Norton Subcourse, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Wymondham and Great Yarmouth.

At the business meeting the general secretary announced that the new Bishop of Norwich had consented to become patron of the association. The safety of Mancroft bells was discussed. It was felt that a better course than lowering them would be to try to get the belfry windows bricked up to prevent draught in event of fire, and that the Rural Dean should be presented with a concrete proposal to this effect, also with an offer of up to £40 financial help.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Attleborough on Saturday, February 20th, if possible. It was announced that Mr. Arthur L. Coleman, former general secretary, was arranging to reinvest the association's holdings of National Savings Certificates, to gain more interest, also to have them held in the name of 'The President and General Secretary for the time being.' It was decided that a former proposal, to have the annual service in the Cathedral on Easter Monday instead of in Mancroft, should still hold good, even if the ban is removed from ringing by that time. The general secretary announced that he had stored the association's valuable old minute books, etc., in a safe in St. Peter Mancroft for the duration.

The general secretary announced that he had just accepted the benefice of St. Clement, Norwich, with St. George Colegate and St. Edmund, which he would in future hold together with the office of Precentor of the Cathedral; he will have three towers under his care, but alas! only two rings of 3 and one of 1; one tower has room for eight, if anyone has any to give away.

W. D. Taylor, R.A.F., was elected a non-resident life member, and Mrs. Goodman, of Mulbarton, was elected a member. It was pointed out that the local Press had given ringing very good publicity the day the ban was lifted, and this had led to some volunteers coming forward to learn ringing. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for playing the organ, Mr. Bird, the steeplekeeper, for tying the clappers, and the preacher brought a successful meeting to a close.

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.**RINGERS MEET IN A BELFRY.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the past I have received two letters from the Middle East—one from Pte. S. Harrison, of Leicester, and the other from Sgt. J. Freeman, of Lincoln.

For a few days Pte. Harrison was stationed at Lincoln and during that time he, my youngest son and I made good use of his handbells. Early in January, 1942, Pte. Harrison left England and some eight months after my son John and now they have met somewhere in the Middle East. I leave the letters to describe their meeting.

An extract from Pte. Harrison's letter: 'Last evening, whilst doing my usual Sunday chiming at the Cathedral, another reunion in the Middle East took place. I had nearly finished a plain hunt on eight when someone entered the belfry. Almost every Sunday someone pays a visit to the belfry, so I paid no attention to this visitor until stopping for a breather. As it was five years since I had seen him, I did not recognise him until he spoke—then I knew him—it was your John.'

Sgt. Freeman's letter reads thus: 'I was just finishing a meal in a canteen next to the Cathedral when the bells started off as though being raised in peal; this was followed by a plain hunt on eight. By this time I had left my meal and was half-way up the belfry stairs, and, having gained the belfry, there saw Sid Harrison performing at the keyboard.'

The letter goes on to say that Sgt. J. Freeman, accompanied by Pte. S. Harrison, met on the same day a ringer from Irthlingborough, whose name, I am sorry to say, I do not know.

JOHN A. FREEMAN.

95, Sincil Bank, Lincoln.

A COMMEMORATION.

On Saturday, December 12th, a meeting was held at Hughenden to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the ringing of the first peal of London Surprise Major by the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Mr. F. Biggs was the only surviving member of the peal band who was present at the meeting. Mr. J. Evans was unable to attend, but sent his good wishes to those present. It was not possible to get into touch with the other two surviving members.

Ringers were present from Maidenhead, Hughenden, Wendover and Beaconsfield.

It was hoped to celebrate the occasion by ringing a course of London on handbells, but the band was unable to attempt this. Various methods, including Double Norwich, were rung.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths to-morrow a proposal to delete the rule requiring umpires at handbell peals will come up for discussion. There should be a very interesting debate.

At Waterloo and Victoria Stations, between 9 a.m. and noon on Christmas Day, records of church bells were broadcast by loud-speakers.

The first peal of Major, one of Oxford Treble Bob, was rung on December 27th, 1718, by the Union Scholars at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. The church and the bells were destroyed during one of the air raids.

On the same date in 1904 William Willson called the record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 17,104 changes, at South Wigston. It beat Washbrook's 17,024 rung at Kidlington in 1899.

The record peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, 10,176 changes, was rung at Brierley Hill by the Worcestershire Association on December 27th, 1909.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Morning Exercise Major at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on December 28th, 1737.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques outside London was rung by the Birmingham men at St. Martin's on December 28th, 1820. The length, 6,600 changes, was the longest at the time.

On December 28th, 1872, at Earlsheaton, Yorkshire, a band attempted to ring Thomas Day's 16,608 of Kent Treble Bob Major and stood the length, but at the end the bells were out of course and had to be jumped round. The peal has since been twice rung, once as Kent at Mottram in 1883, and once as Oxford at Debenham in 1892.

The first peal of St. Clement's Bob Major was rung at Eccleston in 1911; and the first peal of York Surprise Royal at Leicester in 1928; both on December 28th.

The four following anniversaries fall on the last day of the year: 1887, 6,720 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major at Liversedge; 1888, 15,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton; 1892, 12,096 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Maidenhead; 1897, the first peal of Oxford Surprise Major, at St. Peter's, Brighton.

To-day is the 150th anniversary of James Barham's 100th peal, one of Bob Major at Leeds.

The Huddersfield band rang a peal of Halifax Treble Bob Major on January 1st, 1866.

Fifty years ago on Boxing Day the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major on the bells was rung at Christchurch, Hampshire. Messrs. George Williams and Frank Bennett are the sole survivors of the band, who scored a second peal at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, on the same day.

On the following day the same men (with one exception) rang the first and only peal of Stedman Triples on the now destroyed bells at Holy Rood Church, Southampton.

DEATH OF MR. F. E. DAWE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Francis E. Dawe, which occurred after his removal to hospital at Woking.

MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.

The members of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, had a very pleasant surprise on Christmas morning, when Mr. Robert Brundle visited the belfry and took part in the ringing of Maximus in fine style. Mr. Brundle, who is in his 92nd year, walked two miles to ring as well as climbing the belfry stairs.

JOINT MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A combined meeting of the Kent County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, December 12th, when 20 members attended. The bells were raised at 2.45 p.m. and were kept going till 4 p.m., the time fixed for the service, when an address was given by the Rev. — Duncan, who conducted the service.

Tea, arranged by Mr. Collinson and some lady friends, was served in the Parish Room, and the meeting followed with Mr. F. White in the chair. Apologies were sent by Messrs. Ladd and Collinson, of the local band, who were on Home Guard duties, and by Miss Richardson, who is now in the Land Army. This was the first meeting she had missed since coming to Sundridge, and the hon. secretary was instructed to convey the meeting's best wishes to her in her new vocation. The election of Mr. Kenneth Croft as a non-resident life member was confirmed, and an application for assistance from the Benevolent Fund was approved. The chairman welcomed a ringer from Tewkesbury Abbey, who is now stationed in the district.

Caters and Triples were rung on the handbells and later some returned to the tower for more silent practice, which concluded what many described as a very happy meeting.

The next meeting was fixed for Sevenoaks in March.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.—To-morrow (Christmas Day) church bells will ring out their joyful message and the day will be the better for this happy start.—The Times.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on September 19th, and supporting him were the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) and the following members: Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope, C. Pothecary, R. Stannard, W. A. Hughes, F. E. Collins, W. H. Pasmore, R. T. Deal, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, H. N. Pitstow, H. G. Miles, C. H. Kippin, J. G. A. Prior, W. H. Hewitt and G. E. Fearn, of Birmingham.

A resolution was passed empowering Mr. Young to buy photographs of the members of the society at the Coffee Pot and St. Paul's Cathedral, for inclusion in the records of the tercentenary celebrations. Mr. Hughes kindly offered to supply one set of photographs.

The death of Mr. C. R. Lilley was mentioned, and the members stood as a tribute of respect.

Greetings were received from Mr. A. P. Cannon, now in India; and the Master specially welcomed Mr. G. E. Fearn, of Birmingham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT GILLINGHAM.

At the annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Gillingham, handbells were rung at the west end of the church, followed by a service, conducted by the Vicar, Canon R. E. G. Newman, assisted by the Rev. William Uphill.

At the business meeting the secretary stated that from the funds in hand £15 had been invested in Savings Certificates, leaving a credit balance of £7 7s. 1d. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins; vice-chairman, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; secretary and treasurer, the Rev. William Uphill; Ringing Masters, Messrs. W. Shute and L. Perrett. The Rev. C. E. C. Walker and Mr. G. Chaplin were elected members of the Guild.

The following resolution was carried unanimously: 'This meeting is strongly in favour of a speedy restoration of our church bells to their normal use, and respectfully asks the Hon. Member for North Dorset to support any action that may be taken towards this end.'

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards made sympathetic reference to the bereavement suffered by the chairman in the death of Mrs. Hellins.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF BRISTOL BRANCH.

At the annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held on Saturday, December 12th, the question of the future supply of ringers was discussed, and it was finally decided that, if a suitable tower can be secured and the necessary permission granted, every endeavour will be made to equip it with a silent installation in order to establish a nursery for the sole purpose of training new ringers. A rota of selected members would be drawn up to act as instructors, and many offers have already been forthcoming. If the enthusiasm shown at the meeting can be maintained, the prospects should be good. Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. W. S. Emery were elected chairman and hon. secretary respectively.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While the subject of a National Society or Association is still being discussed, with all its advantages and disadvantages, might I say in a very few words how impossible the whole thing seems to me? With our Church of England diocesan system of church government, each ringing guild or society *should* belong to a diocese from which it receives its authority and power to use the bells either for service or peal ringing, and, of course, this authority only extends to the churches in the diocese. Any society, no matter how old or wonderful the name, without diocesan authority, always seems to me like Samson with his hair cut off. Even university societies seem to me to have only parochial authority.

At the moment we are a National Association, for only with permission of Parliament are we allowed to ring.

W. LINTER.

24, Serpentine Road, Fareham.

[Diocesan authorities, as such, have no power over church bells, and, therefore, cannot delegate it to any society or other persons.—The Editor. 'The Ringing World.']

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD. HANDBELL PEALS.

The peal of Stedman Cinques rung at Birmingham on December 12th was the 200th by the St. Martin's Guild from 1889 to 1942. The following are the details:—

Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 14, Caters 2, Cinques 1, Stedman Triples 15, Caters 49, Cinques 102, Sextuples 1, Erin Caters 1, Cinques 1, Bob Minor 2, Major 2, Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 5, Maximus 2.

Ten others were rung by combined bands of the St. Martin's and Holt Societies—Grandsire Triples 5, Caters 2, Stedman Caters 2, and Stedman Cinques 1.

SPICED CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

By H. G. CASHMORE.

5,056

23456	B	M	W	R	Methods
45236	—	—	—	—	C S C C C S S
24536	—	—	—	—	C S S C C C S
52436	—	—	—	—	C S S C C C S
34625	—	—	—	—	C S S S C C C
62345	—	—	—	—	S S S S S C C
36245	—	—	—	—	C C S S S C C
23645	—	—	—	—	C S S S S S S
64235	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C C
26435	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C S
42635	—	—	—	—	S S C C S C S
42356	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C S
35426	—	—	—	—	C S C C C C C
43526	—	—	—	—	S S S C C C S
65324	—	—	—	—	C S S C C C C
36524	—	—	—	—	S S S S C C C
53624	—	—	—	—	S S S C C C C
63425	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C S
54326	—	—	—	—	C C S S S C S
32546	—	—	—	—	S S S S S C C
53246	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C S
25346	—	—	—	—	C C C S C C C
34256	—	—	—	—	S C C S C C C
23456	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C C

Rung at 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, Herts, on December 10th, 1942, conducted by the composer.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

THE BROADCAST OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of December 4th a note from Mr. G. W. Steere appears asking for information about a broadcast from St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Sunday, November, 15th.

Well, I have heard no one here mention it, but this morning I received an airgraph from A. P. Cannon, now in India, saying he heard the ten bells quite plainly. I thought perhaps this may be of interest to readers of 'The Ringing World.'

G. WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

[Mr. James E. Davis sends us similar information.]

DEATH OF MRS. ALFRED BOWELL.

The death is announced of Mrs. Rosa Bowell, widow of the late Alfred Bowell, bellfounder and ringer, of Ipswich, and mother of Mr. Frederick Bowell. She had been in poor health since last Christmas, but in September it was found necessary to remove her to Ipswich Hospital, where she passed away on November 25th after a long illness, at the age of 66 years. Although having no great interest in bells, she was well known among the older ringers of the district, and by those visiting the foundry. She leaves no other family except her son. The funeral took place in the grave of her late husband in Ipswich Old Cemetery on December 1st, only near relatives being present.

DETACHED TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a personal friend of Mr. Ernest Morris, I am loth to criticise his account of the tower and bells of the old church at Woburn. It is correct up to a point, but somewhat out of date—32 years to be exact.

In 1910 the Vicar, prompted by the late Charles Herbert, the founder and first secretary of the Bedfordshire Association, persuaded the Duke of Bedford to remove the bells to the tower of the new church, which was built in 1868. The front six and tenor were taken down (leaving the seventh to strike the hours), and, together with the metal of the 55 cwt. bell from the new church, were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry into the present very fine peal of eight with a tenor weighing 24½ cwt. in D.

H. D. HARRIS.

Woburn, Beds.

DEATH OF MR. EDWIN J. HARDING.

The death is announced of Mr. Edwin J. Harding, sen., of Portsmouth, who passed away on November 26th at Ilfracombe after a short illness, at the age of 68.

Mr. Harding began his ringing career at the age of 12, and his interest in the art increased as time went on. For many years he was secretary of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and he did much to raise the standard of ringing in the district.

He rang about 166 peals and conducted four. The development of good Sunday service ringing was his main objective as well as the encouragement of the young ringer.

He was buried at Portsmouth within sound of the bells of St. Mary's, and Mr. Symons, for years foreman of St. Mary's, represented the band.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 583.)

Kent has several examples of detached towers—one formerly at Bexley Heath is now demolished. Before this became a separate parish, a church was built near the communal gravel pit, and this church had a steeple. This was about 1840. As the population grew around, the church proved inadequate, and when the parish was constituted, the first Vicar decided to build a new and larger and more handsome church. This was opened about 1865. The old church was then pulled down, but the steeple left standing partly as a landmark and partly as a mortuary chapel. The steeple was thus on one side of the road and the church on the other. When, however, after the graveyard had been closed and the steeple needing repair, no funds were available and, although a public appeal was made, no enthusiasm was shown, the steeple was finally dismantled, nothing remaining save a stone to show the site of the former altar.

At Bilsington, near Ashford, there is a curious old bell bearing the inscription, 'In multis annis resonet campana Joha nis' (For many a year the bell of John shall sound). This hangs in a frame by the side of the porch—a very unusual place—having been removed some years ago from the church tower. Stahlschmidt's 'Church Bells of Kent' gives this bell, cast by Henry Jordan (1442-68), and another by Richard Phelps (1710), but says that the latter is cracked. Originally there were 'iij bells in the steple.'

At Brookland, Kent, St. Augustine's Church has a quaint belfry thus described by Mr. C. G. Harper in 'In-goldsby Country':—

'Imagin three old-fashioned candle extinguishers placed one upon another, and you have that odd campanile very closely imitated. It stands apart from the church, is of massive oak framing, weather-boarded, and thickly and elaborately tarred.' It contains a ring of five bells, the third being by Henry Jordan, of London (1442-68), and others by John Hodson, 1685. Brookland Church is also noted for its remarkable leaden font.

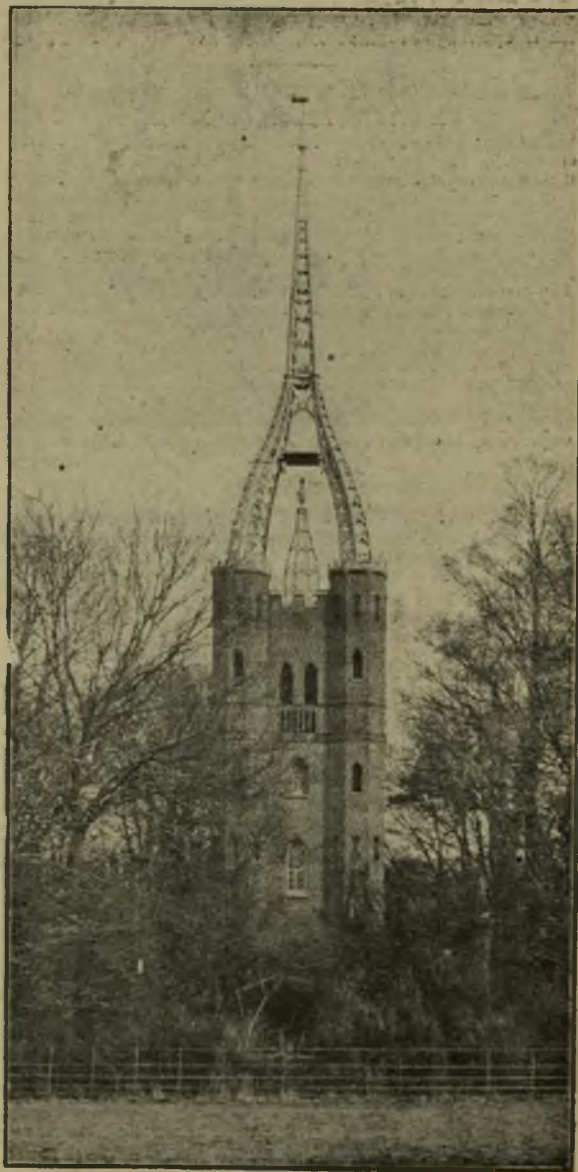
Another Kent example is at St. Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea, which was consecrated by Archbishop Benson on July 23rd, 1884. The church is generally entered by the north-west door, which leads through the tower and thence into the church. In July, 1940, during an air raid, a bomb fell not far from the east end of this church, fortunately not causing a great deal of damage to the fabric. The tower contains one bell. The other Kent detached tower is the famous Waterloo Tower in Quex Park, near Birchington. It contains the light ring of twelve bells (tenor 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.), and is set in sylvan surroundings, being built by Mr. John P. Powell, the owner of the extensive demesne.

The notebook of Parnell gives the following interesting account:—

'John Powell Powell, Esquire, a gentleman worth £20,000 per annum in landed estates, at the village of Birchington, 13 miles beyond Canterbury, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles on this side Margate in the Isle of Thanet, county of Kent, has built a large brick tower in his park 60 to 63ft. high and 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. within the walls of the belfry, and hung a ringing peal of 12 bells in it: cast by Thomas Mears of London in the years 1818 and 1819. Hung by Mr.

Charles Oliver in Feby. March & April 1819, they are in the key of F, the tenor weighing 16 cwt., and the opening is to take place on August 4th, 1819. The College Youths and Cumberland Youths of London are invited to the opening. This copy given at Sheffield on Rainey July 20th 1819 by John Alfred Parnell.

'N.B.—Mr. Powell will have a lofty spire on his tower two-thirds of cast iron, and to be sprung with four quarter-circle arches: then it will be a noble sea mark being only one mile from that briny fluid.'



THE BELL TOWER, QUEX PARK.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

There is no complete record of all the peals that have been rung here, but details of the first performance have been preserved. The report reads: 'Wednesday the 4. inst. (August 1819) was the day announced for the Public Opening of the Bells, which were cast and hung by

(Continued on next page.)

QUEX PARK BELL TOWER.

(Continued from previous page.)

Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel, London and, as might be fairly expected from the novelty of the ring, attracted a considerable concourse of fashionables (it being in the vicinity of Margate) and the interest of the scene was considerably enhanced by its having no parallel, that of a gentleman erecting in his park a tower, with spire, in front of his noble manison, and placing therein a peal of twelve bells solely for his amusement and to attain the art of change-ringing, having an eminent tutor for the purpose, who, in patronising this manly art, has evinced a considerable ability in this very abstruse science. Two societies of twelve bell ringers of London (the Cumberland and College Youths) were invited to this festive scene, where booths were erected and the park and pleasure grounds were opened to the assembled auditors. The onset commenced by each company giving a specimen in a touch of 900 Cinques, after which the Cumberland Society rang a fine peal comprising 5,213 Grandsire Cinques, in three hours and 19 minutes, this was the opening peal. The other society did not attempt a peal, but contributed alternately to give touches of about an hour's performance on that and the following day, which closed the never-to-be-forgotten treat to the amateurs of the manly art of ringing.

Squire Powell did much to encourage the art, not only by building this tower, but in other ways. He was a good ringer himself, and the following note in Parnell's MS. states:—

'John Powell Powell Esqr.'s band of change ringers performed John Holt's 5,040 ten-course peal in 1820 on the last 8 of his peal of twelve in Waterloo Gothic Tower in his park and village of Birchington near the Briny sea by Margate in the Isle of Thanet and County of Kent. Esquire Powell rang the tenor and Mr. William Shipway conducted the peal.'

As may be expected, a great many peals in all methods have been rung in this tower.

(To be continued.)

THE EXERCISE.

AS SEEN BY A JOURNALIST.

In real life bells obviously give a great deal of pleasure to a great many people—especially to those who ring them. Do not think that, because you do not enjoy listening to the bells from the church tower, they are giving nobody enjoyment. To pull a bell-rope is apparently a form of blissful self-indulgence comparable to drinking a vintage wine or playing cricket. Such are the pleasures of bell-ringing that John Bunyan came to the conclusion that bell-ringing must be a sin, and he repented of his youthful passion as though it had been an outrage on the Ten Commandments. All over England you will find that bell-ringing has survived through the centuries as the secret vice of a small community—as freemasonry like that of poets and oboe-players. If you go up into the belfry of a church that takes pride in its bells you will find the names of the ringers recorded in brass as enduringly as the names of great batsmen and bowlers are recorded in 'Wisden's.' Their triumphs are unknown to the general crowd; and I doubt whether the world rewards them. They are content to have their names written up in the secret places of the church to which the vulgar seldom penetrate. They are content to have been members of a village team that once beat another village team in ringing the changes. They ask no better epitaph than that, and, unlike some epitaphs, this epitaph happens to be true. They have acquitted themselves honourably in what someone once described as 'the oldest of true English pastimes,' and under the belfry they should, in the end, sleep well. Think of all the headings one has seen in the newspapers about bell-ringers. 'Bell-ringer for fifty-six years.' 'Sixty-six years a ringer,' and 'Bell-ringer at seventy-eight: sixty years in one church.' Is there any other national pastime that can boast of so many examples of a life-long love as this?—Y.Y. in 'The New Statesman and Nation.'

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TERM.

The Oxford University Society entered the current academic year with excellent prospects, no less than eight old members, six of whom had rung peals, remaining. The main preoccupation was to secure a good number of recruits, so there has been less opportunity than usual for practice in more advanced methods and for peal attempts. Nevertheless, touches of Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich and Grandsire Caters have been brought round, and Stedman has received more attention than hitherto.

Five peals were rung, comprising three of Bob Major and one each of Grandsire Triples and Bob Royal, these being the first of such peals for the society. Miss M. Telford rang her first peal, and W. F. Moreton his first in hand. Also, two peals of Minor, in three and seven methods respectively, were scored during the long vacation.

New members have been plentiful; about 25 have come at various times, and of these some 15 remain keen. By good fortune, two competent tower-bell ringers—W. F. Moreton from Hereford and D. P. Jones from Hitchin, Herts—have come up this year. Both could ring handbells a little, and have been quick to learn more. The usual system of tower-bell practices on Wednesdays and handbells on Saturday evenings has been adhered to, and here the thanks of the society must be extended to Mr. W. C. Porter, who has come regularly on Wednesdays to give his valuable help in the teaching of beginners. Progress in handbell ringing has again been good, most of those who came at the beginning of the term can now ring 1-2 to Bob Major. Now that numbers are so large, however, there is a very real danger that individuals will have inadequate practice. Next term, therefore, the holding of additional small practices will be encouraged and extended.

The society again rang for evensong every Sunday at St. Mary's, and also rang handbells as part of the sound effects in an undergraduate production of the medieval mystery play, 'Everyman,' also at St. Mary's. This elicited very favourable comments in the Press, and gained the society two recruits. The St. Hilda's contingent rang for their carol service at the end of term, and members from Somerville rang before evensong in the College Chapel on November 15th.

The highlight of the term was, of course, the victory ringing. It was decided that New College bells must not be silent, so a few members spent part of the previous Friday afternoon and the whole of the Saturday afternoon in replacing the clappers—a joyful but very dirty task. Then the next week came the corresponding job—much less joyful but just as dirty—of removing them again. The O.U.S.C.R. can be proud of the fact that no fewer than ten of its members, past and present, assisted in the ringing. In addition, several lady members, all learners since the ban, rang some very creditable rounds, showing that practice on silent tower bells is by no means valueless. Almost all of the remainder of the society spent the morning walking round Oxford and climbing up into the various towers, as did many other undergraduates. Because of this arousal of enthusiasm, a fresh recruiting drive was instituted, with gratifying results.

The amount of keenness there is in Oxford at the moment may be gauged from the attendance at the last practice of the term, which was made into an informal party. Twenty members, together with eleven city ringers and friends, were present.

To conclude, a few words on future prospects in view of the new call-up scheme will be opportune. The society is so largely female at the moment that the Government's decision to abolish arts courses as such at universities may have very little effect. On the other hand, it seems quite possible that the calling-up age for women may also be lowered to eighteen, in which case the immediate future of the O.U.S.C.R. would, indeed, be uncertain.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER.

There was a successful gathering when the members of the North Staffordshire Association held their fifth annual dinner on Saturday, December 19th, at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the inauguration of the association.

The president, the Ven. P. Hartill, was present, and the Rev. Hugh Benson (chairman) presided, supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary), Miss Evelyn Thompson, and the Rev. S. F. Linsley (clerical secretary). Others present were the Rev. and Mrs. F. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. G. Jones and Messrs. E. Steele (assistant hon. secretary), G. Hobbrook, A. D. Steel, H. Bloor and Corpl. W. Perkins, R.A.F.

The toast of 'The Church' was proposed by Mr. G. Jones, and the Rev. F. Forrest responded.

The Chairman then toasted 'The King.'

A touch of 168 of Grandsire Triples was rung by A. W. Lloyd 1-2, A. Thompson 3-4, the Rev. Hugh Benson 5-6, G. Jones 7-8.

The Rev. S. F. Linsley proposed the toast of 'The North Staffordshire Association,' and Mr. C. H. Page responded. A course of Bob Major was then rung by A. W. Lloyd 1-2, C. H. Page 3, G. Jones 4, the Rev. Hugh Benson 5-6, A. Thompson 7-8.

The toast of 'Absent Friends' was proposed by the Rev. Hugh Benson, and the toast of 'The Ringing World' was proposed by Mr. Edward Steele.

Handbell ringing then brought the evening to a close.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

We have received reports of the ringing on Christmas Day from various parts of the country.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and plenty of good rounds and Queens were rung by Mrs. B. Walls, Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft, Messrs. W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor), J. Herod, R. Wimpenny, J. Clayton, W. Hawke, A.C. Eric Shaw, R.A.F., P. Hadfield, H. Ellis and W. Turner. Among the visitors were Mr. and Miss Joan Houldsworth, of St. Anns, Blackpool, Mr. J. Shaw, of Oswaldtwistle, Pte. C. Banham, of Attleborough, and Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hawkins, of Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

BIRMINGHAM.—At St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples by T. Kelly, W. E. Box and F. Morgan (St. Chad's local band), G. E. and H. H. Fearn (Birmingham Cathedral), J. N. Lindon (Yardley), E. Cole (Edgbaston) and G. Chaplin (Birmingham Cathedral).

BROMLEY, KENT.—At St. Luke's, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major by G. Huxley, I. Emery and James, of the Bromley Parish Church band, W. Lyddiard, J. Lyddiard, Cullen, Purdom, Whitehead, Oakshett and Miss Oakshett, of St. Luke's. Mr. George Huxley will be 78 years of age next April. Previously the band rang touches of Minor at Hayes.

BROXBORNE.—Set changes for a short time, followed by 504 and 168 of Grandsire Triples by Miss N. Radley, Miss O. Gladden, Miss M. Long, C. Gouldsmith, F. Gouldsmith, G. Radley, A. Radley, D. Hammond, F. Perrin and J. Luxom.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—Touches of Grandsire Triples. Included in the band was an old member, who had not turned up for nearly 20 years.

CLIFTON, BEDS.—Grandsire Doubles by T. Dibley, E. Dibley, E. Earl, C. Sharp, F. Washington and a ringer in the R.A.F. from Gloucester.

CROMPTON, LANCASHIRE.—720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor by B. Whitehead, S. Wareham, J. R. Buckley, H. Oates, R. H. Byrom and J. Butterworth (conductor); 36 Plain Bob, 720 Kent Treble Bob and 504 Oxford Treble Bob: W. Oates 1, S. Wareham 2, J. R. Buckley 3, Harry Oates 4, R. H. Byrom 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) tenor.

EALING.—At St. Stephen's and St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire Triples: J. E. L. Cockey, E. C. S. Turner, P. E. Clark, E. J. Walsom, J. A. Trollope, F. Miller, A. Harding, A. H. Harding, M. Stacey, W. Coulson and J. E. Churchill.

FARNHAM.—The following men took part in the ringing: W. H. Barry, S. R. Churcher, H. Cummings, W. Linter, A. H. Poole, T. H. Read, A. G. Tull, Capt. C. A. Vessey (Sutton-on-Trent), T. Worsford and L. R. Walker.

FELKIRK, YORKS.—Rounds, Queens and touches of Plain and Treble Bob Minor by K. Bryant, R. Ford, J. T. White, R. Hill, W. Tibble, P. Woodward, D. Smith, J. Smith (Friezland), A. Dunn Birch (South Kirkby) and W. Hemmings (Rovston).

GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. E. Ashcroft 1, C. Raddon 2, S. Horsfall 3, S. N. Harrison 4, F. Taylor 5, G. Taylor (conductor) 6. The ringer of the 3rd is 79 years of age and has been a ringer at the above church for well over 50 years.

HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK.—Three 336's of Bob Major: J. Nunn 1, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 2, Mrs. G. Money 3, J. Thurlow 4, H. Jillings 5, C. C. Goodwin 6, J. O'Neill 7, A. H. Took 8. Also 252 Bob Triples, Queens and Whittingtons, in which W. Kemp, S. Ekins and A. Foster took part.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTTS, HUNTS.—720 Bob Minor: C. Favell 1, G. L. Perkins 2, H. Saunders (aged 80) 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, H. Lovender 5, J. Perkins (aged 77) tenor. It is, perhaps, worthy of note Mr. Saunders and Mr. J. Perkins have been ringing together for nearly 60 years.

HUNLOW, BEDS.—720 Grandsire Doubles and 720 Bob Minor: A. Gentle, K. Wilton, A. Dilley, L. Bywaters, P. Tompkins, P. Thompson and J. Church.

HENBURY, GLOS.—All the local ringers, nine in number, were present. The bells were raised in peal. Rounds, Queens, firing and Grandsire Triples were rung.

HESTON.—Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major by C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler, H. Conner, E. R. Gladman, W. T. Godfrey, F. Humphreys, A. Jones, M. W. Norman, Miss P. Norman, W. H. Stevens, W. W. Webb and three visitors.

IPSWICH.—At St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Double Norwich Court Rob Major Stedman Caters and Kent Treble Bob Maxims by W. J. G. Brown, C. Curson (Norwich, R.A.F.), G. A. Fleming, W. P. Garrett, P. May, H. R. Roper, C. J. Sedgley, G. E. Symonds, Phyllis Tillett, J. F. Tilt, F. J. Tillett and W. Tillett.

LEICESTER.—At the Cathedral, two courses of Stedman Cinques: Samuel Cotton treble, Lou's Allen 2, Mrs. H. J. Poo's 3, Herbert W. Perkins 4, Harry Wayne 5, Alfred Ballard 6, Harold G. Jenney 7, Shirley Burton 8, Sidney Cheney 9, James A. Harris 10, Harold J. Poo's 11, John Grant tenor. Other members of the band who attended were Jill Poole, Frederick E. Wilson, George Straw and Thomas Taylor.

LEWISHAM.—Grandsire Triples by H. Warnett, sen., H. Warnett, jun., J. Bennett, C. H. Walker, W. J. Dav, G. R. Simmonds, R. W. Boyes, Rifleman R. Barley, S. W. Ball, P. J. Spice, F. E. Pitman and A. E. James.

LIVERPOOL.—At St. Francis Xavier (R.C.) Church, Stedman Triples by T. W. Hammond, P. W. Cave, T. Butler, sen., T. R. Butler, T. W. Gilmour, G. R. Newton (conductor), E. C. Birkett, T. Williams and T. W. Hammond.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—Being one short for Triples, Grandsire Doubles were rung with other bells covering; also some good rounds in which the younger members performed most creditably. The following took part: Mrs. L. Powell, F. Blackmore, J. E. Philbrick, S. Philbrick (his first ring after five years in the Middle East), E. Tett, W. Martin, the Mayor (W. Emmett), the Rev. C. Carew Cox and, among the recruits, Joan Burlinson, John Burlinson, Clifford Travis and Neil Adams. At 4.15 p.m. the handbell ringers visited the hospital and entertained patients, staff and friends present with a course of Grandsire Triples double-handed, some Bob Major (capped) and a number of carols played with harmonies. Tea was provided afterwards at the kind invitation of the matron. The ringers were Mrs. L. Powell, the Vicar, Joan Burlinson, John Burlinson, Neil Adams and Brian Wellman.

MARHAM, NORFOLK.—Several touches of Plain Bob Minor by E. Barker, V. Bowen, F. Matthews, jun., F. Matthews, sen., A. Mason, J. Buckenham and W. Buckenham, as well as three members of H.M. Forces.

MORRISTON, SWANSEA.—Grandsire Doubles and call changes by E. Rees 1, B. Williams 2, J. T. Williams 3, L. Pelzer 4, G. Lewis 5, D. G. Williams 6.

NORTON, STAFFS.—Touches of Cambridge Surprise and Oxford Treble Bob by W. C. Lawrence, C. S. Ryles, J. Walley, J. Ryles, W. Corfield, J. E. Wheelton, A. J. Jack, S. B. Bailey and F. Triner.

RINGWOOD, SUSSEX.—Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and call changes, as well as some rounds for six learners who have been practising on clapperless bells during recent weeks. In all 20 ringers were present.

RUISLIP.—Stedman and Grandsire Triples by Cpl. K. Arthur, W. Bunce, sen., A. Hunter, Cpl. E. Coward, P. Thrift, W. S. Beaumont, T. Collins, H. Ive, Miss Joan Braybrooke and Mr. A. Smithson, of Sheffield.

SITTINGBOURNE and District.—A combined band rang Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major at Borden, Sittingbourne and Funstall. Fourteen ringers took part.

SOUTHWELL.—At the Minster, touches of Grandsire Triples, Queens, Tittums and Whittingtons: The Very Rev. the Provost, W. J. Conybeare, G. E. Padgett, E. Ross, R. Fowkes, A. Chilton, G. E. Foster, W. D. Shorthose, F. Pickard, A. J. Chamberlain, J. F. Milner and J. P. Beeson.

STEPNEY.—At St. Dunstan's, three courses of Grandsire Caters: E. G. Fenn treble, W. S. Langdon 2, C. W. Roberts 3, J. A. Waugh 4, H. Langdon (conductor) 5, F. Digby 6, Sergt. N. Chaddock 7, J. G. A. Prior 8, R. F. Deal 9, A. B. Peck tenor.

SURFLEET, Lincs.—Ringing took place on all the 12 bells before and after morning service, 15 ringers taking part. Rounds on the 12 and Bob Major with four bells covering was rung. Amongst the ringers were the Rev. E. Bankes James and three members of H.M. Forces.

TACKLEY.—The following took part in the ringing: V. Broom, W. Evetts (conductor), J. Cadd, J. Laughton, E. Bloomfield and J. Broom.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.—Some well-struck touches of Oxford Bob Minor by W. Weaver, V. Turrell, G. Warnett, F. Turrell, C. Longhurst and W. Denman.

STANDARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am surprised to find that my first copy of 'The Ringing World' received overseas (August 21st) contains in the editorial a plea for all ringers to deliberately concentrate on lowering their standards when ringing is permitted to function as before. The majority of ringers throughout the land will echo your remarks on good striking, but do not encourage the lowering of one standard to elevate another.

I am convinced that generally a band who have the knowledge and enthusiasm to ring a large number of the higher methods are also enthusiasts over perfecting their striking. Some bands do let the latter take the second place to method ringing, but to them the ringing of Surprise methods, etc., is as simple as the ever popular Grandsire and Plain Bob is to others. Therefore, in order to elevate the standard of striking, extra concentration in that direction is what is required and not any lowering of method ringing standards. If post-war reconstruction in the field of change ringing is to be as hard going as your article suggests, and with which I agree, then the continual practice of the higher methods and variety of methods should be given encouragement to the full.

We are all striving to attain higher levels in all walks of life, and the lowering of any vital standards will only hinder, not help.

R. I. SHEPHERD, Sgt., R.E.

Per Airgraph.

CHIMES AND RINGERS' JUGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I greatly enjoyed the recent articles of Mr. Morris on 'Chimes and Ringers' Jugs.' He brought a lot of new facts to light and I am sure that we are all indebted to him.

In his article on chimes I noticed that he does not mention the chimes at Cirencester, Glos, which used to play the 103rd Psalm at the canonical hours of 3, 6 and 9, also those of Bath Abbey are omitted. This carillon was installed in 1890, and three times a day, at 1, 5 and 9 p.m., plays a tune varying with the day.

On Sunday the chosen air is 'The Easter Hymn,' and on Monday, 'Stella.' On Tuesday, 'The harp that once through Tara's hall' reminds hearers of Ancient Ireland. On Wednesday the ears of the faithful (and unfaithful) are beguiled by the strains of 'All Saints'; but on Thursday the air is 'Ye banks and braes o' Bonnie Doon,' Friday is signalled by 'Come, all ye faithful,' while on Saturday the chimes send out, of all the airs in the world, 'Tom Bowling.' Certainly no one can accuse the selectors of the seven airs of lack of catholicity. I have not heard all the airs, but I have very fragrant memories of 'Tom Bowling.'

Regarding Mr. Morris' explanations in his ringers' jug series, I thought his explanation about the beer drinking habits of the people, because of the high price of tea, very good. It brought to my mind that in the 17th century in Wales it was the custom of maids to ask their prospective mistress if she drank tea. It was an added inducement to them, because they were always sure of the 'bottoms' of the teapot, and to them was a 'feast.'

I am afraid that sometimes ringers are thought to be a 'boozy' lot, because of our treasures in the various ringers' jugs throughout the country, but some of the registers of Cardiganshire churches in the 17th and 18th century make interesting reading. At Llangranog, near New Quay, we find in the entry at Easter, 1760: 1s. 6d. for killing a fox, 2s. 6d. for drinks. In 1764 appears the following item: 'No ale shall be used or drank in any vestry henceforth on the parish expense, under ye penalty of 20s. on every offender and offenders after this date.' Evidently somebody went too far.

Near Aberporth is the ancient church of the parish of Mount. This old church needs some finding and well repays a visit. In 1828 the parish brewed its own beer, for its registers record: 'Pd Hops, Malt and Brewing, £1 5s.' And history records that it was consumed at a vestry meeting. In 1831 is a record of churchwardens' wages, £4 14s. 6d.

At Llanilar were some thirsty people: 1797, 'Pd cash for ale consumed at several vestries, £1 3s.' In 1801 the amount was more. 'Pd ale at vestries, £1 12s. 6d.' By 1805 the thirst was still greater, though there is no record that the numbers present were more than in former years: 'Pd for ye ale, £2 15s.' At Llangeilho on March 12th, A.D. 1781: 'In a vestry meeting kept in the Parish Church about the Malasia (Militia) we have a quart apiece of ale.' At Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn appears the following: 1817, 'That a table of degrees be procured in the Welsh language. Allow'd for Ale at Jas. Evans 5s.'

Pity the singers, no more ale for them, only for the vestry of this parish. 1824. Agreed not to give any allowance for ale to the singers in future. Ale at Jas. Hughes, 5s.' These ale entries seem to be the marrow and essence of most of our old vestries up and down the country, and to-day, alas, are no more. There is also evidences that the vestry meetings adjourned to licensed premises. Note the registers of the small hamlet, Llanfihangel Gneu'r Glyn, five miles distant from Aberystwyth: 'The Easter Vestry in 1782 was adjourned to the house of Jane Rees, widow.' In the vestry in January, 1786, 'drank 21 quarts of ale at David John Rees, 7s.' Two months later at the Easter vestry we read that the meeting drank 42 quarts of ale at the house of David Thomas, 15s.

I will now conclude with the stealing of the church bell of the parish of Gwnnws, near Llanilar, by a disappointed litigant in a legal case at Cardigan. This happened in the 18th century, and the reason it was stolen was that the victorious party in the action intended to ring the church bell immediately on his return to the parish. But, alas, the loser reached the parish first, and took the bell away and hid it in a bog field. In the year 1875, two men cutting peat or bog on land belonging to the farm, called Berth-Lwyd, found the bell embedded in this bog field, and to-day it hangs in the turret of the Parish Church, with a newer companion, which is, however, cracked. This bog bell, as the natives term it, is very sweet toned, and duly sounded his praise of thanksgiving a few Sundays ago.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held at headquarters, Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 2nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. A proposal to delete or amend the rule relating to umpires at handbell peals will come before the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who notify me not later than January 14th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Town Hall. Handbells only, from 3.45 p.m. Admission only with identity cards. Reports to hand.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th. Service at 4 p.m. Handbells available from 2 p.m. Please bring own eatables, cups of tea will be provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

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'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

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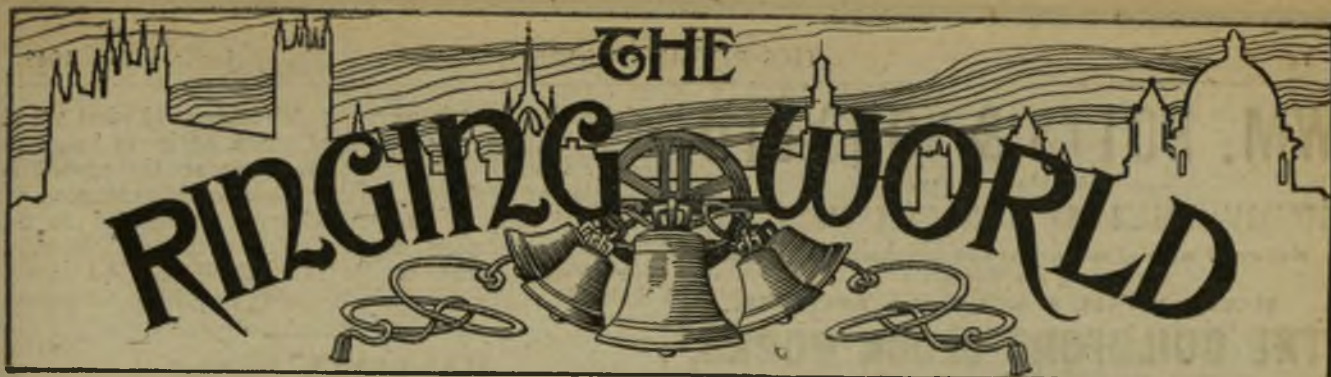
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UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

Last Saturday, by eleven votes against nine, the Ancient Society of College Youths decided not to delete the rule which says that peals rung on handbells shall not be booked unless they are vouched for by an umpire. The decision cannot however be taken as in any way affecting the question whether umpires are generally necessary when handbell peals are rung. As was pointed out, the society has never expressed an official opinion on the matter; all it has done is to say that the presence of an umpire is necessary if the peal is to be entered in the peal book, and this is not the only condition required.

In the interesting debate a wide range of opinions was expressed, most of the arguments advanced being by this time fairly familiar to our readers. Quite evidently it is a matter upon which general agreement is not at all likely to occur. What did decide the matter on Saturday was the feeling that it is not advisable to alter rules during the present abnormal conditions of war time.

There was also an impression that the rule is an ancient one come down from the past ages, but for that there is not much justification. The rule does not appear in the society's book published in 1891, and we have an impression that it was passed towards the end of the last century when a very determined attempt was made to prevent un-umpired handbell peals being recognised by any association.

The Central Council discussed the matter, and came to a somewhat vague and non-committal decision which, while not absolutely forbidding peals without umpires, was intended to discourage them.

Since those days conditions have very much altered. While far more handbell peals are rung, the difficulties of getting competent umpires have not lessened. It is abundantly clear that the presence of an average witness is no real safeguard against deliberate fraud. A band which is capable of publishing performances it knows are false is quite capable of seeing that its umpires are men with standards no higher than its own. But do such bands exist? And if there are isolated instances, are they worth bothering about?

Nevertheless it remains true that in many instances umpires are most desirable and almost essential, and in such cases a band will usually, for its own sake and satisfaction, see that they are present. But we are quite sure that no rule can be drawn up which will satisfactorily define when an umpire must be present and when it does not matter.

Even if this could be done there remain the problems

(Continued on page 14.)

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of deciding what is a competent umpire and what are his duties, and the standards by which he is to judge the performance. These problems have so far proved insoluble and are likely to do so; but nothing but good can come of these recurrent exchanges of opinion on this question of umpires, for they show that there is a strong feeling in the Exercise that everything must be done to maintain the truth and high quality of peal performances.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
*FRANK I. HAIRS ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

*MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4	*R. GORDON CROSS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

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

Tenor size 15.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
A birthday compliment to Frank I. Hairs. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 2, FLINT COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

*MRS. E. A. BARNETT ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

THE OLDEST RINGER.

In reply to the enquiry by Mr. H. Bird asking who was the oldest ringer to take part in the victory ringing, Mr. James George writes that he chimed the 5th, 6th and 7th for 20 minutes at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, and rang the tenor up for ten minutes. He was then twelve days off his 89th birthday.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS ... 1-2 | *EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4 | FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* 100th peal on handbells. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At THE RESIDENCE OF MR. W. H. BARNES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... 1-2 | JACK BRAY ... 5-6
FRANK LORD ... 3-4 | PTE. PHILIP BARNES, R.C.S. 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JACK BRAY.

TUNSTALL, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At 2, FINEY COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS'.

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN E. SPICE ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | WILLIAM SPICE ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 30, 1942, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At 35, WOOSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent, with two different callings for each method. Tenor size 15 in C.

*BETTY SPICE ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 3-4
JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob Minor. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 1-2 | BETTY SPICE ... 5-6
BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6
MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday and Friday, December 31 1942, and January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At ST. GEORGE'S HALL, COLTON STREET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE ... 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4 | ALFRED BALLARD ... 7-8

FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 9-10

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

Umpire—Harry Wayne. Witness—John Daniels.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At BEECROFT.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*BETTY SPICE ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 3-4 | DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major. † First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob Major as conductor.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 5060 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 7-8
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 9-10

Arranged by J. BRAY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal in this variation of Bob Royal by the whole band and for the association.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 2, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At 116, ALMA ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings, 42 six-scores.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 3-4
*JOHN V. DAVIS (16 years) ... 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Witness—Mrs. Arthur V. Davis.

* First peal.

THE SHEPHERD'S KALENDAR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read your article about the Shepherd's Kalendar. You say you know of only one copy, belonging to Mr. E. M. Atkins.

In 1935, about a year before he died, our old organist lent me a copy of this book, which used to belong to his grandfather. After his death I asked if the family would sell it to me, but I was unable to get it. I do not know if they still have it, or if it was destroyed with other papers and books. He was organist at our church for 55 years.

A. RELFE.

Windmill Cottage, Lamberhurst, Kent.

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Estimates submitted for New
Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 4.)

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

In after years there grew up a tradition that when Prince Charles Edward entered Carlisle the first time, mounted on a white charger and preceded by a hundred Highland pipers, the Cathedral bells were rung to welcome him; and this so displeased the Bishop that, as a punishment, he ordered that they should not be rung again for a hundred years, a sentence which was duly carried out. That was the story universally believed eighty years later, and always told to visitors to the Cathedral. John Hopkins, of Birmingham, an assiduous collector of items of interest relating to bells and ringing, wrote to Ellacombe that 'at the time of the Scotch Rebellion the bells of Carlisle Cathedral were rung. It so offended the Bishop, he ordered the bells not to be rung for one hundred years. At the expiration of that time, on the very day, they rang merrily.'

But the tale does not seem very convincing. If the bells were rung at all in 1745, it was not by the orders of the Cathedral clergy, for they, under the leadership of Chancellor Waugh, had been the most steadfast supporters of the Government during the siege. Nor is the sentence at all a likely one. Bishops in the Church of England have very little control over their cathedrals, less, in fact, than over an ordinary parish church, and in no case can their authority last beyond the term of their individual office. The then Bishop of Carlisle was Sir George Fleming, an old man nearly eighty years of age, who died shortly afterwards, and who left behind him a name for the possession of Christian virtues.

It would be interesting to know who was supposed to be punished by the sentence. Hardly the clergy, for they were loyal; hardly the townsmen, for they did not own the bells. If it was the bells themselves who were the offenders, the story reads more like the act of an eastern despot than of an English bishop.

But the truth seems to be that the bells did not cease to be rung, for Robert Billings, in his 'History of Carlisle Cathedral,' published in 1840, says that the third was cracked when ringing for peace after Waterloo, and was then removed to the back of the altar. He goes on to say that 'a few years ago, from the supposition that the ringing shook the tower, it was resolved to ring them no more. Small cords were then attached to the tongues over pulleys and conveyed through the groining to the floor of the tower.'

In 1845 the cracked bell was recast, and the ringers of the Parish Church of St. Stephen went to Cocker-mouth to practise for the peal which was to be rung when the supposed ban was lifted. But the Cathedral bells were never rung. Then and for long after they had no wheels.

I imagine this tradition arose from the long silence of the bells, the recasting in 1845, and some hazy recollection of Major Belfour's demand. It is another of those picturesque legends connected with bells and ringing which, on investigation, turn out to have no foundation in fact.

After the Battle of Culloden, the Duke of Cumberland remained in the Highlands to complete the subjection and settlement of the country. The task was accomplished with the utmost rigour and brutality. No quarter was given to fugitives from the battle, prisoners were shot in cold blood, villages and crops burnt, and men and women

flogged and tortured. For these atrocities the Duke must be held responsible. He spoke of the Lord President, who ventured to remonstrate with him, as 'that old woman who talked to me of humanity.' But in London the feeling was of relief and jubilation. The old Jacobite sentiment, typified by men like Thomas Hearne, was never strong in the capital, and was dying even in Oxford and the country parsonages. Increasing prosperity, and settled government under Sir Robert Walpole, had given people a dislike of change and a dread of civil strife. The Highland invasion seemed an irruption of savages, and the general who had conquered them was acclaimed as a popular hero.

The Duke's return was eagerly looked for. The newspapers of the time have several statements saying that he was expected at such and such a time, and then that his journey was postponed; and finally he arrived unannounced and unnoticed by the general public. Six days after he had set out from the north, 'The General Advertiser' stated that 'there is no certain account when H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland will set out from Fort Augustus', and it was not till the third day after his arrival that it printed a message from Whitehall, dated July 26th, saying that 'yesterday about One o'Clock in the Afternoon, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland arrived at the Palace of Kensington, and immediately waited on his Majesty.'

From this it is certain that the Duke did not 'enter the Metropolis by the Old North Road through Kingsland and Shoreditch,' that he did not even come through the City, and that therefore the London Scholars could not have welcomed him with a merry peal on Shoreditch bells.

But now that he was back, loyal London went mad in its extravagant welcome. The Duke was acclaimed as the saviour of his country, and flattery both flowery and poetical was heaped upon him. The Commons voted a pension of £25,000; he was made Chancellor of St. Andrew's University and Ranger of Windsor Great Park; Tyburn Gate was renamed Cumberland Gate and so remains to this day; and the many Duke's Heads, the signs of taverns and inns all over the country, are named after him. At Sadler's Wells Theatre a new song was sung called 'The Royal Hero's Return'; at New Wells a masque, 'The Battle near Colloden House,' was performed; and (much more important) Handel's great oratorio, 'Judas Maccabeus,' was specially written and performed at Covent Garden Theatre in his honour, though the most characteristic number, the chorus, 'See the conquering hero comes,' was an afterthought not added till the following year.

But among all this praise there were from the first some discordant notes. When it was proposed to make him a freeman of one of the City Companies, an alderman remarked audibly, "Let it be the Butchers' then." The name stuck, and history knows him and always will know him as the Butcher of Culloden.

His later campaigns in Germany were unsuccessful, and in 1757 he fell into disgrace and resigned his command. Among his other activities was the foundation of the Jockey Club and the laying out of Virginia Water. He bred Eclipse, most famous of all race horses in the history of the turf. He died in 1765, and was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel in Westminster Abbey.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS—Continued from previous page

The character of the man can roughly be judged from this brief account of his career. He had many good qualities. He was brave and his soldiers adored him. His understanding was strong, judicious and penetrating. He had a high sense of honour and duty and was eminently a man to be trusted. But he was proud, unforgiving, and fond of war for its own sake. His nature was hard, and he rarely tempered with mercy what he considered was justice. His action at Carlisle shows that he had no sentiment in favour of bells or ringing.

Such was the man after whom the Society of Cumberland Youths was named and such was the political situation during which it was founded. We may definitely rule out any idea that there was any personal contact between the Duke and the new society.

What of the London Scholars? Is it true that they were the predecessors of the Cumberland Youths and that they changed their name?

(To be continued.)

A SERVICE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In these days when His Majesty's Forces are so uppermost in our minds, it may be interesting to recall that Friday, Jan. 8th, 1943, is the 29th anniversary of the first peal rung entirely by members of His Majesty's Regular Forces.

The peal, 5,056 of Bob Major, composed and conducted by L.-Sergt. F. A. Holden, was rung at St. Mary Magdalene, Gillingham, Kent, on January 8th, 1914, by Warrant Officer W. A. Cook, Royal Navy; L.-Sergt. F. A. Holden, Royal Marines; Stoker A. Playle, Royal Navy; Pte. F. Souter, Essex Regt.; 2nd-Cpl. G. Gilbert, Royal Engineers; Musician V. A. Jarrett, Royal Engineers; Pte. Percy Gibbs, King's Own Regt.; and L.-Sergt. J. Bennett, Royal Marines. There were three firsts in the peal. Messrs. Bennett, Gilbert and Jarrett (now all pensioners) are still about and looking forward to ringing the victory bells, but Messrs. Cooke and Holden have passed on.

Can any reader give me any information regarding the three other members of the band?

V. A. JARRETT.

RINGING IN GLASGOW.**HANDBELLS IN THE CATHEDRAL.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—Once again we were able to have the ten bells rung open on Christmas Day from 10.15 to 11 o'clock. We were glad to welcome two new visitors—Gnr. G. Parsons and Major Freeborn, both from London. At the request of the Rev. A. Neville Davidson, minister of Glasgow Cathedral, a band of St. Mary's Cathedral Society rang Grandsire Caters on hand from the gallery above the rood screen for 10 minutes before the morning service on Sunday, December 27th. They were E. Bounphrey 1-2, H. Sargent 3-4, R. G. Townsend 5-6, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 7-8, E. Stafford 9-10. With the exception of the regular ringing at the Empire Exhibition (1938), this is the first time change ringing has been heard in public in Glasgow. The ringing was much appreciated by the congregation and the ringers warmly thanked from the pulpit.

The Glasgow Cathedral—built on the site of the old Church of St. Mungo—was 'taken over' by the Presbyterians at the Reformation and remains Church of Scotland. At this time, when the cry for unity is heard on all sides, we, the ringers of St. Mary's, are happy to have formed a link between the two principal denominations in Scotland.

I have been asked by the members of our tower to express our appreciation of 'The Ringing World.' In spite of the shortage of paper, etc., you have made it of greater interest to a wider circle. Thank you, sir.

Wishing you, 'The Ringing World' and all our ringing friends a happy and peaceful new year, we would especially remember all ringers who have been deprived of their bells through enemy action.

ERNEST A. STAFFORD, Hon. Sec.

HANDBELLS IN LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

The new Cathedral Choir School has just completed its first year, and one feature of the school life has been the regular handbell ringing practices for both tune and change ringing.

A pleasing feature of the Cathedral services on Sunday was the ringing of rounds and carols by five of the choristers—Freddie Farrow, John Knaggs, Tony Jeffs, Geoffrey Walker and Bobby Matthews—for ten minutes before both matins and evensong.

The bells were rung from the extreme east end of the Cathedral, and they were heard clearly throughout the whole of the great building.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends of Mr. W. J. Prescott, the Binging Master for Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, will hear with regret that he is lying seriously ill at his home, Hope House, Shaftesbury Road, Bath, with pneumonia and phlebitis.

Mr. William Spice, who took part in two handbell peals recorded this week, is in his 83rd year. He has long been a prominent ringer in North Kent.

At Leicester the New Year was rung in on handbells. The peal of Stedman Caters recorded elsewhere began at 9.35 p.m. on New Year's Eve and ran into rounds at 12.27 a.m. on New Day's Day.

The first peal of Double Oxford Bob Royal was rung at Wednesbury on January 2nd, 1909; and the first peal of Forward Royal at Loughborough on January 3rd, 1890.

John Jagger was born on January 3rd, 1860.

On that date in 1803 the Cumberlands rang John Reeves' nine-course peal of Treble Bob Royal (5,200 changes) at St. Mary-le-Bow. James Marlton turned the tenor in single-handed.

On January 4th, 1784, the Oldham men rang 14,480 changes of Bob Major in 8 hours 24 minutes.

The first true peal of Stedman Caters on handbells was rung by the Cumberland Youths on January 4th, 1855.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917.

The College Youths rang the then longest peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,524 changes, on January 6th, 1851, at St. Giles', Cripplegate.

Henry Johnson died at Aston on January 7th, 1880. Samuel Thurston died at Norwich on January 9th, 1841.

The College Youths rang the first twelve-bell peal outside London on January 7th, 1767, at Cirencester; and on the same date in 1817 the Birmingham men rang the first peal of Treble Bob Caters.

THE BAN.

CONTINUED PROTESTS.

The following letter from the Rev. Howard Dobson, Rector of Huntingfield, Suffolk, appeared in 'The Daily Telegraph' last week:—

As the declared policy is to continue the ban on bellringing and as, according to the authorities, invasion is still expected to happen, may I make a few simple comments.

1. I am the custodian of the bells of the parish church. I have never been told officially by the bishop or anybody else that the bells must not be rung except by permission of the military or of the Government. If I did not listen to the radio or read the newspapers (and I am not obliged to do either) I should not know of the ban.

2. I have never been told by anybody precisely in what circumstances the bells are to be rung as a warning.

3. There are two ringers in this parish, myself and the churchwarden. If anyone unused to ringing were to attempt to ring the bells he would probably either fail to make any noise at all or he would crack his skull on the bell-frame.

4. Therefore, if this use of the bells is intended seriously as a warning (and I question this), the points I have raised ought to be considered by the authorities, whoever they are.

Some people object to campanology at any time. I am inclined to think one or more of them took advantage of an emergency to fasten this new regulation upon us. The sooner it is cancelled the better for our spirits and our cause.

Later on 'The Telegraph' printed two letters on the same subject. The first, from Mr. C. G. Gambier-Bousfield, said: 'Many of us know the lines in "Bonnie Dundee," "The bells were rung backward, the drums they were beat."

'In olden times, on joyful occasions the bells were rung, beginning with the highest toned bell, the sound descending to the lowest.

'For an alarm the process was reversed, the lowest toned bell being rung first and the sound ascending to the highest.

'Hence "the bells were rung backwards."

The other was by 'Historicus': 'In 1338, when invasion from France was constantly threatened, an order was sent to the sheriffs of all the maritime counties.

'It ordained that in an area of at least seven leagues (21 miles) from the coast only one bell could be rung for church services, but when the signal came that the French fleet was sighted, every bell in every church was to be continuously rung to warn the inhabitants.'

QUEX PARK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his interesting account of Quex Park, says 'there is no complete record of peals rung there.'

About 35 or so years ago these were all collected. Major Powell-Cotton had the top half of the ringing chamber panelled out and all the peals recorded to date. Subsequent peals were to be recorded only if they were the first in the method on the bells. Since then only one such peal has been rung there, Bob Maximus in September, 1935, which the late Mr. F. E. Dawe conducted.

With the exception of two peals by the London County Association, and two, possibly three, by the Cumberlands, the remainder have been all rung by the Kent County Association since the last one recorded in the tower, so a complete record is easily available.

If my memory is correct, the peal which J. P. Powell rang the tenor to in 1820 was Bob Triples and was the second peal on the bells.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN FLINT.

WELL-KNOWN MIDLANDS RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Flint, who passed away suddenly at his home, 45, Uxcroft Lane, Bolsover, on December 19th, at the age of 71 years.

He was born at Ashover, Derbyshire, and had lived at Bolsover since 1892. He learned to ring there, and on the installing of the new peal in 1898 was made Ringing Master, a position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Flint's first peal was in two plain Minor methods on October 6th, 1900, and on January 26th, 1901, he conducted his first peal. In many of his earlier peals especially he was associated with such well-known local ringers as Arthur Craven, Arthur Knights, Sam Thomas and the Rev. A. T. Beeston, and during each of the five years from 1909 to 1913 he was included in the bands of the late William Pye on their ringing tours.

In all, Mr. Flint rang 513 peals, of which he conducted 182, with 351 different ringers and for 14 different associations. They were rung in 152 towers, in 35 counties, and 168 were rung at Bolsover; 106 of them he conducted.

He put in a life's work learning young ringers at Bolsover and elsewhere, and the young invariably received his encouragement and sympathy.

Mr. Flint was an ardent churchman and was actively identified with various aspects of church life. He had an unobtrusive charm of manner and was highly respected and esteemed by all sections of the people of Bolsover. He will be much missed, especially in the local belfries, where no ringing meeting was complete without him. As a hobby ballringing was a source of great joy to him, to which he devoted so much of his enthusiasm and leisure time.

His list of peals is as follows: Minor 13, Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 7, Stedman Triples 9, Caters 24, Cinques 5, Bob Triples 1, Major 19, Royal 3, Forward Major 1, Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 66, Royal 24, Maximus 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 4, Royal 4, Double Norwich Major 89, Caters 2, Royal 4, Superlative Surprise Major 91, Yorkshire 38, London 34, Bristol 21, Norfolk 21, Cambridge 13, New Cambridge 14, Pudsey 4, Peterborough 2, Rutland 2, Belgrave 1, Whitminster 1, Hinton 1, Cambridge Royal 4, Yorkshire Royal 1, on handbells 4.



THE LATE MR. FLINT.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On September 25th in 'The Ringing World' appeared a very brief but seemingly a rather sarcastic letter as to the why and wherefore and name of the society.

Since then several letters have appeared, but I cannot trace anything in the way of a direct answer. Perhaps the following which I received on a Christmas card the other day may satisfy your correspondent's curiosity. The card was a picture of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church outside, and on opening I find the enclosed printed: 'Erected in 1721 by James Gibbs. Buckingham Palace being in this parish, pews are reserved for the King and Prince of Wales, and births of all Royal children entered in the register. Nell Gwynne was buried here.'

This, to me, seems a very sensible answer as to how the society got the word Royal tacked on to its name, the church having been the headquarters of the society as long as I have been a member, viz., 57 years.

I may say at the time of my election several influential gentlemen were in office and were no doubt responsible for looking for something that would add dignity to the society.

I thought these few remarks may interest readers of 'The Ringing World' as members of the society.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

DETACHED TOWERS.

AND SOME QUEER BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very interested in Mr. Morris' articles on detached towers, but he has missed one in Herefordshire at my old home, Marden, five miles from Hereford.

There are six lovely old bells there, tenor 16½ cwt. I rehung them for W. Greenleaf in 1910, before he went abroad. He recast the 4th and 5th. The tenor is a lovely bell by Finch, of Hereford, who also cast the tenors at Woolhope, Lugwardine and Wellington. He must have been a roaming bell founder, because the old core was lying about in the rectory orchard for years when I was a boy, and I think it is now buried in the pool that is nearly filled up.

Marden tower was built as a battle inspection tower in Offa's time. When they built the church they built a spire. It is right close to the river, and when it is a good flood it gets into the tower and church. I can remember some benches and planks to make a temporary floor to ring the old year out and the new in. I was only 12 years old, but Mr. Owen Lang taught me when I was 10.

The old 4th was a Coney bell, and I have seen lots of his about in my travels, but I cannot say much for any of them. Their music to me is like hitting a shovel on a gatepost.

If Mr. Thomas is in Hereford and goes to St. Peter's High Tower he will see some of the queerest shaped bells he ever saw in his life. They are a heavy old five and have not been rung for over 50 years. I was one of the two who rang the tenor. We thought she had square bearings.

Then again if he got time to go to Lisvain, a little church near Penylan, Cardiff, he will find 2½ bells, there being a large piece out of the third. The Rector of Llanthen asked me to call and see if it was possible to get them recast into a peal, but the tower is far too small to carry them. The old people there told me that the bells were supposed to have a great amount of silver in them, but I asked my mate, who was with me, to tap them round and the tone sounded more like lead. I asked him, 'Did you tap that on your bowler hat?' As far as I remember, they were Coney's bells.

There are many other queer old bells I could show Mr. Thomas if he is ever this way.

BERT WEAVER.

18, Arcot Street, Penarth, near Cardiff.

MINOR AND DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Querist' must have written his remarks on the above with his 'tongue in his cheek,' as he must surely realise that the details published in Belfry Gossip are of outstanding achievements in the history of the Exercise. It appears to me, as a novice, that most peals of Doubles and Minor (I refer specifically to those in a single method) are achievements only in the eyes of those ringing or conducting their first peal, rather than something of great interest and value to the Exercise at large.

So far as his dig at the experts is concerned, his experience has fortunately never been mine. Rather has mine been that there have been too many novices (including myself) anxious to have a go at a method they thought they could manage, with the result that the few experts standing in for the touch have had an unhappy time trying to pilot them through what sometimes turned out to be a dismal failure.

I have the greatest respect for the experts I have met, one of whom took the trouble to arrange and conduct my only two peals (both Bob Minor) solely for the pleasure given to those of the band who, in each case, were scoring their first.

I venture to suggest that the 'real experts' are not like 'Querist's,' and if they occasionally get a little 'fed-up' with novices they are to be forgiven. I have at times given them trouble, and doubtless shall again, but they have always been ready and willing to give help when needed.

'FAIRPLAY.'

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent correspondence on central towers and churches where ringing is done in full view of the congregation recalls to my memory Staunton in Gloucestershire, a peal of six between Coleford and Monmouth, which my father often spoke of as the place where his uncle and his five sons were the ringers. The ropes here fall in the chancel.

Another odd feature in this church is, I believe, the pulpit, which is built out from, and approached by a staircase inside, one of the pillars.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Thursday, December 24th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major (1,260 changes) in 43 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 7-8.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Three courses of Stedman Cinques by E. G. Fenn, Mrs. R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, H. Langdon (conductor), R. W. Green, H. Hoskins, H. G. Cousins, T. Langdon, C. W. Roberts, J. G. Prior, R. F. Deal and J. Waugh.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—402 Grandsire Triples by W. S. Langdon, W. L. B. Leese, W. H. Passmore, G. N. Price, F. Shorter (conductor), A. A. Hughes, A. B. Peck and J. Bunley.

ACLE, NORFOLK.—Call changes, Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor: W. High, J. Wilkerson, D. Baylis, J. Priest, R. Barber, Leadbetter and Miss Leadbetter.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS and BALDERTON, near Newark.—Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by P. Hayes, E. and K. Willcock, T. and J. Vessey, K. W. Mayer, Miss K. Vessey and Mrs. D. Mayer.

BATH.—The bells of the Abbey and St. Mark's were rung during the morning.

BEACONSFIELD.—Rounds and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and of Plain Bob Major. Thirteen ringers took part, including Mr. B. Lambert, a visitor from Norfolk.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung at the Parish Church. Mr. W. Wilkinson, the oldest member of the band, who reached the age of 80 on the previous day, rang the tenor.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.—Twelve ringers were present, including Pte. P. Barnes, who was home on leave. Touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob were rung.

CLIFTON.—At Emmanuel Church by Clifton Parish Church ringers, rounds and Queens and Grandsire Triples: H. S. Gregory, H. W. S. Gregory, W. J. Rawlings (conductor), W. H. Cole, W. Webb, Mrs. Bowles, W. F. Bonner, F. Baker and S. Mann.

COLCHESTER.—At St. Peter's, Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, including a 672, by Messrs. G. Burch, G. Boyden, W. Chalk, H. T. Pye, E. P. Duffield, V. Kerridge, also H. Finch (Hythe), Rouse (Cheltenham), Ptes. Maul (Swindon) and Gosling (Windsor). F. L. Bumpstead was also present, but unable to take part.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—At the Priory Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,295 changes) in 55 minutes: G. Preston (conductor) 1, Miss Sparshott 2, E. T. Griffin 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, Prof. R. O. Street 6, F. Blake 7, F. Sparshott 8, G. Scragg 9, H. Gillard 10. Also 504 Grandsire Triples, in which Mrs. Witts took part.

DARTFORD, KENT.—Six of the band, including one home on leave, rang Grandsire Doubles from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Nine ringers were present to ring from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Those taking part were R. A. Jenkins, J. Wleaddon, H. Raynor, A. J. Thompson (Swanscombe), Craftsman T. E. Walker (R.E.M.E.), J. E. Bailey, Mrs. J. E. Bailey, P. Mills and E. Fuller.

DUNMOW.—Touches of Plain Bob Minor with tenor covering by W. Smith, A. Smith, Pilot-Sergt. W. Mitson, G. Saunders, G. Schleutier, L. Wright and Mrs. Wright.

FAKENHAM.—Well-struck rounds and set changes and two plain courses of Bob Major by Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Simms and Miss Cooke, Messrs. Owens, Simms, G. A. Cooke (conductor), Master W. G. Cooke, E. Cooke and G. Dye.

FARNDON, CHESHIRE.—Call changes and firing: Messrs. R. Ince, J. Thomas, J. Carr, H. Hughes, E. Emuion, T. Partington, T. Simon, sen., H. Youde and A. E. Richards. Miss B. M. Richards, on vacation from college, was able to take part. The choirboys rang for Sunday evening service on the handbells (12).

GORTON, MANCHESTER.—At Brookfield Church, Plain Bob Minor and call changes by Messrs. E. F. Mawby, E. Seddon, J. Fearnhead, A. S. Fearnhead, J. Potts, F. Mason and J. Harker, local ringers, and two visitors, A. Barnes (Reddish) and W. J. Howard (Denton).

HELMINGHAM and FRAMSDEN.—Courses of Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise and touches of Stedman Triples by William Wightman, John Arbon, W. J. Button, W. Whiting, G. Pryke, George and James Bennett, jun., L. C. Wightman, L. G. Brett and T. W. Lest.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—At St. John's Church, two touches of Grandsire Caters: J. J. Pratt, W. Honor, F. J. Smith, Mrs. and P. W. Goodfellow, A. R. G. Twinn (on leave from the Army), C. A. Over, W. H. Gutteridge, D. Keen (on leave from the Navy), T. Bannister, W. H. Coles and E. Easton.

HORSMENDEN, KENT.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Pte. F. J. Lambert, jun., Francis Bromley, Pte. R. T. Lambert (conductor), Pte. R. E. Lambert, Cpl. A. Bromley and Pte. A. W. West.

HURST, BERKS.—Good rounds and several plain courses of Grandsire Triples were rung. Nine ringers were present, six being members of the band practising when the ban was enforced.

ISLEWORTH.—Call changes and Queens by Lieut. and Mrs. Rogers, Messrs. H. Brooks, G. Dodds, P. and A. Thirst, D. Salvage, L. Dixon, D. Chamberlain, F. D. Bishop and E. V. Beadle, Miss K. Brooks and Miss J. Urwin.

KNEBWORTH.—The following men took part in the ringing: J. Fernley, Capt. D. H. Pink, C. Spicer, A. G. Crane, William and Walter Scott, J. Childs and C. Dennis. The ringing was good and much appreciated by the public.

LEICESTER.—At St. Margaret's, Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, also touches of Stedman Triples, Bob Major and a course of Cambridge Surprise Major. The ringers of the Caters were Miss Margaret Morris treble, Ernest Morris (conductor) 2, George Hum-

phreys 3, Edwin Cattell 4, Thomas Bent 5, Josiah Morris 6, Edward R. Whitehead 7, George S. Morris 8, Arthur Cattell 9, W. Tanser tenor.

LEISTON.—At St. Margaret's Church, touches of Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob: Rev. A. H. N. Waller (Rector), C. Whiting, J. G. Rumsey, G. Greenacre, R. Kersey, L. P. Bailey, F. Youngman, E. S. Bailey, G. Wilson, J. M. Bailey and J. T. Clarke (Bushey).

LONDON.—The bands of St. Stephen's, Westminster, and Lambeth Parish Church combined. The ringers were T. Wyatt, W. Hardy, Corpl. J. Hardy, F. Holland, R. Kemp, Corpl. R. G. Kemp, J. Taylor and C. M. Meyer. A welcome visitor was W. B. Leese.

MINCHINHAMPTON, GLOS.—A quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles (1,260) by F. Canter treble, H. Newman 2, F. Simmonds 3, F. Ponting (conductor) 4, H. Barrati 5, J. Hammond tenor.

NORTH WEALD, ESSEX.—A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 46 minutes: Rifleman C. Maynard, A. B. King, H. S. King, H. King (conductor), S. Law, S. Blotch. Also a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles in 49 minutes: L. Parris, A. B. King, H. S. King (conductor), H. King, W. Pearce and W. Bingham. First quarter-peal by W. Bingham.

NORTON SUBCOURSE, NORFOLK.—240 changes each of Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Also at Raveningham, extents of Bob, St. Simon's and Grandsire Doubles: A. Walpole, S. Fenn, R. A. Warman, H. W. Barrett, G. Walpole and D. Fenn.

RETENDEN, ESSEX.—120's of Grandsire Doubles, touches of Plain Bob and a well-struck 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Messrs. C. Jay, F. Jay, W. May, F. C. May, F. Frost, G. Frost, W. Cresswell and Mr. H. S. Hobden, of Eastbourne.

RODBOURNE CHENEY, WILTS.—Grandsire Doubles with rounds for some beginners and a very good fall. The local ringers were pleased to welcome Mr. T. F. King, of Bath.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's, two courses of Grandsire Caters and one of Bob Royal by a mixed band of St. Peter's and Cathedral Societies and visitors from Uxbridge and Plymouth. On Christmas Eve midnight, before the service, handbells—carols and Grandsire—were rung by the St. Peter's band.

STANMORE.—At St. John's Church, the bells were rung by Messrs. G. A. Hughes, E. J. Leversuch, H. Moxom, G. Cheshire, W. Wenban, C. Wenban, D. Cattell and F. Alleyway, Mrs. G. Savill and a friend from Bristol, Mr. Williams.

SUTTON, ISLE OF ELY.—Several touches of Bob Doubles by C. Thulborn, A. Faux, P. A. Corby (conductor), G. Howard, S. Few and H. Gimbert. Call changes were also rung, in which G. Howell took part.

LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—Bob Major and Bob Minor by C. T. Watts, A. W. Townsend, S. Mumby, J. Smith, H. Harrison, W. Burridge, G. Mackinder, R. Bunn, E. Boon and H. Carbutt. Messrs. H. Harrison and G. Mackinder have rung on 50 Christmas Days out of a possible 52.

SWINDON.—A good company assembled both at Christ Church and St. Mark's. Grandsire Caters was rung at Christ Church and Grandsire Triples at St. Mark's.

GREAT TEW, ESSEX.—Grandsire Triples and Doubles by R. Tustian, B. Morley, L. Larnor, W. Cross, V. Hitchman, L. Clifton, R. Taplin, P. Lowe and C. Shelton. At Little Tew, hymns and Grandsire Doubles were played by Mrs. E. Warr.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, 399 Stedman Caters, by R. Maynard, jun., H. Rumens, J. H. Wilkins, C. T. Coles (conductor), R. Maynard, sen., J. C. Adams, E. E. Holman, L. E. Last, F. C. Maynard and H. Strange. Also a touch of Grandsire Caters, in which H. Street and F. C. Taylor took part. Several of the above had previously rung at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples.

WRINGTON.—Grandsire Triples and Caters. All the local ringers turned up, including the Rector, and the ringing was quite good considering the lack of practice.

THE LATE EDWIN J. HARDING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr. Edwin J. Harding, of Portsmouth, in last week's 'Ringing World,' and I would be glad if you will allow me to place on record one example of his enthusiasm.

In September, 1930, I met him at St. Mary's, Portsea, and after the practice mentioned quite casually that I wished he lived nearer Crayford, because with the return of Mr. E. H. Lewis from his 'exile' in Scotland, I could see just enough 'Edwins' to ring a peal. He said, 'You arrange it, I'll come,' and later his parting words were, 'Don't forget that peal.'

The peal was arranged in the December following, and I wrote him at Portsmouth. My letter was forwarded and I received a reply from Berrynarbor, where he had gone to live in the meantime, 'to say he would be at Crayford on the date stated. I replied that to ask him to come all the way from North Devon for a peal of Bob Major, especially in the winter, was imposing on good nature, and suggested dropping the idea, at least until the following summer. By return of post I had another letter from him saying that on no account was I to postpone the attempt.

I am pleased to say the peal was successful, and I have always felt grateful to him for making it possible.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 579.)

The extract we gave recently from Haweis' 'Music and Morals' will give a pretty good idea of the man's style and outlook. He was, it must be remembered, a popular preacher, a rather extreme example of a type which was fairly common forty or fifty years ago, but has now almost entirely disappeared. These men got their effects by heightening the lights and darkening the shadows of everything they said. A lot of it was only platitude dressed up in gaudy rhetoric, but it was extremely effective and a delight to listen to. Only at the finish there was often not much in it, and when it was put into print was as flat as the beer left overnight in a glass.

Whether Haweis did actually believe that a great tower 'rocks to and fro' in a tempest, and 'the enormous clappers of the bells swing slowly,' is no great matter. What he wanted to do was to create the impression that at the top of a high tower a strong wind can be very impressive and even alarming. In the same way, what he has to say about Belgian bells and (by contrast) English bells, must be read in the light of his preferences and prejudices. He is always the popular preacher trying to create an impression, not the sober writer trying to convey prosaic facts. His essay goes on:—

Bells are heard best when they are rung upon a slope or in a valley, especially a water valley. The traveller may well wonder at the distinctness with which he can hear the monastery bells on the Lake of Lugano or the church bells over some of the long reaches of the Rhine. Next to valleys, plains carry the sound furthest. Fortunately many of the finest bell towers in existence are so situated.

It is well known how freely the sound of the bells travels over Salisbury Plain. Why is there no proper peal, and why are the bells not attended to there? The same music steals far and wide over the Lombard Plain from Milan Cathedral; over the Campagna from St. Peter's as Rome; over the flats of Alsatia to the Vosges Mountains and the Black Forest from the Strasbourg spire; and, lastly, over the plain of Belgium from the towers of Tournai, Ghent, Brussels, Louvain and Antwerp. The belfry at Bruges lies in a hollow, and can only be seen and heard along the line of its own valley.

To take one's stand at the summit of Strasbourg at the ringing of the sunset bell, just at the close of some refulgent summer's day, is to witness one of the finest sights in the world. The moment is one of brief but ineffable splendour, when, between the mountains and the plain, just as the sun is setting, the mists rise suddenly in strange sweeps and spirals and are smitten through with the golden fire which, melting down through a thousand tints, passes, with the rapidity of a dream, into the cold purples of the night.

Pass for a moment in imagination from such a scene to the summit of Antwerp Cathedral at sunrise. Delicately tall, and not dissimilar in character, the Antwerp spire exceeds in height its sister at Strasbourg, which is commonly supposed to be the highest in the world. The Antwerp spire is 403ft. high from the foot of the tower. Strasbourg measures 468ft. from the level of the sea, but less than 403ft. from the level of the plain.

By the clear morning light, the panorama from the steeple of Notre Dame at Antwerp can hardly be surpassed. One hundred and twenty-six steeples may be counted, far and near. Facing northwards, the Scheldt winds away until it loses itself in a white line which is

none other than the North Sea. By the aid of a telescope ships can be distinguished out on the horizon, and the captains declare they can see the lofty spire at one hundred and fifty miles distant. Middleburg at seventy-five, and Flessing at sixty-five miles, are also visible from the steeple. Looking towards Holland, we can distinguish Breda and Walladue, each about fifty-four miles off.

Turning southward, we cannot help being struck by the fact that almost all the great Belgian towers are within sight of each other. The two lordly and massive towers of St. Gudule's Church at Brussels, the noble fragment at Mechlin, that has stood for centuries awaiting its companion, besides many others, with carillons of less importance, can be seen from Antwerp. So these mighty spires, grey and changeless in the high air, seem to hold converse together over the heads of puny mortals, and their language is rolled from tower to tower by the music of the bells.

'Non sunt loquellae neque sermones audiantur voces eorum.'

'There is neither speech nor language but their voices are heard among them.'

Such is the inscription we copied from one bell in the tower at Antwerp, signed F. Hemony, Amstelodamia (Amsterdam), 1658.

Bells have been sadly neglected by antiquaries. There are too few churches or cathedrals in England concerning whose bells anything definite is known, and the current rumours about their size, weight and date are seldom accurate. In Belgium even, where far more attention is paid to the subject, it is difficult to find in the archives of the towns and public libraries any account of the bells. The great folios at Louvain, Antwerp and Mechlin, containing what is generally supposed to be an exhaustive transcript of all the monumental and funereal inscriptions in Belgium, will often bestow but a couple of dates and one inscription upon a richly-decorated and inscribed carillon of thirty or forty bells.

The reason for this is not far to seek. The fact is, it is no easy matter to get at the bells when once they are hung, and many an antiquarian, who will haunt tombs and pore over illegible brasses with commendable patience, will decline to risk his neck in the most interesting of belfries.

The pursuit, too, is often a disappointing one. Perhaps it is possible to get half-way round a bell, and then to be prevented by a thick beam, or the bell's own wheel, from seeing the other half, which by a perverse chance generally contains the date and name of the founder. Perhaps the oldest bell is quite inaccessible, or, after half an hour's climbing amidst the utmost dust and difficulty, we reach a blank or commonplace bell.

To anyone who intends to prosecute his studies in belfries, we should recommend the practice of patience, an acquaintance with the Gothic type, and a preliminary course of appropriate gymnastics. These last might consist in trying to get through apertures too small to admit the human body, hanging from the ceiling of a dark room whilst try to read an illegible inscription by the light of a lucifer match held in the other, attempting to stand on a large wheel whilst in gentle rotation without losing your equilibrium, and employing the bell ropes as a means of ascent and descent without ringing the bells.

(To be continued.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 9.)

Ledbury, Herefordshire, St. Michael's Church has a fine detached tower on the north side of Early English date, with a spire 120ft. high, and it contains a ring of eight bells. The clock here has chimes which were played every three hours, at 3, 6, 9 daily. The spire has twice been struck by lightning, fortunately without serious damage. The church is a spacious one in Norman and later styles, and its foundation goes back at least to 1085. It has also a north porch of large size.

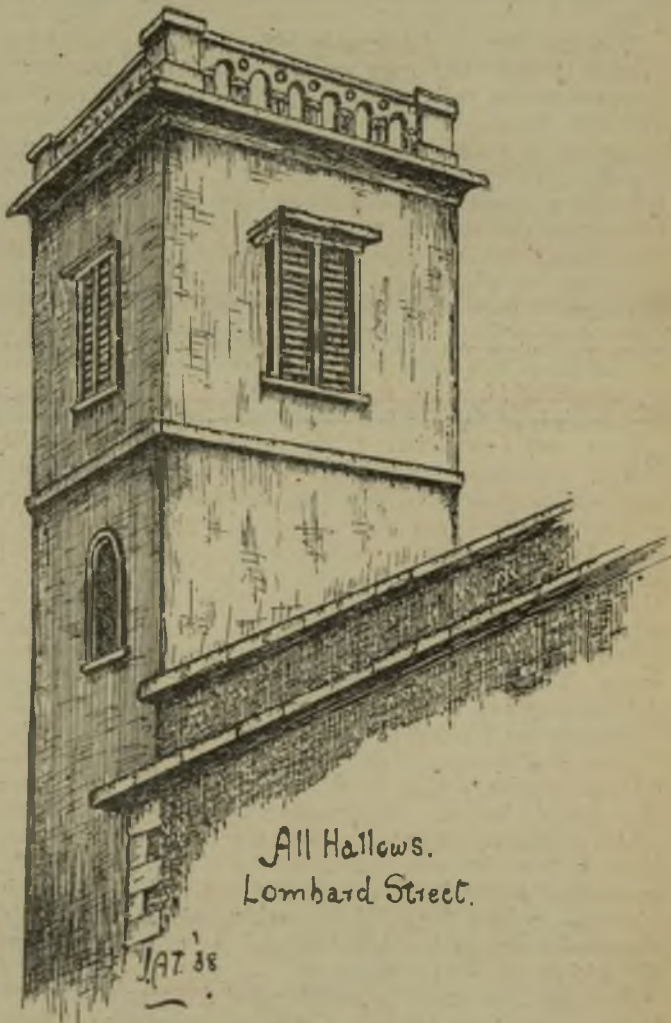
Tarpole, in the same county, stands near Leominster, and its church—St. Leonard's—has a detached tower standing to the south-west. The tower proper is square of one stage with rubble walls. Inside these walls a sturdily-built timber frame supports the three bells and the stone-tiled roof of pyramidal form, with its lantern and bell chamber. Part of the structure dates probably from the early 14th century, but there is also some comparatively modern woodwork. It was restored in 1900.

In Kent, at Barfreystone, near Dover, the ancient Church of St. Nicholas has no tower, so cannot by any stretch of imagination come under the head of this series, yet it is unique, as the one bell it possesses hangs in a nearby yew tree. R. C. Hussey, Esq., F.S.A., writing in 1840, states: 'The bell is ancient, on it is an invocation to St. Katherine.' The Rector now writes: 'In 1900 it was removed to the yew tree, and the bell rope, which outside is encased in a metal tube, runs through the west wall into the church, from whence the bell is rung. The arrangement is not very good, as the tree muffles the sound, and in severe frosty weather the rope gets frozen somewhere and cannot be pulled.' The church is late Norman work (c. 1170), and is perhaps a unique specimen, and famous for its sculptures.

Middlesex has examples of detached towers at Hornsey and Hackney, and a semi-detached one at Twickenham. I am not able to give details of Hackney, St. Augustine, although I possess a photo of the tower, but Hornsey, St. Mary, has a ring of six bells in its ancient tower which was left standing when the old church was demolished in 1927. This tower was built in the year 1500, but the top portion is modern. The walls are of ragstone, rubble and brick, with freestone dressings. It is 13½ft. square, and in the north wall is a fireplace with hollow chamfered jambs and four-centred heads. The present church was built on a site immediately adjoining the east end of the old church.

At Twickenham on a new estate has been re-erected the Church of All Hallows, of Lombard Street, London. The writer has visited it quite recently and can testify to its very great beauty, the ancient richly carved altar piece is extremely handsome, and the walls are panelled 9ft. high. The pulpit and sounding board above, as well as two fine oak door cases at the west end, are fine, and the organ is encased in a richly carved case. The tower, built of stone, is very simple and has a cornice and parapet to complete it, its height being about 85ft. Through the doorway in the tower, entrance is gained to the church by means of a porch and vestibule. It seems strange to see—in its new setting—immediately under the tower, a large gravestone stating, 'Beneath this spot lies . . . and on the vestibule walls many ancient mural

tablets saying, 'Near this spot lies . . . and they lie more than twenty miles away. All Hallows', Lombard Street, suffered seriously in the Great Fire, and a new church was erected in 1694, a bell being presented by parishioners in 1679. 'Through all the changing scenes of (its) life,' it eventually served no less than four parishes, St. Benet, Gracechurch, St. Leonard, Eastcheap, St. Dionis, Backchurch, and its own. St. Benet's was pulled down in 1867, having been rebuilt in 1685 after the Fire, and this had a tower and steeple with obelisk-shaped spire 149ft. high. St. Leonard's was not rebuilt after the Fire, and its parish was joined to St. Benet's. St. Dionis' was rebuilt in 1674, and its tower, added 1684, was 100ft. high. This church was pulled



down in 1878, and its ring of ten bells, which were purchased in 1727 at a cost of £479 18s., were rehung in the tower of All Hallows'. And now All Hallows' has been taken down (1938-9) and rebuilt on a grand new site on the new Chertsey (by-pass) Road at Twickenham. This new-old church is what is described as 'the successor' church, and here the whole of the interior furnishings and woodwork were transferred, the tower re-erected, together with the ancient monuments and

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

BOURNEMOUTH.—A meeting will be held in St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, on Saturday, January 9th, from 2.30 p.m. Handbells. Tea 4.30 p.m. Short service 5.30 p.m. More handbells to follow.—Arthur V. Davis.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who notify me not later than January 14th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Town Hall. Handbells only, from 3.45 p.m. Admission only with identity cards. Reports to hand.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th. Service at 4 p.m. Handbells available from 2 p.m. Please bring own eatables, cups of tea will be provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells in the vestry 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting Stourbridge, St. Thomas' (D.V.), Saturday, January 16th, 3 p.m. Bells available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Road, Stourbridge.

LADIES' GUILD and BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Long Ashton on January 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Tea 4.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. Yeo, Long Ashton, near Bristol.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Bath.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.—A set of ten handbells. What offers?—Fred Blatch, Norwood End, Fyfield, Ongar, Essex.

21 HANDBELLS, chromatic, tenor 6in. diameter, only slight repairs required.—Offers to S. Moore, 4, Edward Street, Northwich, Cheshire.

DEATH.

KIRK.—Suddenly, on December 29th, 1942, Dorothea C., the beloved wife of Francis Kirk, of 48, King's Road, St. Albans.

DETACHED TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

memorial tables as stated above. The old ring of ten bells, however, were not rehung in the rebuilt tower, but offered to the new Cathedral at Guildford. The tenor is 19 cwt., and eight are by Thos. Lester, 1750, and others by Richard Phelps, 1726. Other churches are to be built out of the proceeds of the sale of the site of All Hallows', Lombard Street, and the first to be consecrated (December, 1941) were All Hallows', North Greenford.

(To be continued.)

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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 ARCHÆOLOGY OF BELLS.

The latest part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' does not deal with any bells which are known to ringers generally, or have played any part in the history of change ringing. The story is told of one ring of six and one of eight, and the rest of the book is concerned with single bells and rings of two or three. But that does not mean that there is any lack of interesting matter in these pages. On the contrary, from the archæological point of view they are worth far more than the modest sixpence which is asked for them.

Bell archæology naturally is a subject which appeals to comparatively few people, but to those who do study it it has a strong and peculiar fascination, and even the average ringer will find his interest awakened when the matter is illustrated by such admirable photographs and drawings as in this book.

It is inevitable that the bells best known and most prized by ringers should be those which are least interesting to the archæologist. We care little about what inscriptions are on Mancroft, or Painswick, or Southwark bells, or whether the lettering and the ornamentation are artistic or not. What we value in them is their tone, and of course that is what really matters in bells. If we want interesting inscriptions, antiquity, and examples of the work of rare founders, we must seek it for the most part among the humble threes and fives in out-of-the-way village churches.

A most interesting example is illustrated by Mr. Sharpe. It is the smallest of two bells at Kingston Lisle, and weighs only about three-quarters of a hundred-weight. It is quite plain and void of inscription, but it dates from the middle of the fourteenth century, and it still hangs in its original fittings, an elm headstock with a lever morticed in, which was the usual method before the half-wheel was introduced.

For six hundred years that bell has been doing duty, week in and week out. There are, of course, many objects, in museums and elsewhere, much older than that, but they are merely relics of past ages and have long since outlived their practical usefulness. This bell is just as serviceable to-day as when it was first put up.

There are perhaps no other things which have come down to us from remote ages entirely unaltered and still serving their original purposes to be compared with church bells. The towers they hang in have preserved their identity, but in every case they have been altered and restored. The bells are absolutely the same, for a

(Continued on page 26.)

cracked and recast bell is a new bell, and only by courtesy can be called the same.

Here, perhaps, we may find some reason for the appeal church bells have to the people of England, an appeal which, as we lately discovered, is still strong and universal. There is nothing else which forms so subtle a link with the past, and nothing which is so able at times to stir up in men memories of events and scenes long past. Bells cannot rank very high as musical instruments, and change ringing has small claims to be called music; yet in their own sphere they hold a position which is unique and unchallengeable.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN	...	5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	...	7-8

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
 Umpire—Frederick E. Collins.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
 DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	...	3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	...	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	...	7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.'

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At GLYN GARTE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON	...	1-2	MRS. R. RICHARDSON	...	5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON	...	3-4	SERGEANT A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN	...	7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Mrs D. L. Tomlinson.

Rung in honour of the engagement of Sergt. Pilot A. J. Brian Wayman and Miss Enid M. Richardson.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	...	5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH	...	3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' † 50th peal.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourth quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, followed by the annual meeting, took place at the Guild's headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., being in the chair.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business, the chairman referred to the loss the Guild had sustained by the death of John Jaggar and Francis E. Dawe. The former had been connected with the Midlands all his life and belonged to the St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, company at the time they made ringing history both in the tower and on handbells. Later on he came to reside in Oldbury, and for upwards of 20 years he organised a band of handbell ringers to visit the West Bromwich and District Hospital on Christmas Day to ring tunes in the various wards. He was an excellent ringer and always jolly good company, and whilst they regretted the passing of such a man, yet they could not be sad as he had led a full and useful life, having attained his 81st year.

Francis E. Dawe was well known to the older members of the Guild. He had presided at the Henry Johnson Commemoration and proposed the 'Memory' toast on several occasions. He, too, had had a full and useful life, and they ought not to be sad at his passing. Mr. Smith asked all to stand for a moment as a last tribute of respect to their memory.

Miss A. M. Rhodes, of Castle Bromwich, was elected a member of the Guild on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Fearn, seconded by Mr. A. Morris.

Mr. W. Davies, on behalf of the Aston company, invited the Guild to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston Parish Church. He could assure them of a hearty welcome and as good a tea as the circumstances would permit. This was seconded by Mr. A. Walker and carried unanimously.

The treasurer, presenting the annual accounts, stated that although he had to report a small loss on the year, which had been occasioned by their generosity in supporting a very worthy cause, he considered the Guild's finances were in a very healthy condition, and moved that the accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, giving the auditors' report, stated that he and Mr. H. H. Fearn in the absence of the official auditors had examined the books and in his opinion the accounts now presented showed the true state of the Guild's finances, and he considered the treasurer was to be congratulated on the collection of subscriptions, which had kept up remarkably well. Mr. H. H. Fearn confirmed and stated that the accounts were clear and kept in a very satisfactory manner. The accounts were unanimously adopted, and the treasurer thanked for his services.

All the officers were re-elected for the year 1943 with the exception of Mr. Fred Price as one of the auditors, circumstances preventing him from performing his duties. Mr. H. H. Fearn was elected in his stead.

On the proposition of the chairman, seconded by Mr. H. Withers, it was decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration this year on similar lines to those in the past war years, a lunch at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 6th. Mr. F. B. Yates, a highly respected member of the Guild, will be invited to take the chair. The other arrangements were left in the hands of the secretary.

Mr. F. E. Haynes and Mr. A. Walker reported on the ringing on Victory Sunday and Christmas Day. About 30 ringers mustered in the Cathedral belfry at 9 a.m. on Victory Sunday. At 10 a.m. Stedman Cinques were rung at St. Martin's, Triples at St. Chad's Cathedral and also at the Parish Church, Handsworth. On Christmas Day, owing to transport difficulties, the numbers were not so good, but Caters were rung at the Cathedral at 9 a.m. and Triples at St. Martin's and St. Chad's, whilst Caters were also rung at Aston.

Apologies were received from E. T. Allaway, James George and G. H. Williams. About 40 members attended, and during the evening some good touches were brought round on the handbells, including a fine course of Stedman Cinques.

IMPERIAL THE THIRD.

On January 13th, 1772, was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, 6,040 Imperial The Third in 3 hours and 58 minutes. Conducted by John Chamberlain.

All ye performers of this art
 Join hand in hand and bear a part.
 Praise of Imperial loudly sing,
 And these here men who did it ring.
 For Norwich sons most justly famed,
 And other ringers here hath shamed.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. George Williams' explanation of the word 'Royal' in the title of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths is ingenious, but it is to be hoped it is not the correct one. The only objection to the word lies in the fact that it might suggest that the society has or has had some connection with royalty, which is not so. YZ.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 17.)

THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

One of the regrets of the historian of London ringing is that so little can be known of the Society of London Scholars. It was founded some time towards the end of the seventeenth century, and for many years was one of the two leading companies in London, the equal of the Society of College Youths socially and, until the advent of Benjamin Annable, probably its superior in practical ringing.

These two companies were the first to practise Grandsire Caters, and in 1718 they made another big advance in the art possible by the joint gift of two bells to St. Bride's, Fleet Street, to complete the ring of twelve. This was not the first ring of twelve in England. York Minster had that number as early as 1655, but they were a very unsatisfactory lot, the tenor being 63 cwt. and the trebles only about 3 cwt. The ring at Cirencester was increased to twelve in 1722, but though, both in that town and at York, great interest was taken in bellringing, in neither was there a band sufficiently advanced to practise Cinques, and it was the ring at St. Bride's which first made change ringing on eleven and twelve bells possible.

The College Youths are said to have rung the first five thousand in 1690 at St. Sepulchre's, but no record and no tradition has survived of any similar performance during the next twenty-seven years, though such is by no means unlikely, for it was a period of great ringing activity and the possibilities of a full peal of Triples must often have been discussed among London ringers.

By ringing a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's in 1717, the London Scholars achieved what is generally recognised as the first authenticated five thousand in the Metropolis. A board was put up to record it, but when the church was repaired in 1796 it was taken down and destroyed, and the particulars of the names of the band and the conductor are lost.

When this peal was rung and for some years afterwards the London Scholars were at the height of their fame and activity. In contemporary opinion they and the College Youths were 'the only performers in Europe to whom all preference in the art must be given.' It is likely that after about 1720, while they admitted no inferiority to their rivals as practical ringers, in them the 'gentlemen' element was stronger and there had not been the abrupt change we notice in the others. A contemporary newspaper speaks of them as consisting of 'gentlemen and others.' Class distinctions were very much more marked in the eighteenth century than they are now. Men who were entitled to write 'esquire' after their name could and did mix freely with the lower orders for purposes of sport, but there was no pretence of any equality.

The Society of College Youths had for long been composed of men who ranked as gentlemen. Then came the time when such forsook the art, and the society would have lapsed if it had not been for the advent of a number of men of lower middle class headed by Annable. Perhaps the ultimate extinction of the Society of London Scholars was largely due to the fact that they tried to carry on in the old style after the conditions favourable to it had passed away, and could not, or did not, adapt

themselves to the changing social conditions of the Exercise.

The records of the society are lost, and in their absence we cannot tell what peals they rang, but it is most unlikely that the activity of their rivals did not spur them to emulation, or that they did not ring a peal on St. Bride's twelve bells, or that they had not the entrée into some bellfries, such as St. Clement Danes', or St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, or Christ Church or St. George's, in Southwark, which was denied to their rivals.

It is well to remember that had it not been for the industry and great good luck of Edward John Osborn in discovering and securing the peal book now in the possession of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the manuscript now in the British Museum, we should have known no more about the early peals of the College Youths than we do about those of the London Scholars. Our only sources of information would have been peal boards and a vague tradition. There remained until recently only two boards recording performances by the College Youths in Annable's time; neither peal was conducted by him and only one gave any particulars. That one was destroyed when St. Bride's was burnt out in an air raid.

In 1728 we have a glimpse of the relations between the two leading companies. A match was arranged to take place at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where Abraham Rudhall had recently completed the ring by adding the two trebles.

Whether it was the result of a challenge or by invitation of the parish authorities we do not know, but probably it was the latter. And what the terms of the contest were we do not know, but most likely there were none, and it is certain there was no prize or stake money, though no doubt there was a dinner afterwards, provided by the parish. The London Scholars were asked to ring first, and they gave their best. The College Youths followed and tried to do better.

On Thursday, March 14th, the London Scholars accomplished 'the first complete peal of Six Thousand Cinques.' They started at one o'clock according to the newspaper report, and finished at 6.30; which, if the times are correct, was slow ringing, nearly four hours and a half for a five thousand. Probably the timing was only approximate—the board says nothing about it.

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

(To be continued.)

KINGTON MAGNA.

On New Year's Eve a dance was arranged at Kington Magna by a local committee of the National Farmers' Union in aid of the Red Cross. At the request of the committee, four boys with an octave of handbells took their stand shortly before midnight in the centre of the floor, and the company present made a ring round the room, while the old year was rung out and 1943 rung in. The boys wished all a happy New Year, and, with the Rector at the piano, 'Auld Lang Syne' was sung.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that this Dorset village with a population of 312 has raised just over £100 for the Red Cross during the last two months.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first peal of Single Oxford Bob Major was rung at Warnham in Sussex on January 10th, 1899, and on the same date in 1935 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Huntingdon Surprise Major.

What was possibly the first true peal ever rung in London, and certainly the first peal on ten bells anywhere, was one of Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on January 11th, 1717, by the London Scholars.

On January 12th, 1857, the Liversedge band rang the first peal of Rose of England and Treble Bob Major. The method is the same as Kent, but with 6th's instead of 2nd's when the treble is dodging in 7-8, and 2nd's at the lead end.

James Barham and his band rang at Leeds, in Kent, on January 13th, 1753, half the extent of Bob Major, 20,160 changes. It was, of course, performed by relays of ringers. James Barham died on January 14th, 1818, at the age of 93.

The first peal of Forward Maximus was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on January 13th, 1903.

Benjamin Annable called the first peal of Double Bob Major for a band of College Youths at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West on January 14th, 1726. The church has since been rebuilt and the bells recast. They have not been rung for many years.

Mr. H. R. Newton turned in the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to a peal of London Surprise Major on January 14th, 1910.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,720 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on January 15th, 1771.

The first peal of Crayford Little Bob Major was rung at Crayford on January 16th, 1926.

Fifty years ago yesterday the first peal at St. Albans Abbey for over a century was conducted by Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham. Mr. G. H. Cartmel rang the 5th and Mr. C. H. Martin the 7th.

A LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed letter may be of interest to the members of the Central Council who were at the meeting at Canterbury. It will be remembered that a party of New Zealanders were in the next room, and, on hearing the handbells, asked permission to join us. They were very interested, asked numerous questions and finally decided to postpone their departure the next day in order to visit the belfry of the Cathedral. The writer of the letter was the leader of that party.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

(Copy.)

New Zealand

16th November, 1942.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Richardson,—To-night our minds and thoughts are especially with you and all the folk in our beloved Homeland.

We had been notified by the B.B.C. that the bells of Old England's churches are to ring out to-night as a call to thanksgiving and in celebration of the great victory accorded to our armies in Egypt and North Africa.

And my thoughts carry me back to the kindness of the bellringers whom I was so fortunate to meet when I was in England last, meeting your company in the first place at Canterbury, where we witnessed the act of bellringing in the Cathedral and listened to music of a kind to which we have almost become strangers except for our memories, our meeting culminating in the acceptance of your hospitality at Surfleet. Memories which will never fade.

Those folk out here who, like me, remember the church bells at home are quite excited at the prospect of sharing with you all the pleasure of hearing those peals ring out once more.

It has touched many folk on a very tender chord, and, as one lady said to me, she could not trust herself to listen in unison alone.

We have followed the events in the Old Country as closely as the B.B.C. and Press make possible to us, and are more than pleased to think that the tide of the war seems at last to have turned. The strain of the war during the last three years must have been tremendous, but the way in which you people at home have stood up to the strain has been to us an amazing example of courage and fortitude.

We shall join with you to-night in the psalm of thanksgiving which you will ring out over the air to-night. May it prove the forerunner of more and continual news until the day arrives when you will be able to resume bellringing as in the days before the war and when we shall all be able to turn our thoughts to peace.

And may you enjoy a happy Christmas is the wish of your friends out here in distant New Zealand.

With every sincere good wish from us both, Yours very truly,

DENNIS A. NEAL.

The bells of Westminster Abbey are ringing now, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Armagh Cathedral, Llandaff Cathedral, St. Mary's, Lancaster? and Coventry.

FRIZLAND.—At Christ Church, on Tuesday, December 15th, on the silent anniversary, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor and 120 Grandsire Doubles: Gunner L. Dawson, H. Nutt, Rev. F. F. Rigby, H. Barlow, W. W. Wolstencroft, J. Carter,

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

RULE NOT ALTERED.

There was an excellent attendance of members of the Ancient Society of College Youths at the Bell Foundry on January 2nd, and, in addition to the Master: hon. secretary and treasurer, the following were present: Messrs. E. Barnett, J. W. Chapman, J. E. Lewis Cockey, W. H. Coles, F. E. Collins, R. F. Deal, L.-Cpl. Len Fox, E. Hartley, W. H. Hewett, H. Hoskins, E. Jennings, G. M. Kilby, C. H. Kippin, H. G. Miles, A. T. Parker, W. H. Pasmore, C. Potnecary, G. N. Price, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, R. Stannard, R. Spiers, J. A. Troilope and F. A. Young.

Two new members were elected, Mr. A. T. Parker, of Chiswick and late of Chorley, Lancashire, and Mr. E. W. Izard, of Victoria, British Columbia.

The deaths of Mr. F. E. Dawe and Mr. Stedman White were referred to, and a letter of sympathy was sent to Mr. R. White, of Appleton, on the death of his son Frank in North Africa.

Mr. F. E. Collins moved that the rule which says that handbell peals rung without umpires shall not be booked, should be deleted. He said he did so for the good of the society, for he was sure it stood in the way of performances being credited to the College Youths. He reminded members of what Mr. Albert Walker had said at the annual luncheon. The rule was a hindrance to progress.

Mr. Edwin Jennings seconded and gave some of his experiences with the Bushey handbell band.

Mr. E. Barnett thought the rule had a meaning at one time, but had outlived its usefulness.

Mr. George Price did not agree with the last speaker. If ever safeguards were necessary they are necessary now.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that whatever reasons there might be for making a change, it was not desirable to alter rules at the present time. It was not fair to those members who could not be present, either because they were in H.M. Forces or for other reasons.

Mr. H. Hoskins did not think human nature had altered since the rule was passed.

Mr. C. H. Kippin pointed out that the rule was no safeguard. False peals could still be rung, for a band could choose what umpire they liked. The rule was useless.

Mr. A. B. Peck pointed out that the society did not say un-umpired peals must not be rung. It only said that bands who wished to have their performances entered in the peal book must have an umpire.

Mr. J. A. Trollope agreed with Mr. Hughes that rules should not be altered in war time. If they went by what people did rather than by what they said, there could be no doubt that the Exercise as a whole did not consider umpires necessary. There were some peals where for their own sakes conductors would do well to have umpires, for it was quite possible to miscall a peal and not know it. There was an example in the figures given in 'The Ringing World' that week.

Mr. Roberts drew a parallel between umpires for handbell peals and umpires in football matches.

On the motion being put to the vote, nine were for and eleven against, eight not voting.

LADY RINGERS AND HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very gratifying to observe that, of the no fewer than 15 peals published in last week's 'Ringing World,' there was at least one lady member of the band in all but one. Altogether eleven different ladies' names appeared—Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Mrs. Jack Bray, Mrs. E. A. Barnett, four of the Misses Richardson and the Misses Cross, Spice, Poole and Chick. No doubt the Ancient Society of College Youths will have viewed this with especial pleasure!

It has also been pleasant for an 'exile' from that county to see the revival which has taken place in Kent during the last year or two. Before that, apart from an odd peal or two of Bob Major and several in the Gravesend area about ten years ago, there had been no handbell peals in the county outside the Lewisham District, and great credit is due to John Spice and the Misses Richardson for the enthusiasm they have displayed in their respective neighbourhoods. As Mr. William Spice did not ring his first handbell peal until over 80 years of age, perhaps other Kentish ringers who have yet to break their duck will be encouraged by his example.

ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne, was held at the Cathedral on Wednesday, July 22nd. The Precentor, the Rev. O. Hole, was in the chair and the following members were present: J. Spencer, J. Murray, E. Knott, F. Boughton, A. Reeder, H. Ross, G. Wheeler, W. Wagborn and B. Zelius. The meeting took the form of a send-off to the Precentor, who has resigned and is to be inducted as Vicar of St. Peter's, Box Hill, on August 12th. The society made him a presentation of a pipe during the evening and wished him success in his new parish.

The news of the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was received with great regret. He was one of the English members of the society and a muffled peal would have been rung, but owing to war conditions this was impracticable.

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY-TWO.

A CURSORY SURVEY.

For ringers the most outstanding event of the past year was the temporary lifting of the ban, and the victory ringing for the battle of Egypt. Although there was very short notice given, ringers everywhere mustered in full force in the belfries, and, on the whole, the ringing was reasonably good in quality. The interest taken by the Press and the general public was surprising, and was a good augury for the future.

At one time it seemed likely that the ban would be permanently lifted or modified, and much pressure was brought to bear on the authorities to that end. It did not succeed, however, further than securing permission for ringing during a limited period on Christmas morning. We may not have heard the last of the matter.

The victory ringing stirred up a great deal of enthusiasm, and, apart from that, interest has generally been well maintained among those to whom we shall have to look for leadership in the days of reconstruction. The two principal luncheons of the year—the Henry Johnson Commemoration at Birmingham and the College Youths annual feast—were both well attended and highly successful.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

A number of well-known members of the Exercise passed away during the year. Of many of them—perhaps the majority—it can be said that they had completed their work and left their influence behind them, but most of them will be greatly missed.

The most prominent and best known was John S. Goldsmith, the founder, and for so many years the editor, of this journal. He had rendered service to the Exercise the value of which it is impossible to estimate. The esteem and affection with which he was generally held was shown by the fact that a fund of over £500 for his benefit was raised during the three or four months before he died.

The Rev. William Carter Pearson died on January 13th. He was 82 years of age and had been Rector of Henley, near Ipswich, for 47 years. He was the founder of the Cambridge University Guild, and was a prominent peal ringer in the days when East Suffolk formed part of the Norwich Diocese. He devoted much time and patience towards forming a collection of old and rare books on ringing, and this fortunately has been preserved and is now in the Cambridge University Library.

Charles W. Clarke, who died on January 9th at the age of 77, was for many years the mainstay of the art at Bedford, and Charles Mee, who died on January 20th, at the same age, was known all over the country and at the Central Council, as well as at Sproughton, where he lived, and at Ipswich, where he did a lot of his ringing.

Cornelius Charge had lived for many years in New Zealand before his return to England, but forty or fifty years ago he was one of the most active of London ringers. He also had considerable success as a composer of peals of Stedman Caters.

The Midland Counties lost an old and valued servant by the death of William E. White, of Cotgrave. He was 77 years of age and died on June 17th.

William Crickmer, of Earl Soham, was a fine example of the East Suffolk ringers with their devotion to Major ringing and high standard of striking. Albert Nash had done sterling work for the Exercise in the Rotherham district of Yorkshire.

A man who was universally esteemed and held in affection was William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley. He died on August 29th at the age of 86.

The talented band at Helmingham sustained a severe loss by the death of their captain, George Whiting, who passed away on September 4th at the age of 57.

Almost the last of the famous Burton-on-Trent band, who were making ringing history sixty years ago, was John Jaggard. He died on October 30th at the age of 81. He had the distinction of introducing James W. Washbrook to the belfry.

LOSS BY ENEMY ACTION.

Another well-known Burton ringer (though of a later date) was John H. Swinfeld. He was 79 when he died on November 18th.

Charles R. Lilley had been an active ringer in several parts of England, notably in Bedford and Shrewsbury. In his last years he did good work among the ringers of Devon.

Francis E. Dawe was the first hon. secretary of the Central Council and a past master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He had taken part in several notable 12-bell peals and had conducted peals in a large number of cathedrals. He was 80 years old.

John Flint was a first-class ringer and formed a band of outstanding ability at Bolsover, where he lived.

Others besides these have passed away during the year, and though they may not have been equally well known generally, in their own districts they leave gaps which will have to be filled up if the life of the Exercise is to be maintained.

The denorable destruction of churches and bells through enemy action, which characterised the earlier years of the war, has fortunately been very much lessened. York, however, lost a ring of eight, and the twelve at Great Yarmouth were totally destroyed. This brought up the number of twelve-bell rings ruined to four, the other three being in London. The total number of rings of five and upwards destroyed since the war started is about 36; but it may turn out that others have been damaged or will no longer be able to be rung on account of damage to the towers.

One tower bell peal was accomplished, but, of course, not in England. The Arklow band rang Grandsire Doubles on their eight bells with 7-6-8 covering.

Interest in handbell ringing was well maintained. There was no individual performance the equal of the Spliced Surprise Major by the Bushey band of a few years ago, no long lengths, and no peals in fresh methods as there were in 1941; but in most other respects last year surpassed previous records. In all, 225 peals were rung, in a great variety of methods ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Stedman Cinques and Spliced Surprise Major. The details are as follows:—

MANY HANDBELL PEALS.

Grandsire Doubles 17; Triples 35; Caters 6. Plain Bob Minor 22; Major 50; Royal 15; Maximus 6. Stedman Triples 3; Caters 13; Cinques 10. Little Bob Major 5. Kent Treble Bob Minor 1; Major 6; Royal 5. Oxford Treble Bob Major 4. Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major 2. Plain and Gainsborough Bob Major 5. Six Spliced Plain and Little Methods 2. Double Bob Major 1. Double Norwich Court Bob Major 8. Superlative Surprise Major 1. Cambridge Surprise Major 2. New Cambridge Surprise Major 1. Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major 1. Doubles (2 and 3 methods) 2. Minor (2 to 13 methods) 7.

At Birmingham and at Leicester peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques were rung; and at both places the standard of striking is a high one. One of the Birmingham peals of Cinques was rung non-conducted, and one was the 100th handbell peal for the Guild since it assumed its present status as the diocesan organisation.

In Derbyshire, at Eckington, a young band scored two peals of Bob Maximus, a very fine performance, and the continued activity by the Oxford University Society is one of the best signs of future life and prosperity in the Exercise.

One or two good performances were accomplished at Bushey, notably peals of Cambridge, New Cambridge, Superlative, and Spliced Cambridge and Superlative.

At Bournemouth, Mrs. Marshallsay and Mr. A. V. Davis continued their activity and have many peals of Grandsire Doubles and Triples to their credit. Other bands, too, which we have not mentioned are not less worthy of praise.

THE TOP SCORERS.

The top scorer for the year was Mr. John E. Spice. He rang 47 peals and called 30 of them. The list is a very varied one, ranging from Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples to Bob Maximus and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner was second in numbers. He rang 38 and called 25. His list includes Cambridge, Superlative, and Spliced Surprise, Stedman Caters, Treble Ten, Double Norwich, and a lot of lesser methods. During the year he reached his hundredth handbell peal and his fiftieth on handbells as conductor.

Mr. W. L. B. Leese was third. He rang 37 peals and called 10. His, too, was a fine and varied list.

There were others who distinguished themselves, though they did not ring so many peals as these three. Mr. Harold Cashmore, Mr. Harold Poole and Mr. John Thomas each called several five-thousands. Miss Jill Poole accomplished the really remarkable feat of ringing peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques at the age of 13.

SPLICED CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is so long since I composed the first peal in these two methods that I have forgotten how it was done. What is remembered is that it seemed very difficult, at the time, to find. However, on examining the excellent peal by Mr. H. G. Cashmore, just published, the obstacles in the way seemed not so great.

Mr. Cashmore is to be congratulated on his production, with its excellent musical qualities, but the idea came to me that there might be a peal in simpler form. This led to Middleton's peal, true to both methods, and only the falseness between the two, one against the other, to guard against.

Trial proved that both methods could be included in this, and the resulting peal is here given, with its reverse variation:—

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

5,600				Methods		Methods reversed
23456	M	W	H			
43652	—	—	—	C	S	C
56234	—	—	—	C	S	C
23564	—	—	—	S	C	C
52364	—	—	—	S	C	C
35264	—	—	—	S	C	C

Four times repeated.

Giving 2,880 of Cambridge and 2,720 of Superlative. If two of the fourth leads are rung as Superlative instead of Cambridge, the numbers will be equalised as near as possible.

Any one part may be called B and 3H, reducing the number to 5,056. In both forms the first course will be CSSC, the two following being the same as the fourth and fifth courses of whichever is being rung. If, then, two of the fourth leads are changed to Superlative, the numbers will be equal.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—Several 120's of Bob Doubles by C. J. Chawin, E. C. Ayres, W. E. Redrup (conductor), L. Haddon, W. Edwards and E. W. Redrup. Mr. E. W. Redrup, who rang the tenor, was having his first 'pull' for approximately 22 years.

BARKING, ESSEX.—336 and 280 Grandsire Triples and call changes by C. Faulkner, G. Cottis, W. Robins, E. Lucas, E. Stannard, S. Holgate, Pilot A. Weston, R.A.F., Sgt. Ridyard. M.P., Pte. J. Janis (Somerset), and C. Fenn.

BUCKLAND, SURREY.—120's of Grandsire Doubles by F. J. Sanders, W. R. Humphrey, J. W. Powell, C. Wallis, T. Parker, F. A. Skovell, E. Holman and H. R. Thorpe (conductor).

DOVER.—At St. Mary's, the following took part in the ringing: G. Eagles, C. George, C. Hardeman and C. Turner, conductor (St. Mary's), H. W. Young, F. G. Young and C. A. Richards (St. James'), H. Bond (Rugby), Gunner Woods (Plymouth), Bernard Smith (Christ Church, Pendlebury, Manchester), E. G. Stevens (Chalfont St. Peter's), L. E. Moon (Beckington, Somerset) and J. R. Baylis (St. Stephen's, Clapton Park, London). Owing to damage, the bells of St. James' were not rung.

EARLS COLNE.—672 and 240 Bob Major: G. Bishop, O. Laver, F. Claydon, W. Scillitoe, F. Ridgwell, C. Saywood, W. Arnold (conductor) and E. Bowhill.

FEERING, ESSEX.—720 Bob Minor and two touches by S. Pye, S. Fisher, J. C. Newman, H. Nicholls, E. W. Beckwith (Coggeshall) and F. Fludder.

GRESSENHALL, NORFOLK.—Touches of Bob Minor by G. Chambers, B. Hammond, F. Rullison, J. Godfrey, R. Freezer and G. Bunning.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES.—Good rounds, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles by Messrs. Goodman, Maxwell, Nash, Howes, Seabrook, Cording, Eaton, Duffell and Hayward.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—At SS. Peter and Paul's, courses of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Court; S. H., M. T. and D. A. Symonds, W. R. J. Poulson, W. Fayers, F. Boreham, F. F. Mortlock, W. Jarvis, B. Cornell (Little Wadingfield) and a soldier from Lancashire.

LINCOLN.—At the Cathedral, a good course of Grandsire Cinques, followed by two touches of Stedman Caters, each containing 514 changes, and a course of Grandsire Caters. Among those present were two very welcome visitors in Leading Seaman Jack Millhouse, who was on leave, and Mr. C. B. Chester, of Scunthorpe. Afterwards the six bells at St. Peter-at-Gowts were rung.

PRITTFIELD.—Queens, Tittums and firing; courses of Grandsire Triples, 448 Bob Major and a course of each Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal. The Vicar, the Archdeacon of Southend, joined in the rounds. Mr. Harris, from Bristol, and Mr. Price, from Shropshire, were in the band.

PLYMOUTH.—Rounds on eight and ten, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and an attempt for seven bobbed leads of Bob Royal, which came to grief in the fifth lead. The ringing ended with a splendid lower in peal of the back eight. Eighteen ringers were present, including one from Helston, Cornwall, another from the Cathedral company of Worcester, and Messrs. G. H., T. G., A. W. and H. F. Myers, A. Mitchelmore, J. Glayas, S. O'Shaughnessy, A. S. Weatherly, G. R. Marshall, C. Holmes, C. Pearce, W. S. Hornbrook, W. Richards, F. Lurse, W. Membrey and W. Dutton.

RUARDAN, GLOS.—Grandsire Doubles and Triples by George Willis, Joe Harper, Len Melmes, Howard Meek, R. Pownall, William Beard, W. Penn, John Harper, William Scott and William Bishop (conductor).

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.—At the Church of St. Peter, touches of Bob Major, Treble Bob and Grandsire by G. Dixon, G. Gridley, H. H. H. Felton, C. Clark, A. Fitch, L. Johnson, A. Haynes, G. Howell and D. H. Elliott.

TEDBURN ST. MARY, DEVON.—Owing to the bells having been unringable for many years, the Ellacombe chiming apparatus only could be used. On the following Sunday afternoon carols (with harmonies) were rung on the handbells at the west end of the church before the service by Miss Hockey, Miss Pook, Miss Bishop, R. J. Bulley and the Rector (Prebendary E. V. Cox).

WANSTEAD.—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor by Mrs. F. H. Crampion, J. Petty, A. Petty, C. J. Petty, J. Chalk, J. H. Crampion. A. Petty and J. H. Crampion were home on leave.

WILLENHALL.—At St. Giles', rounds and Queens on the ten bells and Grandsire and Stedman Triples, with 9.8.10 covering, by I. Evans, W. Edge, A. Evans, J. Luck, J. T. Davies, A. Davies, B. Munday, S. H. Cole, Rev. A. F. Sargent, R. Sidebotham and C. Wallater.

YARDLEY-HASTINGS, NORTHANTS.—Touches of Plain Bob Minor, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Grandsire and Stedman Doubles. The striking was fairly good, considering the lack of practice. Those taking part were R. Minnev, K. Minney, H. Minney, W. Lach, W. Whitney, H. Wooding, L. Cpl. Elliott (home on leave) and K. Burge.

YATTON, SOMERSET.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples by Messrs. A. E. Price (capt.), H. Parsons (vice-captain), H. Drissell, L. Hale, T. Hamlin, J. Knowles, A. Leaker, H. Marshall, G. Miles, H. Price, L. W. Pullin, H. Smith and G. Westlake.

NOTICES

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—

The annual general meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Town Hall. Handbells only, from 3.45 p.m. Admission only with identity cards. Reports to hand.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—

The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th. Service at 4 p.m. Handbells available from 2 p.m. Please bring own eatables, cups of tea will be provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at St. Nicholas'. Handbells in the vestry 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—

Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting Stourbridge, St. Thomas' (D.V.), Saturday, January 16th, 3 p.m. Bells available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Road, Stourbridge.

LADIES' GUILD and BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—

Chew Deanery.—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Long Ashton on January 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Tea 4.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. Yeo, Long Ashton, near Bristol.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Bath.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch,

Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—

Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (silent apparatus) from 2.30 p.m., Guild Office at 4, conducted by the chairman. Tea and business meeting to follow at Major's Cafe (opposite the church). Kindly notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be at Leicester on Jan. 23rd. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. on the Cathedral bells. Tea in the Cathedral Church House for those who notify me by Jan. 20th. The meeting will follow. Please make an effort to attend. The moon will be at full. — H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held in the Old Rectory, Poole, on Saturday, January 23rd. Handbells from 2.30. Tea at 5.0, followed by short business meeting and more handbells. Evening service in Parish Church at 7.0.—C. A. Phillips.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellington Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 23rd. Service at 4.0. Tea in the Co-op. Hall, Queen Street. Handbells available. Notify me by Wednesday, January 20th.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting will be at St. John's, Leytonstone, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells available. Service at 4 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. All welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Ringing at St. John's, City (silent), 2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Meeting and tea in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.15 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m. Tea at Armitage and Baxendale Cafe at 4 p.m. sharp for all who notify Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, by first post on Thursday, Jan. 28th, returning to the Park Hotel for the usual evening arrangements: business meeting and handbell ringing. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Upper Armley, Leeds, 12.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Meeting in belfry at 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea afterwards. Will those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, Jan. 27th?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be at the disposal of ringers from 3 p.m. Service, also in the Rectory Room, will be at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. For tea notify Miss L. Aldridge, 49, Escreet Grove, Woolwich, S.E.18, before Wednesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions for 1943 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

ENGAGEMENT.

WAYMAN—RICHARDSON.—The engagement is announced between Sgt./Pilot A. J. Brian Wayman, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, Hazelwood, 55, Blackmores Grove, Teddington, Middlesex, and Enid M. Richardson, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Lincs.

A SERVICE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Jarrett's request for information concerning other members of the band who rang in the first Service men's peal, Percy Gibbs was the first member of the Kent County Association to lose his life in the last war. He was killed at Mons on August 23rd, 1914.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

A SPLENDID RINGER.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the first Services peal rung at Gillingham, Kent, by members of the regular forces, Mr. V. A. Jarrett asks for information in your recent issue of three ringers who took part. I can give the following of one, Private Percy Gibbs, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. After a number of years in India he came home and was stationed at Dover. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he left for France with the 12th Infantry Brigade and was killed in August at Mons. He was a splendid ringer and while at Dover seldom missed ringing for the two services on Sunday. He was well known in the Worcestershire Association previous to going to India. His joy at taking part in the peal I cannot forget.

CHARLES TURNER, Captain, St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

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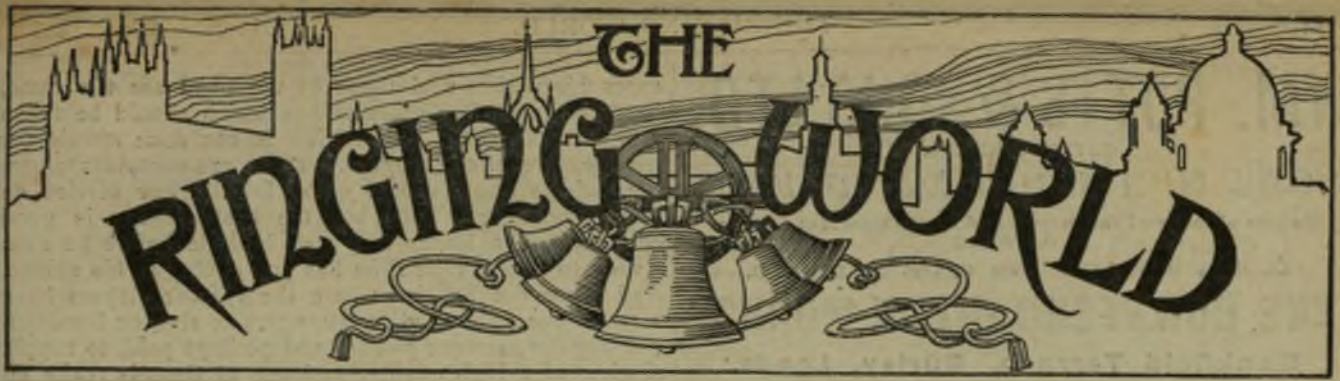
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VISITORS.

In a letter printed on another page Mr. Edgar Guise mentions the case of a ringer who visited a belfry during the victory ringing and was not asked to ring, and he takes the opportunity to enter a plea that strangers should always be encouraged and given a hearty welcome.

Mr. Guise is careful not to condemn the action of the leader at the particular tower, and, as we have no knowledge of the peculiar circumstances, we should not think of doing so ourselves. We can imagine more than one reason which would fully justify what was done. We are only interested in the general question which is raised.

It is a source of legitimate pride among us that a spirit of brotherhood and fellowship has grown up in the Exercise so that a ringer, whoever he is and wherever he is, can always be certain of a ready welcome into whatever belfry he goes, and almost always the offer of a rope. As we have pointed out more than once before, there is nothing quite like this anywhere else. However keen a cricketer may be, he does not expect to turn up on a strange green and at once be given a game! However accomplished a singer may be, he does not look to be included in the choir of a church he may be casually visiting.

This sense of fellowship and unity is one of the most valuable things we possess. It not only adds immensely to the enjoyment to be got out of ringing; it is also a great source of strength and improvement. Everything should be done to foster it, for it will be a bad day for the Exercise if ever it becomes weakened.

At present there seems no sign of that happening. On the contrary, if there is a dangerous tendency, it is that many thoughtless and rather selfish men are inclined to think they have the right to be asked to ring whenever they visit any belfry. But there is no such right. Every time a visitor is asked to ring he is receiving an act of courtesy, and the fact that it is so common should not make him forget that it is an act of courtesy.

This should be fully understood by everyone. It should be recognised that the captain of a band must use his discretion as to whether he shall ask a stranger to take part in the ringing or not, and if he decides to the contrary he should not be condemned offhand.

The visitor is apt to be thinking only of his chances of getting a pull, and we need not censure him for not thinking of anything else. In the great majority of

(Continued on page 34.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

cases his wishes and those of the band are the same, but there are often other things which should be taken into consideration. All ringing is not done merely for the pleasure of the ringers. There are occasions where the outside effect should come first. For service on special occasions, none but the best ringing is good enough, and a leader may well hesitate before he asks a man to take a rope if he has any doubts of his ability. And there are belfries where the regular ringers have scarcely the right to allow strangers to ring on Sundays. The regular men are picked, and perhaps paid, to supply ringing of a high quality, and one of them is really no more entitled to give up his rope to an outsider than a member of a cathedral choir is entitled to let a stranger take his place. These are, of course, exceptional. In the great majority of cases the visitor can do his part equally with the regular band, and it is most unusual if he is not invited to do so. But it is well for some people to realise that they have not yet attained sufficient proficiency to be asked on certain occasions and it is well for all of us to realise that when we are asked to ring, we do so, not of right, but by the courtesy of the local band.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

In the VICAR'S VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE	...	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	...	5-6
PERCY L. HARRISON	...	3-4	JOSIAH MORRIS	...	7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

DEATH OF MR. F. ATWELL.

The death is announced of Mr. Fred Atwell, of Newport, Monmouthshire, who passed away quietly on January 12th, at the age of 76. He had been in failing health for some time, but did not take to his bed until a few days before. He had taken part in the victory and Christmas ringing.

Mr. Atwell was born in April, 1866, and learned to ring early in life when there were only six bells at the Parish Church of St. Woolos, now the Cathedral. Call changes were then practised in the tower, but, thanks to Mr. Evan Davies, of Caerleon, change ringing was introduced.

The six at St. Woolos' were augmented to eight, and the first peal on them rung on November 12th, 1895. Mr. Atwell took part, and Mr. R. T. Hibbert, who conducted, and Mr. John Jones are now the only survivors of the band.

Following this performance Mr. Atwell took part in 68 peals, his last being Stedman Triples at Cardiff on January 20th, 1938, by past Masters of the Diocesan Association. He had filled the office in 1901.

By trade Mr. Atwell was a carpenter and joiner, but for several years had a tobacconist's and newspaper business in Malpas Road, Newport. For a time he was a member of the Newport Town Council.

The funeral was on January 16th at Malpas, where his late wife is buried. The Rev. E. G. R. Lewis, Vicar of All Saints' and treasurer of the association, took the service. The ringers present included Mr. C. Greedy and Mr. W. Phillips, of St. Woolos', Mr. W. Powell, Llanfrecfa, Mr. A. Williams, Llangibby, Mr. W. Millard and the hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Jones, All Saints'. There was also a representative gathering of different organisations with which Mr. Atwell was connected. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes.

MR. CYRIL RAYNER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have heard of Mr. Cyril Rayner, who, as reported in 'The Ringing World,' is a prisoner of war in Germany. His father informs me that Cyril is quite well and often enquires about his ringing friends.

H. W. BARRETT.

22, Firdene, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 27.)

THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

To commemorate their long peal at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the London Scholars erected a large and costly frame in the belfry. Now that St. Bride's steeple and its contents have been burnt it is the oldest peal board left in London. Some years ago the church authorities removed it to the wall of the staircase leading to the gallery.

The frame is now hung on the wall of the church crypt and gives the names of the ringers, but since few of them are found elsewhere, the list conveys very little information. William Underwood, who rang the second, was one of the best known of London ringers, and left a son as famous as himself. William Saunders, the tenor man, next year joined the College Youths. He was assisted by William Price who, if the name were not quite so common a one, I should be inclined to identify with a William Price, a painter of glass windows, who in 1722 and 1735 was employed to fill some windows at Westminster Abbey, and also did some extensive repairs to the famous east window of St. Margaret's. He died at Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, in 1765.

In the year 1728 Richard Phelps hung a ring of twelve bells in Sir Christopher Wren's new tower at St. Michael's, Cornhill, and they were rung for the first time on December 4th. On the following February 4th the London Scholars met at The Three Tuns tavern on Cornhill where a handsome dinner was provided for them, and afterwards the more energetic of the members diverted themselves by ringing St. Michael's bells, which they reckoned very fine and musical, and not inferior to any in the City or suburbs.

As at St. Martin's, a match was arranged at Cornhill between the two leading companies, and this time the College Youths had the first pull. On November 7th they scored 5,126 Grandsire Cinqs in 4 hours and 8 minutes, and on the following Monday the London Scholars started for a six-thousand, but lost it after ringing 4,200 changes. They began at ten minutes to twelve and broke down at five minutes past three. A fortnight later they started again, and this time they accomplished 6,204 changes in 4 hours and 44 minutes, 'the rounds before and after included.'

It is rather curious that the peal should have been short by six leads of beating the length rung by the College Youths at St. Martin's; but perhaps the London Scholars had not the necessary composition, or the extra weight of metal was held to more than counterbalance the difference in changes; and the Cornhill peal took its place as 'the greatest performance of that kind that ever was known.'

At the time the bells were hung at the top of the lofty steeple and not unnaturally both bands had trouble with the tenor. The College Youths put three good men to it, including Annable himself, who was the first, and for long the only man to conduct a peal from a covering bell. The London Scholars had two men to the tenor, and two others whom they called assistants, and whose job evidently it was to lend a hand when and where it was wanted. Peter Merrygarts, who for years had been a leading College Youth, but evidently had quarrelled with Annable, was one of these assistants.

William Thompson, another deserter from the College Youths, was also in the band, and the others were mostly the same as had rung in the St. Martin's peal.

The London Scholars put up a board at St. Michael's to record the peal. A hundred years later it fell down, was broken, and ultimately destroyed; but not until Osborn had made a copy of it.

More than fifty years had to elapse before a peal could be rung at Cornhill with only two men to the tenor, and a full century before the bell could be rung single handed.

The three peals I have mentioned are the only ones we know the London Scholars to have rung, but we may be quite sure they had others to their credit. In the year 1730 they were the leading company in England, the equals of the College Youths as practical ringers, their superiors socially. In that year they assisted at the opening of Fulham bells and afterwards we hear no more of them.

It was common enough a thing for a society to be formed, to ring together for a while, and then to break up, but the London Scholars had half a century and more of tradition behind them, and would not so easily collapse. Their undoing probably was the want of a leader of the calibre of Annable or George Partrick, and the refusal or failure to attract young recruits. So long as there were enough of them, of men of their own class and generation, to make a band, they were content. But when their numbers began to fail through death, or retirement, or the almost inevitable quarrel, the society lapsed.

Quite likely it did not happen till some years after 1730. Quite likely they were still active in tower and tavern even after they had given up peal ringing. In 1746 William Underwood joined the College Youths, and just previously, in 1742 and 1744, two others, Robert Powell and William Gordon, who had also rung in the London Scholars' peals of Cinqs, joined the same company. There is no trace of their having belonged to any other band, and as both were active ringers (Powell rang five peals with the College Youths), the presumption is they came to that society when, or shortly after, the London Scholars broke up.

But if the legend is true the London Scholars did not break up. After a period of inaction they were suddenly animated by patriotic enthusiasm for the Duke of Cumberland, changed their name, reconstructed their society and took their place as the largest and almost the most active of the companies in London.

What is the evidence for believing this? In the first place it was by no means impossible or unlikely that a company after a period of decline should receive an influx of new and energetic members and experience a great revival. That happened to the College Youths more than once, and we should have no difficulty in believing it happened to the London Scholars if there were any evidence of it. But there is no evidence, and the fact that it could have happened is no proof that it did happen. There is, of course, the tradition, but we do not know when that tradition arose. There is no trace of it before Osborn's time, a hundred years after the event. It looks far more like a plausible guess by some person than a genuine tradition. If any average member of the present Society of Cumberland Youths will ask himself how much he knows about the society of a

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

hundred years ago, he will have some idea of how much the men of Osborn's time really knew about the men of 1746.

On the other hand, we do know something about the men from whom the Society of Cumberland Youths was formed, and we have some definite and contemporary evidence, which settles the matter beyond all reasonable doubt.

The Society of Cumberland Youths is fortunate in that it possesses its complete and original records from the very beginning. In this it is unique among the old societies. The oldest books of the College Youths or the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham are copies or compilations made years after the events they record. The Cumberlands' records are contemporary. If the society really was the same as a much older company, and especially if it was the same as such a distinguished body as the London Scholars, should we not expect the fact to be mentioned in the books? Actually, what we find is the plain statement that the society 'began September ye 6th, 1747.'

It comes to this that if the current legend is true, the London Scholars, in order to celebrate an event which had taken place more than a year before, cut themselves apart from their past, destroyed all their books and records, changed their name, and made an entirely fresh start. It would be difficult to believe this on strong evidence. It is impossible to believe it on no evidence at all.

THE GENESIS OF THE SOCIETY.

We shall find the real explanation of the rise and development of the Society of Cumberland Youths not in any legend masquerading as tradition, but in the particular circumstances of the London Exercise at the time, and especially in the influence of two or three men of outstanding ability.

Nowadays it is so unusual for a ringer or a band not to belong to one of the big associations that we are apt to think it was always the case. But that was not so. The leading societies were small and exclusive bodies who accepted recruits only when they wanted them. Outside their ranks there were many other ringers, loosely organised into bands, who met at different towers and did most of the not inconsiderable amount of paid ringing there was to be done.

Who they were, what they did, and what peals they rang, have mostly been forgotten, but in William Laughton's book we get a brief glimpse of some of these people. In all there were forty-two men associated to a greater or lesser extent with the Ramblers' Club. Ten of them were, at the time, members of the Society of College Youths, one or two were, then or afterwards, members of the Eastern Scholars, or the London Youths, but the majority did not belong to any company that we know of.

They were ringers before the club was formed, and (we cannot doubt) continued to be ringers after it was broken up. Most of them appear to have lived in the northern and eastern parts of the town, for they usually found it more convenient to meet at Edward Davis' place in Houndsditch, than at Will Coster's in Little Moorfields.

These men rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and when St. Leonard's, Shoreditch; Church was built and the new bells put up, they were the men who usually rang them. As they dropped out of ringing, others took their places, and though, so far as we know, they had no formal society, there were all the materials for making one. All they needed was a leader to organise them, and him they found at last in George Partrick. Partrick was the real founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths; but for him it probably would never have existed; and since he had appeared it would still have come into being had the battle of Culloden never been fought.

It was natural enough that St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, should become the centre of a company of ringers. The bells in the old church were those which Queen Elizabeth admired so much, and after Thomas Lester had hung his octave in the new steeple, the church authorities seem to have encouraged bands to visit the place for peals or practice.

The battle of Culloden was fought on April 16th, 1746, and the Duke of Cumberland returned to London on July 25th. By whichever way he came, those events had nothing to do with the formation of any new society. The time was not yet ripe, and it was not until September 6th, 1747, that the Society of Cumberland Youths was formed.

Why, then, should it have adopted that title? The answer is obvious. A name was needed. It never had been the custom of the London companies to associate themselves particularly with any one steeple, or the new body would probably have called itself the Shoreditch Scholars. On the other hand, everywhere throughout the country people were calling things and places after the Duke of Cumberland, and it was natural enough for these ringers to follow their example. Especially so, because the Duke was nowhere more popular than among the weavers of the north-east suburbs. That popularity did not result from any personal contact with the Duke, but was reaction from the hatred and dread the inhabitants had of the French government and the Romish religion.

Spitalfields and the district was then and for long afterwards the seat of the weaving industry. In 1685 Louis XIV. of France revoked the Edict of Nantes, the proclamation under which the Huguenots, as the French Protestants were called, had enjoyed toleration for their religion, and thousands of the most skilful and most industrious artisans of France had to flee the country. Many of them settled in the north-east of London, bringing with them their craft and bitter memories of wrongs and oppression.

Not a few of the early members of the new society were descendants of these men as the following list of names show—Purlement, Delorum, Debart, Ament, Pottetiler, Desortemboe, Gabel, Cosson, Cavalier, Buchea, Malprison, Dupay, Lussiguea, Channon, Deffey, Landrey, Deverdine, Levesque, Decordine, and Agomber. The two most prominent members next to George Partrick during the early years were Francis Wood and his brother Samuel. They, too, were of French extraction, for the family name was Dubois, but had been anglicised. Francis Wood's grandson, Matthew, is still remembered as one of the most prominent members

(Continued on next page.)

PEEPS INTO THE PAST.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—To read over old ringing journals is always interesting, doubly so when the ground covered is new to the reader. A recent delve into 'The Bell News' of nearly fifty years ago, therefore, gave me considerable enjoyment. It was interesting to see the early efforts of some of the great men of to-day, for instance, and to read the acrimonious correspondence, which sometimes seemed to be a conflict between the outlooks of North and South, as to whether seven extents of Minor should be recognised as a 'peal' or merely as a 'performance.'

But most amusing of all, I thought, were the articles of the various columnists—'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance,' 'Jingle' and one or two others. Not all that they wrote concerned ringing; in the year in which the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. J. A. Trollope unsuccessfully attempted peals to celebrate their 18th and 20th birthdays, and Mr. Albert Walker succeeded in ringing the treble to Grandsire Triples for his first, 'Plain Speaker' deplored 'the fastness of the so-called "rising generation."' (What have the two latter gentlemen to say about that?)

Then, just after the Diamond Jubilee, 'Jingle,' who seemed keenly conscious of prevailing social injustices, produced an article quite 'red' (or 'radical' perhaps it would then have been termed) in its outlook. So, when I had finished, I wondered whose identity these names concealed. Were they well-known ringers or were their journalistic accomplishments greater? Could anyone enlighten me as to who 'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance' and 'Jingle' actually were? 'B.'

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.*(Continued from previous page.)*

of the Society of College Youths in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Shoreditch and Spitalfields had, as I have already mentioned, offered a thousand men to the Government during the dark days of the Scottish invasion. The people had good cause to rejoice when the battle of Culloden put an end to the fear of French and Popish domination, and there is no need to look further for the reason why the new ringing society called itself after the Duke of Cumberland.

*(To be continued.)***LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.**

A very enjoyable meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, Jan. 16th, when members were present from Childwall, Huyton, Orton, Wallasey, St. Luke's and St. Nicholas'. Mr. J. Ridyard, of Southport, the vice-president of the association, was present, and Mr. E. F. Bennett, who is now living near Chester. Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Mr. H. S. Brocklebank.

Handbells were rung in the vestry before the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. A. Reeves, assisted by the Rev. Leslie Evans. Mr. P. W. Cave was at the organ, and Liverpool University members of the Student Christian Movement, who were holding a conference at St. Nicholas' also took part. All took tea together in the choir vestry.

At the business meeting the Rector presided, and the next meeting was fixed for Saturday, February 13th, at St. Nicholas'. Some consideration was given to a suggestion that might help to make the meetings more attractive, and as the members of the S.C.M. evinced so much interest in the handbell ringing, it was agreed to hold a joint meeting with them on Saturday, February 20th. The meeting will be opened by an expert giving his views on bellringing, and possibly its merits, followed by an open discussion.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector for presiding and for the use of the vestry, to those members who so kindly brought food for the tea, to the lady members of the S.C.M. for serving the tea and to the Rev. D. P. Roberts, who regretted not being able to be present, but sent a contribution of money to help in some of the expense incurred. Thanks to the pianist for his services concluded a successful meeting.

THE BAN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was, like many other ringers, very much cheered to see the interest the public took in our church bells.

But has public interest gone now that our Government has thought fit not to lift the ban entirely?

I have a suggestion which many other people have also mentioned to me. Could not the ban be lifted each Sunday morning for an hour, say, from ten to eleven, just to give us a chance to call the faithful to worship? Our bells could then still be used for invasion.

I very much think if all the leaders of our guilds and associations and clergy got together something of this sort could be done.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH**

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

In our last issue we mentioned that a fund of over £500 had been raised for the benefit of the late Mr. Goldsmith. We have been asked to state that the actual amount which went to his benefit was £300.

The handbell peal of Stedman Triples at Leicester on Saturday last was arranged and rung to mark the engagement of Miss Enid M. Richardson (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Surfleet) to Sergt.-Pilot A. J. Brian Wayman. It had been arranged to ring Cinques, but a series of unforeseen occurrences and an accident necessitated reducing it to Triples.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal on handbells was rung at Liverpool on January 17th, 1866.

On January 18th, 1844, the Norwich Scholars rang on Mancroft bells the then record peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,126 changes. 'The bold and regular striking,' says the peal tablet, 'attracted the notice of the public.'

The first peal of Ashted Surprise Major was rung at Ashted on January 18th, 1932.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on January 19th, 1725, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. The composition was by William Jackson, and the bobs were called by Matthew East. Benjamin Annable rang the second. This was the first peal by the society, unless the Triples at St. Sepulchre's, said to have been rung in 1690, is counted.

The first peal of Daventry Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on January 19th, 1933, and the first peal of Queensbury Surprise Major at Bushey on January 19th, 1939.

Barham's band rang 6,720 changes of London Court Bob Royal at Leeds on January 20th, 1765.

A noted performance, the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus, was accomplished at St. Peter's, Mancroft, on January 20th, 1817.

The first peals of both Leatherhead Surprise Major and St. Albans Surprise Major were rung on January 20th, 1934, one at Leatherhead, the other at Bushey.

What still remains the longest peal of Plain Bob Maximus, 6,600 changes, was rung at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, on January 21st, 1788.

The College Youths rang the first true double-handed peal of Stedman Triples on January 21st, 1854.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung at Wakefield as long ago as 1822. Then the method was dropped and forgotten, and the St. Michael's Juniors of Gloucester thought they had rung the first in the method when they scored 5,040 changes at Cheltenham on January 21st, 1898.

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

The Helmingham men rang the first peal of Coddensham Surprise Major on January 22nd, 1937.

A peal of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Triples was rung at Shifnal on January 23rd, 1844.

The first peal of Chesterfield Bob Major was rung at Pulham in Norfolk on the same date in 1935.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, to mark the completion of the fortieth year in which Matthew A. Wood had been steeplekeeper. He held the office for many more years.

AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been talking to a member of His Majesty's Forces who has been away from his home for three years.

He is a fairly good ringer on six bells and rings Grandsire Doubles quite well.

He informs me that on the occasion of ringing to celebrate the Libya successes he proceeded to the nearest church of his station where the bells were ringing and more than enough ringers present, and that although the leader of the tower knew that he could ring Grandsire Doubles, did not offer him a pull. He was allowed to stay the whole while and of course came away very disappointed.

The leader concerned may not be a very widely known member of the Exercise, but in the part of England where the instance occurred he is regarded as one who should encourage ringers, even less experienced than the one in question.

My primary object in writing to you is not to condemn this action, nor do I want to give full details, but I do ask that members of the Forces at least shall not be discouraged by such treatment.

Ringers throughout the Exercise will hope, as I do, that this instance was an exception rather than a general occurrence, remembering that a hearty welcome given to a stranger will encourage him to carry on the good work when he returns to his home tower in the days of peace.

EDGAR GUISE, Gen. Hon. Sec., G. and B.D.A.

Mill Lane, Woollard, Pensford, near Bristol.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.—On Monday, January 4th, by members of the Highcliffe Society, 720 of Bob Minor: Dennis W. S. Smout 1-2, Rev. Malcolm C. C. Melville 3-4, Ivor C. N. Bell 5-6. Rung during a visit of Mr. Melville to Swindon.

A NOTABLE EVENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am now able to send you some account of a notable event which took place some while since. I am not allowed to mention the time and place, or to give any names, which is rather a pity, but it cannot be helped.

The event was a dinner given to people who hold the highest records and have done the greatest things in the Exercise, and every care was taken that no second rate persons were present. The chair was taken by a most eminent personage. I cannot, of course, say his name, but he was the Man Who Never Made a Mistake. Many a time in a peal he has been the only one who was right, and many a time, when all the rest of the band have disagreed with him, like the stout fellow he is, he has refused to give way, preferring to break the peal down. Needless to say, he made a most efficient chairman.

The qualification of each guest was stated on the invitation card. There was, of course, no question that I was fully qualified to be present at such a gathering, but I was rather curious to see which of my many great feats had been selected for distinction. The typing, however, was bad and indistinct. I asked my right hand neighbour if he could read it, and his reply was 'Oh yes. Quite easy. Champion liar.' I think he was trying to be funny, but though I have tried hard, I do not see the joke.

A GREAT PERFORMANCE

Personally, I think my finest performance is the peal of Bristol Surprise Major I am going to ring on the back eight at Liverpool Cathedral. I intend to turn the tenor in single handed. It will have to be after the war on account of the ban, and to some extent because the bells are not yet hung. But my greatest difficulty is to find a man capable of ringing the eleventh. I have gone through the country and I cannot find anyone up to the job. I hardly care to have it rung double handed.

At such a gathering when everyone wanted to talk about what he had done, naturally the conversation was brilliant. The chief difficulty was to find listeners. Some of the guests fied it on the waiters, but that was forbidden as being not only unfair but inconvenient. The usual plan was to get in the first word and keep at it, not letting the other have a loop-hole until the necessity of a drink gave him his chance. And so turn and turn about.

This plan worked very well on the whole, but there were exceptions. I saw old —, after vainly trying to engage the attention of his neighbours on either hand, adopt the plan of talking to himself. That gave him an excellent listener, until he warmed up and told an unusually tall tale of something he had done in his youth, when he rudely contradicted himself, and a heated scene occurred which was only ended by the chairman calling him sternly to order.

PROCESSION OF RECORD HOLDERS

The great event of the evening was the Procession of Record Holders. At a given signal the guests left the tables, formed up in order, and marched round the room to shake hands with the chairman.

First came the Youngest Band that had Ever Rung a Peal. They were in perambulators with their nursemaids and proudly carried the rattles on which just before they had rung Holt's Ten-part.

I hear there is some difficulty about the booking of this peal. Mrs. Fletcher refuses to accept it for her society on the grounds that the band are still only its and must develop into shes before they can join the Ladies' Guild. In the unlikely event of their turning out to belong to the other sex, a similar difficulty will confront the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Next came the Veterans, the grand old band who lately rang the London Surprise at Sherborne Abbey. They were in bath chairs with attendants, and carried mugs of beer and clay pipes. Most of them were tied together in places by bits of string and sticking plaster, but they were a hale and hearty lot.

A rather unfortunate incident occurred when the veteran treble man, with a senile chuckle, emptied his mug of beer over the juvenile tenor ringer. The latter set up a tremendous yowl, and order was only restored when both were sent from the room for being naughty.

Following came the band who had accomplished the quickest peal. Their proud boast is that they rang Thurstan's Four-part at so fast a rate that they finished the third quarter before the half-way single came up. Their keenness and impetuosity was plainly in evidence, and they scarcely restrained their exuberance until the chairman threatened to disqualify them for bumping and boring.

I could tell you a good deal more of the guests, but I must not take up too much of your valuable space. I think I have said enough to show you what a notable event it was. It will remain long in the memories of those privileged to be present.

'SPLENDIDUS MENDAX.'

GOOD STRIKING.—No matter how quickly men may learn methods, no matter what their abilities as ringers, composers or conductors, and no matter how satisfactory to themselves their ringing may be, it will never give the same satisfaction outside the walls of the tower as will the production of accurately struck changes in the most simple method.—Jasper Snowdon.

OLD WALTHAMSTOW RINGER.

DEATH OF MR. HERBERT F. HULL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, of 53, Glenthorne Road, Walthamstow, who passed away on September 16th last, after a brief illness, at the age of 72.

Frank Hull was well known amongst ringers in the north-eastern outskirts of London, especially in Walthamstow, to which district he came from Bedford over 40 years ago. As a young man he was a very good ringer, despite the handicap of deafness, and he rang several peals in a variety of methods, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Superlative, etc. He also conducted a few peals of Grandsire Triples.

He was a mason by trade, but unfortunately his career was interrupted soon after coming to Walthamstow by a serious accident. He had the misfortune to fall off a water tower, breaking his collar-bone, a leg and several ribs. This accident prevented him from working and for a time stopped his ringing. His deafness increased and rheumatism settled in his injured leg, but despite these troubles he never gave up. For many years between the two wars he was a fairly regular attendant at the St. Mary's, Walthamstow, practices; whilst he also paid many visits to St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, and St. Mary's, Leyton. Sometimes one or other of these churches would obtain his help on Sundays, but for a long time he did not attach himself definitely to any tower.

After his accident he eked out a living by tune playing on handbells, and he and his bells, and a home-made frame, were well known a few years ago in most parts of Walthamstow. How he learned the tunes he played was a mystery, for he could hardly hear the bells. But he seldom made a mistake. On one occasion it is said that, with another Walthamstow ringer, he entered a competition at a variety theatre in Stratford, when any amateur talent was invited. Frank and his colleague brought down the house with their bells, and won a handsome prize.

What kind of career Frank Hull would have had as a ringer had that unfortunate accident not intervened is, of course, impossible to say, but many who knew him in his early days would describe him as a promising sort. He had the advantage of being taught by the late Charles W. Clarke, of Bedford, and he was also in the 'good books' of the late William Pye. His last peal was rung at St. Mary's, Leyton, on October 27th, 1932, when he rang the tenor to Stedman Triples. He had not rung in a peal for 23 years, but on this occasion Frank quite enthusiastically offered to ring the tenor when a band met short for a Surprise method. As the peal drew to its close Frank's excitement could not be suppressed; at the word 'stand' after 'That's all,' he set his bell, but could not move for many minutes owing to pain in his leg, and he had to be assisted out of the belfry. This peal was conducted by William Pye, whom Frank positively adored. For months afterwards he talked about this peal.

He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the London County Association, and at one time a member of the Essex, Middlesex and other county associations.

He was buried at Walthamstow Cemetery on September 21st; his brother ringers in Walthamstow regret that they had no knowledge of his death at the time. They now mourn the loss of a generous and loyal friend, and an enthusiastic ringer.

MARDEN. NEAR HEREFORD.

INTERESTING BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Relative to Mr. Weaver's interesting letter on Marden, near Hereford, I have received a letter from the Rev. E. Charles, the Vicar there, in which he says: 'Regarding Marden Church, it has an embattled tower with spire very conspicuously situated, and can be seen within a radius of seven miles. But Bert Weaver is not strictly correct. The tower is *semi-detached* and dates from circa 1230. There is no doubt that at one time it must have been detached, but when the nave was widened it became semi-detached. The tower walls are 5½ ft. thick, and belfry has a small Early English doorway. In Marden we have one of the finest peals of bells in the county (six bells, one bell weighs nearly 1 ton). Only one peal is reputed to be of equal tone and quality in the county of Hereford, viz., Woolhope. A cannon of the tenor bell was made into a crucifix and fixed on a wooden oak cross made from one of the beams of the belfry. It dates to 1622, i.e., the cannon.

'A Celtic handbell was found in the Vicarage pond in 1848. It is now in Hereford City Museum. It was found at a depth of 18 ft. below the surrounding round level. It is 15 inches high, including the handle. It is 7 inches across the mouth one way and 5 inches the other. By its construction it was intended to be sounded by hand. The bell is of ancient bronze metal, but its clapper is lost. It is definitely characteristic of Welsh bells and those of Ireland. These bells are dedicated to holy persons: a great number were lost during the Reformation. Many were sold or melted down when Queen Elizabeth issued an order in 1558 for the removal of Popish ornaments from the church. It is very likely that this bell was hid in the Vicarage ground to save its fate of its being melted down.'

Regarding the last portion of this letter, a beautifully illustrated article from my pen appeared in the 'Apollo' Magazine for December, 1938, under the title 'Ancient Bells of Celtic Saints.'

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

THE USE OF SINGLES.

IN SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 570.)

When we are composing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan our material consists of twelve 5-course blocks. It can also be set down in thirty 2-course blocks. It was actually from the former that the early peals were composed—first Hudson's peal and then variations and adaptations of it.

But neither is a really good basis for composition, and though the sixty P Blocks pricked from Hudson's course-ends do not contain the 5040 rows we need, and therefore cannot be treated in the same way as the sixty course-ends of Bob Major or Double Norwich, yet it is convenient to deal with them as if they did, subject to certain definite limitations and qualifications. The modern composer does not start from the twelve 5-course blocks, but from the sixty P Blocks pricked from Hudson's course-ends. We will therefore consider the question from that angle and we shall have to repeat in other words some of the things we have already said.

We have already explained what Hudson's course-ends are, and if from each of them we prick a full natural course without bobs or singles, we shall find that, with the exception of four Sixes in each course, all the natural courses are true.

The exceptions are the third, fifth, seventh and twelfth Sixes. The third Six of every course will reappear as the seventh Six of another course, and the seventh Six will be the same as the third Six of another course. In a similar way, the fifth Six of each course reappears as the twelfth Six of another course, and consequently the twelfth Six as the fifth of another course. In all cases the rows of the repeating Sixes come in a different order. Here are two examples. The first shows the third Six of the plain course and the seventh Six of the course 653214 (we take the last row of a Six as the course-end, not the fourth as in our last article).

3467251	7364251
4376521	3746521
3475612	7345612
3746521	7436521
7345612	4735612
7436521	4376521
4735612	3475612
7453162	4357162

And here are the twelfth Six of the plain course and the fifth Six of the course 345261:—

5267431	2765431
2576341	7256341
2753614	2753614
7256341	2576341
7523614	5273614
5726341	5726341
5273614	7523614
2537164	5732164

In both cases, although the rows within the particular Sixes are the same, the rows which precede and follow them are different.

Thus, in each of the sixty natural courses pricked from Hudson's course-ends, there are four Sixes, which re-

appear in four other natural courses; and consequently in the whole sixty there are 120 Sixes which appear twice, and 120 which do not appear at all. Some means must be found to eliminate the false Sixes and replace them by the missing ones.

The only way we have of doing it is to make bobs, and here we find a rather curious thing. If in any one of these natural courses, instead of producing the Six liable to be false we introduce a bobbed Six, we shall get one of the missing Sixes, and if we do this in all the sixty natural courses, we shall eliminate the whole of the Sixes liable to be false and introduce the whole of the missing Sixes twice over. For the moment we are considering the effect of each of these operations on the natural course separately and one at a time, and are not brothing about what rows follow the introduced Sixes.

It is evident that if half the Sixes are bobbed and half plained, we shall get rid of sixty Sixes and introduce sixty fresh ones, and if the sixty eliminated ones are duplicates, and the sixty new ones are those missing from the original set of natural courses, we shall, so far, have solved our problem.

We gave above the third Six of the plain course and the seventh Six of the course 653214, both brought up plain. Here they are again both brought up bobbed:—

3467251	7364251
4376215	3746215
3472651	7342651
3746215	7436215
7342651	4732651
7436215	4376215
4732651	3472651
7423561	4327561

If they are both bobbed we still get repetition, but if one is bobbed and the other plained (it does not matter which) we get rid of one duplicate Six and introduce one of those which is missing from the set of sixty natural courses. In the same way throughout the sixty natural courses, wherever there are duplicate Sixes, if one is bobbed and the other plained, one of the duplicate Sixes is eliminated and one of the missing Sixes introduced.

But now we are faced by the fact that any one of the Sixes introduced by a bob is an irregular one. A Six is termed irregular when the rows within it come in a different order to what they would normally come in the natural courses with which we are dealing. Suppose, for instance, that we are joining together a number of natural courses of which the plain course is one, and suppose that the Six-end 3426175 did not turn up, but somewhere else 2346175 appeared—that would be an irregular Six, though it would not affect the truth of the composition.

What does happen, when an irregular Six turns up, is that we are put outside the blocks we are dealing with; and if we continue with the rows which normally follow any one of the Sixes we have introduced by a bob, we shall find ourselves in a natural course which is not one of those based on Hudson's course-ends; and that would land us in complications from which it would be difficult and probably impossible to escape. For instance, if in the plain course we make a bob at 3, that will produce the Six 4732651, which is one of those we

(Continued on next page.)

THE USE OF SINGLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

want to include, but the natural course of the block we are now in is 135426, which is not among Hudson's sixty. Similarly, if in the plain course we make a bob at 5, we produce a Six we need, but the bells are put into the block whose natural course-end is 361452, and that again is not one of the sixty.

Fortunately, there is an easy and an effective way out of the difficulty. If immediately the Six we want to include is completed we make another bob, we are put, not indeed back into the original natural course from which we started, but into another one of those based on Hudson's course-ends. This will always happen whether the first bob is at 3, 5, 7, or 12. So we have the general rule that all bobs must be made in pairs and we can treat each pair as a single operation.

Let us examine this in some detail. If in the plain course we make a pair of bobs at S (the 3rd and 4th Sixes) we are put into the natural course 536421, which is one of those in Hudson's set. We can ring the whole of this natural course (except for one six) and then another pair of bobs at S will put us back again into the plain course.

What we have done is to join together two natural courses, with the exception that the Sixes between the bobs are two of those which, as we explained above, we want to introduce.

A similar thing happens if we make a pair of bobs at H or L or Q. Each pair necessitates the making of another pair, and the result is to join together two natural courses.

Here we have the Q Set of the Twin-bob peals of Stedman Triples. It consists of a pair of bobs followed by another pair in the same positions and upon the same bells. Every time one of these Q Sets is made, two blocks are joined together, and in this way the peal is built up.

But in the making of these Q Sets there are definite conditions which must be observed in order to ensure that the Sixes between the bobs are true. If we make bobs at S in the plain course, then the L in the course 653214 must be plained, and also the L in the course 123564. Conversely, if the S in the plain course is plained, then the S in the course 536421 must be plained, and the L's of both the courses 653214 and 123564 must be bobbed.

Thus the Q Sets of a peal are in pairs, and if one is bobbed the other must be plained, and vice versa.

Similar obligations exist in the use of bobs at H and Q.

(To be continued.)

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Norwich. The Norwich Diocesan Association and the St. Peter, Mancroft, Society. On Thursday, January 19th, 1893, in One Hour and Thirty-eight Minutes. Seven 720's of Bob Minor, each called differently. J. Armiger Trollope 1-2, John E. Burton 3-4, George P. Burton 5-6. Conducted by J. Armiger Trollope. Umpire, F. W. Muskett. First 5,040 by all. This is the quickest peal yet rung, and the average age is believed to be less than that of any band who have hitherto accomplished a 5,000.—'The Bell News.'

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 23.)

I did not mention Hertfordshire in my list of towers of this description, but at Standon, near Ware, the ancient Church of St. Mary has an embattled tower with spire standing near the chancel on the south side, but apart from the church. At least, this was so until 1864, when it was joined up by the erection of a new organ chamber. As early as 1552 there were 'in the steeple fyve bells and a saunce bell,' and that continued to be the number until 1843, when a new treble was added, making six, which it still contains. A remarkable feature of the church here is the elevation of the chancel and altar, there being eight steps from the nave to the chancel, and five steps from chancel to altar. The church retains many ancient and interesting memorials and mural tablets.

At Irthlingborough, Northants, St. Peter's Church has a fine semi-detached tower 99ft. high, which stands a little to the west of the church, and is connected to the west porch by a rectangular building, once forming part of the College, but the original use of which is uncertain. The tower proper is of four stages; three of these being supported by double-angled buttresses: the belfry storey is lighted on each side by couplets, each pair being separated by a canopied niche. The angles are flat buttresses rising into octagonal pinnacles, and between these an embattled parapet. Surmounting the whole is an octagonal lantern of two stages, and in each face of the upper stage are windows of three lights. Above is a short concave spirelet. The tower having been found to lean towards the south-west to the extent of 2ft. 6in. was in 1887 entirely taken down and rebuilt upon new, solid foundation of concrete. It was completed in 1893, and now stands precisely the same as before, with the exception that unfinished turrets at the angles of the tower proper have been completed. A new iron frame was completed for the bells, the old six rehung and two new ones added. In 1906 a clock was provided. In the ground stage of the tower an inscription records its rebuilding, and in the lantern another states that it was rebuilt by Maria Lucas, of Burfield Priory, in memory of her brother, James John Seymour Spencer Lucas. The tenor of the ring weighs 10 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lb., and the Irthlingborough company of ringers are not only proud of their bells, but know how to ring them. They reached a high standard of efficiency, and successfully rang some hundreds of peals not only in the standard methods but in many of the Surprise methods up to London, and a new one they named Irthlingborough. Tablets in the tower record some of these, but in the annals of the Central Northants Association, and later the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, their performances rank high.

Lancashire has at least two examples of detached towers, but in both cases there is only one bell. At Bradshaw, near Bolton, the church is dedicated to St

(Continued on next page.)

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

Maxentius. The detached tower is actually the west tower of the old church which was built in 1872 and which has a bell cot with one bell of that date. The old tower has a mediæval bell of great interest; and for some years this lay on the ground, but the tower, having been restored, the bell was rehung. It bears the inscription, ' + AAE MARIA GRACIA PLENA.' The initial cross and each of the letters are on a separate patera except RI, which are cast together. The V in 'ave' is upside down. Tradition has it that this bell belonged originally to Yorkshire, but no evidence is forthcoming as to the truth of the story. From the style of lettering it is of the 14th century.

Ringley chapel of St. Saviour is in the parish of Prestwich, and was built in 1625 by Nathaniel Walworth, but not consecrated until 1634. In the Abstract of Sentence of Consecration, signed by Bishop Bridgeman, June 1st, 1635, it is stated that Walworth had furnished the chapel with a pulpit, communion table, a bell, seats, and other things necessary. The existing bell is no doubt the one thus provided, but what the meaning of its simple inscription is is not known. The bell has a fleur-de-lys border below the shoulder broken only by the initials S R E K, and there is no founder's name or date. The old chapel has been pulled down, and a new church erected on a site further east. The bell, however, now hangs in the isolated tower of the old church, rebuilt in 1826 and acts as a clock bell.

In Lincolnshire there are examples of detached belfries at Fleet and Long Sutton, and formerly there was a curious single bell 'bell-house' of wood to the south of the church at Flixborough. This no longer exists, and the bell, simply dated 1624, hangs in the western wooden belfry of the new church there. Fleet has a detached tower south-west of the church, with embattled parapet and pinnacles, a polygonal stair-turret, and a spire with three tiers of pierced quatrefoils on its alternate faces. Its total height is 120 feet and it contains a ring of six bells and a clock added in 1911. There is also a 'call bell' bearing the names J. R. Jerram and D. Oliver, churchwardens, cast by Mears in 1876. Prior to 1758 there were four bells only, but in 1806 two trebles were added. The bells hang in two tiers, the steeple being only 11 feet square and the tenor is 14 cwt. They were rehung by Mr. J. R. Jerram in 1874, and he also added a chiming apparatus. At Long Sutton there is a detached tower and spire to the south-west of the church, with angle buttresses rising to the third storey into octagonal arcaded turrets crowned with tall pinnacles, from within which rises an octagonal timber spire. This tower and spire constitutes one of the most remarkable designs in Early English or Lancet period in the kingdom, and is particularly interesting as one of the few having survived both fire and decay, remaining still in its original condition. The wood spire is covered with lead and the pinnacles at its base are similarly constructed. It had a ring of six bells until 1935, when they were augmented to eight by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., the tenor bell being 15 cwt. 2 lbs. The old six were all cast by Henry Penn, of Peterborough, in 1716. These were recast when the new bells were added.

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (silent apparatus) from 2.30 p.m., Guild Office at 4, conducted by the chairman. Tea and business meeting to follow at Major's Cafe (opposite the church).—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be at Leicester on Jan. 23rd. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. on the Cathedral bells. The moon will be at full.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held in the Old Rectory, Poole, on Saturday, January 23rd. Handbells from 2.30. Tea at 5.0, followed by short business meeting and more handbells. Evening service in Parish Church at 7.0.—C. A. Phillips.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellington Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 23rd. Service at 4.0. Tea in the Co-op. Hall, Queen Street. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m. Tea at

Armitage and Baxendale Cafe at 4 p.m. sharp for all who notify Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, by first post on Thursday, Jan. 28th, returning to the Park Hotel for the usual evening arrangements: business meeting and handbell ringing. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Upper Armley, Leeds, 12.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting will be at St. John's, Leytonstone, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells available. Service at 4 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. All welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Ringing at St. John's, City (silent), 2.30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Meeting and tea in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.15 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Meeting in belfry at 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea afterwards. Will those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, Jan. 27th?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be at the disposal of ringers from 3 p.m. Service, also in the Rectory Room, will be at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. For tea notify Miss L. Aldridge, 49, Escreet Grove, Woolwich, S.E.18, before Wednesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions for 1943 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. (silent). Service at 5 p.m. Tea at Carlton Cafe, Marlowes, only for those who notify me by the 27th.—W. Ayre, Sec., Leverstock Green.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Daventry on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting, Neal's Restaurant, 4 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

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DETACHED TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Herefordshire has quite a number of very quaint and interesting detached towers. At Bosbury, Holy Trinity Church, the tower stands twenty yards away from the south-east chapel. It dates from 1230-40 and is of three stages, the bell chamber being surmounted by a roof-cap surround by an embattled parapet which imparts a fortified appearance to the tower, and suggests a possibility of its having once been used for defensive purposes. It contains a ring of six bells, the 2nd and 5th cast by John Finch, 1632-1640; 3rd and 6th by John Martin, latter dated 1660. The 4th, with groups of capitals and initial 'W' twice repeated, is 16th century or earlier. Garway, St. Michael's, near Ross-on-Wye, has what might be described as almost a semi-detached belfry. The tower was built early in the 13th century quite separate from the church, but after an interval of several hundred years, a small covered passage-way was added, joining the tower to the north-west corner of the nave. The tower, capped with pyramidal roof, is of two stages externally, but there are three storeys inside, the uppermost one having been partly rebuilt at a later date. It contains a ring of five bells.

A curious and picturesque example of a detached tower is that of Holmer Parish Church. The tower, on the south side of the church, is of three storeys, the lower pair being built of stone in the early part of the 13th century. Several hundred years later (probably about the end of the 16th century), striking contrast was made by the addition of the top storey built in the 'black-and-white' style with timber framing, and surmounted by a short pyramidal roof. It contains a ring of six bells.

St. James' Church, an attractive mediæval building, has a tower only joined to it by a corner. It is of Norman period, the chancel being rebuilt in the 13th century, and its semi-detached tower, with quaint saddle-back roof, was added in the 14th century. It has four bells.

(To be continued.)

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COMPOSITION.

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Each of these is wide enough and important enough to engage the whole attention of a man during the hours he can spare from his daily business, and each will bring a rich reward to those who devote themselves to it. Archæology and history have generally, perhaps, been looked upon as standing outside the average ringer's orbit, but composition has always been considered as an integral branch of the art, and naturally so, for it is necessary to provide the methods and peals which the practical ringer uses. The names of great composers are as well known and as highly honoured as the names of great ringers and conductors.

The way in which the attitude of the Exercise towards composition has altered during the last half-century is remarkable and significant. In the old times a composer was a man who could produce the figures of a peal, and if it was true and fit to ring, that was all that he or other people cared. Whether he produced it by brilliant deduction, by patient experimenting, or by sheer luck, was no matter. The fact that he had produced it was all that mattered, and he claimed and received all the credit that there was to be got out of it. Other men might later on study his peal, understand it, and find in it things he had not dreamt of. That was no concern of his.

The one thing men did trouble themselves about was what they called originality. Every peal that was composed was supposed to be the work of some one person and was his property, which no one else had any right to take or use. It was therefore essential that a composer should be able to convince himself and others that his peal stood by itself, that it owed nothing to any other peal, and was in no sense a variation or adaptation of anything else. Half the energies and more than half the controversies of old composers were taken up in trying to prove that peals were not related to each other. This attitude was largely helped by the custom of even the cleverest and most eminent of composers treating

(Continued on page 46.)

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each peal as if it were a separate and independent problem to be solved.

All the while men overlooked the fact that change ringing is a mathematical science which has definite laws, that these laws can be applied in many different ways and in very diverse circumstances, and that the results are always constant. Hence the man who would understand the science of change ringing should study, not how to arrange one definite set of bobs so as to produce five thousand true changes, but the general laws which govern and control everything.

This is the tendency among the best of the modern composers, and the gain can hardly be overestimated. Men have indeed to give up the idea of creating and owning peals which are their very own and no one's else, but in return they have far wider interests.

Originality in compositions is to a very great extent an exploded myth, but the study of composition has become more absorbing and fascinating. Once, the only object a composer had was to get as many sets of figures together to which he could put his name without his right to do so being challenged. Now he gets his reward in the satisfaction which comes from the mastery of a mathematical science and his ability to make it serve the purposes he has in view.

The study of composition is worth while, even for those who have no aim than to understand what other people have already done and no ambition to solve themselves any new problems.

THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The tenacity, not to say obstinacy, which has been shown by the authorities concerned in disregarding all the requests and arguments put forward, both inside and outside the House, to lift the ban on ringing is typical of the behaviour of people who are not big enough to admit a mistake.

We ringers have had no option but to loyally obey the Order, even though we knew from the first that the scheme wouldn't work satisfactorily, and even though we knew and suggested much more efficient ideas for spreading the invasion alarm. We responded eagerly to the request to ring the Victory bells in November, although we were fully aware that the attitude of the authorities was having the effect of slowly strangling the life out of our art.

We hoped that once the ice had been broken it would be easier for the authorities to lift the ban, and the permission to ring at Christmas seemed to give further encouragement. But no, the same steele attitude seems to be maintained and the bells are still silent.

It was a shock to read this week that instructions to incumbents had only just been issued as to what to do in the event of invasion!

The letter of Mr. J. W. Dyer echoes the wishes of us all, but I hardly think his suggestion is practical. It would not be possible to lift the ban on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11, unless an arrangement were made with our enemies not to invade this country at this hour. The most practicable thing would be to lift the ban and arrange more efficient methods of giving the alarm in the event of invasion.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

19, Dorothy Crescent, Ombersley Road, Worcester.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following account of a peal rung at Farndon, Cheshire, was given to me a short time ago. No doubt as its centenary draws near it will be worth recording in 'The Ringing World' in full.

I have the original MSS. in my possession for a short time.

ALBERT E. RICHARDS.

The School House, Farndon, Cheshire.

(Copy.)

'Friday, January 27th, 1843. A peal of Grandsire Trebles was rung consisting 5040 Changes with 194 bobs 46 Singles in 2 hours 45 minutes from 9 o'clock until 12 about in the morning. Wm. Farrell 1, Thos. Edwards 2, Thos. Hughes 3, Saml. Woolley 4, Josh. Snelson 5, Wm. Lewis 6, Geo. Huntington 7, Thos. Woollam 8. Conducted by George Huntington, Farndon.'

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 37.)

GEORGE PARTRICK.

From the beginning the Society of Cumberland Youths was numerically the largest company in London. Eighteen men joined in the first year, and eleven in the second. The connection with the Ramblers Club is clear. Jeremiah Gilbert, Laughton's close friend, was a foundation member, and so was John Harrington, another Rambler, while the names of Green, Chapman, Coster, Newcombe, and others suggest that they were sons or relatives of other men associated with Laughton.



SHOREDITCH OLD CHURCH.

Of George Partrick, the first Master, very little apart from his ringing is known. Possibly he was one of a family of ringers, the members of which have always been confused by ringers and writers, for Partrick obviously is the same name as Patrick spelt phonetically.

The earliest of the family was John Patrick, who joined the College Youths in 1679, two years before Fabian Stedman was Master. He became one of the leading men in the company, was steward in 1684, and Master in 1692. For long he was looked upon as the greatest authority on composition of his day, the successor of Stedman and the precursor of Annable. When Doleman and the London Scholars brought out the 'Campanalogia' of 1702 he gave his help, and many of his compositions are in the book. His copy is now in the British Museum and has several interesting notes in his handwriting.

By profession John Patrick was an inventor of barometers and thermometers, and was well known to the leading scientific men of the time. He lived in Ship Court in the Old Bailey, and died on October 24th, 1730.

John Patrick, the second, joined the College Youths in 1730, was steward in 1733, and Master in 1736. He probably was a son or grandson of the other. Jasper Snowdon has included him among his list of composers, but he did nothing that we know of either as composer or peal ringer.

Robert Partrick was a still later man. He lived in Whitechapel and by trade was a cheese factor. He married the daughter of Thomas Lester, the bellfounder, and so acquired an interest in the Whitechapel Foundry. He secured orders for the casting of several rings of bells, but it is hardly likely he did the work himself. His name is on the bells at Hackney, but they were cast at Whitechapel. Bishopsgate bells bear his name, but Osborn, of Downham Market, actually cast them. And similarly the destroyed Cripplegate tenor most likely was cast by John Warner.

Robert Patrick was a member of the Society of College Youths and a good ringer. He was one of the band that visited Birmingham in 1796.

There is nothing definite to connect George Partrick with these men, but it is quite likely they were all relatives, and that would help to explain why George came to the front so early and held the position for so long. In many ways his career recalls that of Annable. He, too, was a great leader, a composer of recognised merit, and a ringer and conductor who was anxious to explore new ground and to ring peals that no one else had rung before. But he did not quite reach the stature of the other man, and he had no pretensions to be a heavy bell ringer. One advantage he had; for whereas Annable had to wait twenty-five years before he was elected Master, Partrick started as the most important man and undisputed leader of the new company.

The Society of Cumberland Youths adopted an organisation and a set of rules which were closely copied from traditional models and therefore were in direct line from the old guilds. Like the other leading societies, they had their annual feast, and one or two of their engraved dinner tickets are preserved in the British Museum. These tickets, like those of the College Youths, are folio size. They bear a portrait of the Duke of Cumberland, illustrations of a couple of towers, and the motto, 'Nulli nisi ignoti nostram artem contemnunt' — 'Only the ignorant despise our art.' Neither this nor the similar ones on the College Youths' tickets are likely to have been formally adopted by the companies. They evidently were stock mottos supplied by the engravers as part of the design.

From the outset the Society of Cumberland Youths was the biggest in London, and that probably was due to the fact that the social standard was not so high as among the College Youths; nor had they the inherited exclusive traditions of the older body.

From the beginning, the Cumberland Youths practised regularly at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, though they by no means had the exclusive use of the tower. There they rang their first peal, one of Bob Major, on November 19th, 1748. Three days later they rang one of Double Bob Major.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

George Partrick conducted from the seventh, William Thornton, the Warner, rang the tenor, Jeremiah Gilbert rang the treble, and the band included John Purlement and William Lister, whose names figure in most of the early performances.

On December 26th Partrick, Thornton, Lister and Gilbert took part in a peal of Bob Major at West Ham, in which four of the local men stood, including two brothers of the name of ight who rang the tenors. The band at West Ham joined the society as a body, and the tower became one of its principal strongholds. Thornton conducted this peal, which was the only one by the society during ten years not called by Partrick, except for a local peal at West Ham in 1754.

In 1749 the society rang three peals, two of Bob Major at Shoreditch and Westminster, and one of St. Simon's Triples at Hackney.

St. Simon's Triples is a very good method and is given in all the older text books. It is an extension of St. Simon's Doubles. The two bells left by the treble on the lead dodge until it returns, the others making thirds and back from behind. Second's place is made at the lead-end. The defect in the method, one which prevents it being recognised as regular nowadays, is that a bell lies behind for four consecutive blows as in Bob Triples. Annable called the first peal in the method in 1732, but none other than these two seem to have been rung. New Bob Triples is a somewhat similar method, but is much more difficult and is free from the defect just mentioned. Partrick called the first peal of it at Shoreditch on March 28th, 1750. Two men were needed for the tenor.

From November, 1748, to April, 1757, the Cumberlands rang thirty-five peals. They consisted of: Bob Triples 2, Major 12, Royal 1, Double Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 5, Simon's Triples 1, New Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 5, Cumberland Pleasure Major 2, Cumberland Bob Major 1, and Cumberland Grand New Double Major 1. They included 6,160 Double Bob Major, 6,080 and 7,524 Oxford Treble Bob Major, 6,720 Cumberland Pleasure Major, and 6,012 and 7,290 Grandsire Caters.

This is a very good list and has hardly been equalled by the first performances of any of the other old societies.

The figures of Cumberland Bob, Cumberland Pleasure and Cumberland Grand New Double, have perished, and we have no means of knowing what sort of methods they were except that Cumberland Pleasure (and most likely the others) had a plain hunting treble. Probably we should not be far wrong if we assumed that they were more or less simple variations of the standard methods. They were all the composition of Partrick.

Partrick composed and called two peals of Bob Major, each with the sixty in-course course-ends, one of 5,040 changes, the other 5,008.

There was a competition to see who could first compose and call a peal with these qualities. On August 15th, 1756, at St. George's-in-the-East, Richard Royce called for the Eastern Scholars 5,296 changes of Bob Major 'with the tenors at home sixty times, being the first performance in that method.' Six days later at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, Partrick with a band of Cumberlands called a peal with similar qualities and only

5,040 changes, and in the next month, as if to settle the matter once and for all, he called another peal with the minimum number of 5,008 changes.

The figures of these peals are lost, and we have little to tell us what they were like. Necessarily they consisted of mixed long and short courses. When all the courses are long or all are short, the sixty cannot be put into one block by means of bobs only. When some of the courses are long and the rest short, the whole sixty can be grouped together by bobs only, but only under certain definite and very limited conditions. The shortest true peal with these qualities is 5,040, the next possible length is 5,120, the next 5,160, and so in a regular progression, adding eighty changes each time. Royce's 5,296 and Partrick's 5,008 were therefore both false unless some illegitimate calls were used, which is hardly likely. Partrick's 5,040 may have been true. Most likely it was on a similar plan to the peal in the 'Clavis' which is usually (and probably correctly) ascribed to John Reeves. In the year 1756 the proof of compositions was very imperfectly understood, and it is hardly likely that either Partrick's 6,080 of Oxford Treble Bob Major or his 7,520 was true.

On October 12th, 1752, George Partrick called John Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples at Shoreditch, and the peal book claims it as the first time of performance. The claim, however, is a little doubtful, for William Underwood had in the previous May called a peal of Grandsire Triples for the Eastern Scholars, followed by another in June at St. George's-in-the-East. Holt's peals were common property in London at the time, and it is not very likely that Underwood would have called one of the older compositions which were looked upon as obsolete if not false. The St. George's peal is stated to have been with two singles, and so obviously was one of Holt's. It may, however, have been the six-part. This William Underwood was the son of the old London Scholar.

There was an excellent band of ringers at West Ham, who formed, as we have seen, a branch of the Society of Cumberland Youths. In the year 1752, largely through their efforts, West Ham bells were restored by Robert Catlin, who recast the fifth and sixth and added two trebles to make a ring of ten. Towards the cost of the new bells the ringers gave twenty pounds.

The first peal on the ten was Grandsire Caters on July 6th, and it was followed in October by Plain Bob Royal. Partrick called both, but most of the band consisted of local men, with Robert Wight at the tenor. Two well-known ringers, John Blake and Joseph Prior, whose peal ringing was usually with the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths, rang one in the Caters and the other in the Royal. Next year Blake was back again with the Eastern Scholars, but Prior stayed to ring one or two peals with the Cumberlands, including one of Grandsire Caters at West Ham, which he called.

Two early performances of the Cumberlands, though not peals, are of more than usual interest. One was a course of Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung double-handed on handbells, on November 12th, 1754, at the company's headquarters, The Bell, in Shoreditch. The band was Samuel and Francis Wood, William Matthiss, George Partrick, and John Purlement.

On January 1st, 1756, the same men, with William Lister, 7-8, rang a course of Oxford Treble Bob Maxi-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

mus. Earlier in the day they had taken part in a 6,080 Treble Bob Major at St. Leonard's. These are the first courses of Treble Bob known to have been rung on handbells.

During these early years of the Society of Cumberland Youths, George Partrick had been the acknowledged leader, and he called all the peals except the couple at West Ham. Then there happened some quarrel or other, and he left the company and went to the ancient Society of College Youths, with whom he rang and called three peals—Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1759, Treble Bob Major at St. George's-in-the-East, and again at Spitalfields in 1760. The Grandsire Caters was the first ever brought round at hand. 'This,' says the 'Clavis,' 'is so great an improvement in Cater ringing that too much cannot be said in commendation of it or its author; whom, notwithstanding he has been dead for several years, yet his name will be gratefully remembered by every admirer of this pleasant and harmonious improvement.'

Francis Roberts was the composer thus praised, but whether Partrick called one of his peals or used his improvement in one of his own we do not know.

In 1761 George Partrick was back again with his old friends, but though for the rest of his life he was an honoured member of the society, he never quite regained his old position. He rang only three more peals, two of which he called. His last was the first peal of Maximus by the society. It was rung on November 10th, 1766, at Southwark, by a band which included many famous

(Continued in next column.)

TOBRUK**RINGING THE OLD YEAR OUT.**

Mr. Lawrence J. Williams has received a letter from his son, Mr. Leslie L. Williams, a member of the band at St. James', Church Kirk, Lancashire, who is serving in the Middle East. An extract from it will be read with general interest.

'Well, I can tell you I shall have a better Christmas dinner this year than last. Bully and biscuits and one tin of beer was not much, but the spirit was there all right. I shall never forget New Year's Eve, 1941. As you know at that time the Siege of Tobruk had finished and all we had to worry about was the air raids every day and bags of work. In the centre of the town is the church with a tower and one bell inside it. My pal and I climbed up the tower, no mean feat in itself, because it had been shelled and blasted by bombs and had great holes in the walls. However, we managed to ring the old year out and the new year in, and as the last note of the bell-faded we heard cheers coming from all over the ruined town. I felt real homesick for a time thinking of the years we have done it in different circumstances.'

PEEPS INTO THE PAST.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'B' asks if anyone can enlighten him as to who 'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance' and 'Jingle,' who used to write in 'The Bell News,' were.

It was common knowledge among ringers that 'Jingle' was William Willson, of Leicester. In his younger days he used to affect rather extreme opinions. Among other things he was a pro-Boer and a radical.

The others were not so well known, but it was usually said one of them (I forget which) was a Yorkshireman, Benjamin Copley I think his name was. I imagine the other was Harvey Reeves, the Editor.

What I remember of these articles is that there was very little in them. They were good examples of saying nothing much about nothing in particular and taking a page to say it in. But, after all, I suppose it is not so easy to write about such a thing as bellringing.

'SENEX.'

(Continued from previous column.)

ringers—George Gross, John Reeves, Charles Purser, Isiah (?Isaiah) Bray, William Lister, Samuel and Francis Wood, and the elder Samuel Muggeridge. Partrick called his own composition from the treble.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Essex Association should notice that the meeting arranged for to-morrow at St. John's, Leytonstone, has been transferred to Christ Church, Wanstead.

Mr. W. J. Prescott thanks his many ringing friends for their expressions of sympathy during his serious illness and would like them to know he is slowly improving.

In a letter on another page Mr. E. A. Young calls attention to the series of photographs which the Ancient Society of College Youths is offering for sale. Copies have been secured to be used as a permanent record of the tercentenary celebration.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel informs us that the peal at St. Albans Abbey we referred to in these notes was the first of Bob Major on the bells for over a hundred years. The band had already rung several in other methods.

The first peal of College Single Bob Major was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by the College Youths, on January 24th, 1737.

On the same date in 1885 the Sussex County Association was founded.

The Painswick men rang 8,105 Stedman Caters, on January 25th, 1842; and on the same day the Stroud men rang 8,081 Grandsire Caters. Both peals were afterwards found out to be false.

Mr. A. R. Pink called the first peal of Chiltern Surprise Major at Egham on January 25th, 1934.

The Fulham Youths rang 10,080 Bob Major at All Saints', Fulham, on January 26th, 1735. It was one of the earliest ten-thousands on record.

On January 26th, 1761, the Cumberland Youths rang 5,760 Cumberland Fancy Major at Shoreditch, and on the same date in 1865 Elijah Roberts took his own life. He had tapped some extraordinarily long lengths on handbells.

The College Youths rang a peal of Dunstan's Triples at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West on January 27th, 1927.

A peal of Spliced Erin and Stedman Caters was rung at Newcastle-on-Tyne on January 27th, 1925; and exactly a year later a peal of Spliced Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples was rung at Bridgend.

5,184 changes of Kent Treble Bob Caters were rung at Liverpool on January 28th, 1886; and 10,080 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Appleton on January 28th, 1888.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus in London was rung by the College Youths at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on January 28th, 1911; and the first peal of Pinner Surprise Major was rung at Pinner by the Middlesex County Association on the same date in 1939.

George Gross called the first peal of Real Double Bob Major, with a band of Cumberland Youths, at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel, on January 29th, 1769.

John Cox died on January 29th, 1885; and exactly a year later his lifelong rival, Henry Haley, died.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal was rung at Chesterfield on January 29th, 1921; and the record length of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,232 changes, at Bolton, on January 29th, 1927.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major ever accomplished was rung by the London Youths on January 30th, 1780, at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. John Reeves composed and conducted it, but the proof of Treble Bob methods was not as yet understood, and the composition was false.

The first peal of Shipway Major was rung on January 31st, 1900, at Kidderminster. The method was an attempt to adapt Stedman's Principle to even numbers, but in practice has few merits.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES RUSSELL

OLD WINCHESTER RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Russell, of Winchester, who passed away on January 11th, at the age of 82.

Mr. Russell was born in Winchester and lived all his life there. He was for long the captain of the band at St. Maurice's and had been a member of the Cathedral band since 1891.

The funeral was at St. Maurice's, and in the absence through illness of the Rector was conducted by the Rev. S. M. Watson. The ringers present were Mr. Wilfred Andrews (captain), Mr. E. G. Lampard, Mr. W. C. Lampard, Mr. A. F. Goulding, and Mr. H. Cook, members of the Cathedral band; Mr. W. G. Goodchild (hon. secretary of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Ringers), and Mr. George Smith (Twyford), an old personal and ringing friend.

The interment was at the West Hill Cemetery.

RINGING FOR EASTER?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If it is not possible for the Government to lift the ban until after the war, I think most ringers would be satisfied if they could lift it for Easter Sunday, Whit Sunday, any National Day of Prayer, Armistice Sunday and again on Christmas Day, all from 9 a.m. till 12 noon. I hope someone will suggest this.

FRED FOWLER, Jun.

9, High Street, Stourton, Warminster, Wilts.

PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS

ST. PETER MANCROFT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading in your columns recently of some of the peals rung at Quex Park, it re-kindled a desire I have had for a long time—to see complete lists of peals rung at all twelve-bell towers. Would any readers be interested also? I wonder. For myself, I should wholeheartedly welcome such information, if you, Mr. Editor, could see fit to publish it, and gladly add it to my small store of ringing history.

Most of us, I imagine, have a reverence for rings of twelve and are glad to know all about them. The bells themselves and their history are easy game, but complete peal performances on them is a different proposition, and some might be difficult to compile. For instance, the London ones, where different societies had access in times past, and also in the case of some of the older country rings. As time goes on the difficulties will not be lessened, so can anything be done while the going is as good as it ever will be, and when 'The Ringing World' can now perhaps find room for publishing?

Some time ago I listed all the peals rung on the present bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, and found it an interesting job, and it provided some interesting side-lights too. I have brought this list up to date—from 1775, when the bells were cast, up to the time of the ban. In those 164 years 119 peals were rung; not over-prolific certainly. I append the list if you can find room to publish it.

THE FIRST SINGLE-HANDED PEAL.

It is curious to note the bells were there for 110 years before the tenor was rung single handed to a twelve-bell peal, although Thomas Hurry had rung her to Oxford Royal in 1827. The twelve-bell peal was Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1885, with the late George Smith as tenor-man. This George Smith has been mentioned several times in your columns. He was a superb ringer, with grace and style which made one envious.

Then again, you, Mr. Editor, and I both took part in the first single-handed Cinques on the bells—although they were 100 years old when we were born!

The first nine peals were spread over 110 years, and were of eight different sorts, the only 'double' being Kent Treble Bob Royal. They were Grandsire Cinques (1775), Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (1778), Double Norwich Maximus (1817), Oxford Treble Bob Royal (1827), Stedman Cinques (1844), Stedman Caters (1858), Kent Royal (1883 and 1884), and Kent Maximus (1885).

The 119 peals had no less than 45 conductors. Top scores were 21, 13 and 12, followed by one of 9 peals, four of 5 peals, one of 4, one of 3, two of 2, and thirty-three of one.

A number of ringers have rung their first twelve-bell peal at Mancroft, amongst them such noted names as Canon Coleridge, the Rev. F. E. Robinson, John W. Taylor, James W. Washbrook, Charles Hounslow, Frederick and Ernest Pitstow, William and Ernest Pye, and William Keeble.

Twenty-four of the total peals were rung on the lighter eights—the front eight, the 'middle' eight with the 9th of the twelve as tenor, and then in 1910 a flat 6th was added, giving a true octave with again the 9th as tenor. This was named the 'Gabriel' eight.

THE FULL LIST.

In addition to the peals given there have been two false compositions rung—Oxford Treble Bob Major on the 'middle' eight, and Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and in the 1880's the George Smith already mentioned rang the tenor of the back eight to a 5,184 Oxford Treble Bob Major. This was rung to the end, although a change-course occurred shortly before the finish and the peal not recorded. This was the first time a 5,000 on the back eight had been rung. Here is the list:—

Maximus: Plain Bob 2, Oxford Treble Bob 2, Kent Treble Bob 15, Double Norwich 1, Cambridge Surprise 1=21.

Cinques: Stedman 7, Grandsire 4=11.

Royal: Plain Bob 6, Oxford Treble Bob 4, Kent Treble Bob 14, Double Norwich 2, Cambridge Surprise 1, Erith Little Bob 1, Winton Court Bob 1=29.

Caters: Stedman 7, Grandsire 11=18.

Major: Plain Bob 1, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 2, Double Norwich 4, Superlative 2, Cambridge 2=12.

Triples: Plain Bob 1, Grandsire 1, Stedman 2=4. Total 95.

On front eight: Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob 1=3.

On 'middle' eight: Bob Major 4, Oxford Treble Bob 5, Kent Treble Bob 4, Grandsire Triples 1=14.

On 'Gabriel' eight: Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 2, Stedman Triples 1=7. Grand total 119.

I hope the above is a beginning of similar information about other twelve-bell towers.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, and members attended from Bolsterstone, Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth, Hoylandswaine, Sandal and St. Marie's, Sheffield.

At the business meeting the hon. president, Canon W. E. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, Barnsley, took the chair.

The accounts for 1942 showed a credit balance of 14s. 10d. This was very satisfactory in present conditions, and the statement was adopted on the motion of Mr. C. Robinson, seconded by Mr. J. R. Brearley, the auditors.

The secretary's report showed that ten monthly and one committee meeting had been held during the year, the average attendance being 10, which, considering all things, was fairly good. Four members had passed away and six new members had been elected. Mr. Smith thanked all who had attended the meetings and hoped that 1943 would be a year of success.

Mr. P. J. Johnson, of St. Michael's, Headingley, Leeds, was elected an honorary life member of the society.

The officers were all re-elected: President, Mr. E. Brooks, Hoylandswaine; treasurer, Mr. H. Obant, Felkirk; secretary, Mr. D. Smith, Felkirk. As the treasurer is now serving with the R.A.F., it was decided that the secretary should act for him in his absence. Mr. C. Robinson, Cawthorne, and Mr. S. Briggs, Eastwood, were elected as auditors for 1943.

On the motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Moxon, the officers were warmly thanked for their past services with best wishes for the future.

A vote of thanks was passed to the hon. president for taking the chair.

After tea handbells were brought into use, the methods practised being Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and Major and Treble Bob Minor.

The next meeting will be at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, February 20th, when the moon will be full.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BOCKING.

At the annual meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th, ten ringers attended from five towers. A course of Bob Major was rung on handbells before the service, which was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Edgar Rogers. Mr. I. T. Chapman was at the organ.

The District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, presided at the business meeting in St. Mary's Hall. The secretary gave a report of the previous year's work, which showed that meetings had been held at Bocking, Earls Colne and Shalford with an average attendance of 14. One new honorary member had been elected. No handbell peals had been rung, which was attributed to the increasing travelling difficulties and National Service duties. The secretary thanked all those members who had attended meetings and all the tower secretaries for collecting subscriptions. Mr. F. Ridgwell congratulated the secretary on the report, and said that under the circumstances it was very good.

The Dean then took the chair and both officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. The committee were also re-elected. The Master and secretary accorded thanks for their re-election. A letter was read from Mr. W. T. Farrow, of Felsted, reporting the death of Mr. J. Wood, and another from Mrs. J. Elliott, of Kelvedon, saying that Mr. J. Elliott had undergone a serious operation and was unable to attend. The members were pleased to hear he was making satisfactory progress.

It was proposed by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, seconded by Mr. F. Ridgwell, that Mr. W. T. Farrow be recommended at the annual meeting for life membership.

It was proposed by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, seconded by Mr. R. Suckling, that the next meeting be held at Halstead midway between Easter and Whitsun.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean, Mr. Chapman and Mrs. Suckling for making the tea and to all the members who had turned up to make the meeting a success.

DEATH OF MR. E. BREEZE.

The death is announced of Mr. E. Breeze, of Bebington, Cheshire, who passed away on January 20th, and was buried at Bebington Churchyard on the 22nd.

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THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 41.)

In our last article we described the general lines on which twin-bob peals of Stedman Triples are composed. Although it is not possible, as with most other seven-bell methods, to set down the 5,040 rows in a number of independent and mutually exclusive natural courses, yet it is possible to act as if it can be done, provided certain very strict and definite conditions are observed.

These conditions are as follows. The natural course-ends must be those which are known as Hudson's course-ends. Bobs must be made in pairs, and can only be at S (3-4), H (5-6), L (7-8) and Q (12-13). Whenever a pair of bobs is made at S in a particular course, no bobs may be made at L in another particular course. Whenever a pair of bobs is made at H in a particular course, no bobs may be made at Q in another particular course. (The reverse of this is, of course, equally true.) When a pair of bobs is made at S, a Q Set is begun which must be completed by another pair at S in another course. And similarly with bobs at H, L and Q.

We thus get the following obligations:—

If in the course 123456 S is bobbed,
then in the course 526413 S must be bobbed.
652134 L must be plained,
312564 L must be plained,
If in the course 123456 H is bobbed,
then in the course 213465 H must be bobbed,
416235 Q must be plained.
425136 Q must be plained.

The making or omitting of a pair of bobs in any one position in a course, therefore, definitely settles the making or omitting of a pair of bobs in each of three other courses. This four-fold obligation was termed the Q Set of the method by Sir Arthur Heywood in his 'Investigations'; but more properly there are two related Q Sets, for a Q Set is not merely an obligation, but a link by which courses and blocks are joined together. In this instance every time a pair of bobs is made at S, or H, or L, or Q, two blocks are joined. (It sometimes happens that the joining is done by plaining a Q Set instead of bobbing it, but the principle is the same.)

The composition is built up by starting with the plain course and adding other courses, or blocks, to it one at a time. Here we get something different from what we find in other Triples methods. In them we start with the plain course, and by bobbing Q Sets we add each time an even number of other courses—two or four in Grandsire, two in Plain Bob and the kindred methods. It is obvious that if we start with a single course, and keep adding to it an even number, we shall never include the full number which is even. But in Stedman Triples we add one at a time, and the natural thought is, Why cannot we join up the full sixty?

Well, the first important fact is that in the sixty natural courses there are 480 bob-making positions, but for every one that is bobbed, one must be plained, and therefore the total number of bobs in the peal must be 240, no more and no less.

To add one course to another requires four bobs, therefore to add 59 will require 236. Let us assume that we have done it—we are faced with the fact that four positions are plained which must be bobbed, for otherwise

the changes in the 'irregular' sixes will be false. Unless those four bobs form a Q Set we cannot make them. If they do form a Q Set, the effect of making them will be to split one round block of sixty courses into two parts.

We shall have to use singles in twin bob peals of Stedman Triples as we have to do in Grandsire Triples, and for the same reason. Not because we need them to obtain rows of odd nature, but to act as the final links in the chain which binds together the round blocks formed by the bobs.

Every natural course of Stedman Triples contains an equal number of odd and even rows. Therefore for purposes of composition in-course singles are just as good, and, in fact, better, than ordinary singles which alter the regular succession of the nature of the rows. This is illustrated by William Hudson's peal, which, as a means of producing the extent of the rows, is not excelled and hardly equalled by any other peal in the method.

But the Exercise does not allow the use of in-course singles in Stedman. The objections to them belong to practical ringing, but they are of overwhelming force. We must therefore use ordinary singles.

As we saw in the cases of Grandsire and Plain Bob, the use of ordinary singles depends primarily on whether the natural course can be reversed and still contain the same rows. The P Block of Grandsire cannot be so reversed, and therefore it cannot be the basis of a peal when ordinary singles are used. What of Stedman Triples?

The plain course of Stedman Triples can be reversed and still contain the same rows; but, owing to the way it is usual to prick the method, this reversal is a good deal obscured.

The real point of reversal is the whole pull on the lead when the observation bell is a quick bell. This, of course, is the middle of a Six. When we are taking the seventh as the observation bell (as is usual), and when we are taking the last row of the Six when the seventh is in 6-7 up after quick, as the course-end (which also is usual), we must write down the reversal of the plain course as 564312.

If we prick a full natural course from 564312 we shall find that it contains the same rows as the plain course and in the same order, but backwards. Similarly, every natural course exists in two forms—one direct, the other reverse; and the relationship of the two is as 123456 is to 564312. If we have a natural course which we want to add to a block by means of singles, we must first turn it into its reverse form.

There are two ways in which the use of singles in twin-bob Stedman Triples differs from that in other seven-bell methods. The first is that the singles are not made in the change at the actual course-end. The other is that singles can only be made in changes where they affect the position of the observation bell. If we made a single at S, or H, or L, or Q, we should find ourselves outside Hudson's natural courses. There are only four positions where they may be made. They are when the observation bell is in 4-5 up after either quick or slow, or in 6-7 down after either quick or slow. In the first two the observation bell will make fifth's place, and hence the call is designated by the symbol V. In the

(Continued on page 54.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 43.)

Pembridge, St. Mary's, has a detached tower standing about 25 yards north of the church, consisting of a boarded framework of wood, erected on an octagonal stone basement, and containing a clock and five bells. The chiming clock is a memorial to the Rev. F. Crouch, D.D., late Rector, and was placed there in 1891. The belfry was new roofed and restored, and three of the bells recast in 1898. Mr. A. G. Bradley, in his 'In the Marsh and Borderland,' describes Pembridge detached tower thus:—'The lowest part is of stone and octagonal, the main part above is of wood, supported by huge pillars composed of single tree trunks. Its outside appearance is of the pagoda type, and is said to be of 14th century date. Full of time-worn beams and timber, it is not unsuggestive of the inside of some ancient water-mill, but for the pendant bell ropes, while in the chaos of woodwork above there is both a chime and a clock.'

At Richards Castle, St. Bartholomew's Church now only serves as a mortuary chapel. It is a fine Norman edifice of stone, consisting of chancel, nave of three bays, south aisle, north transept and a detached tower standing a few feet distant from the main body of the church. This tower formerly had a spire, which was burnt down. It now contains three bells.

Norfolk has a number of detached and semi-detached towers, and a famous one is that of East Dereham, for the church also possesses a central tower as well. The first church here was founded by Anna, King of the East Angles, A.D. 635 to 654, who also founded a convent, of which his daughter Withburga was Prioress. The present church appeared to have been begun in the early twelfth century, and was probably a cruciform building dedicated to St. Nicholas. This early church was enlarged from time to time in succeeding centuries until the present grand edifice was completed. The central tower contains a double triforium arcade, and stands on four fine arches. An ancient Sanctus bell hangs on the roof, which dates from the fifteenth century. This tower is 70ft. high. In early times it is believed that the bells hung in a detached tower which seems to have become dilapidated at the close of the 15th century. But as a belfry was almost an essential feature of a mediæval church, money was collected and legacies left, and a new tower was commenced on an ambitious scale. This tower, which lies 50ft. to the south of the chancel, is quadrilateral in shape, the base being 30ft. square. It is supported at the angles by buttresses 8ft. by 4ft., the walls being 8ft. thick, and its height is 86ft. from the ground. The bell chamber is 23ft. square. Building was going on as late as 1536, but was never finished, and as it was when the Reformation set in, so it remains to-day. This belfry was utilised as a local lock-up so late as 1799. A band of French privateers was captured off Yarmouth and taken prisoners. On their way to Norman Cross (Hunts) they rested for the night at Dereham, and were shut up in the belfry. But during the night they broke out. One of the prisoners, Jean de Narde, son of a notary of St. Malo, hid himself in a tree, and on being found was shot down like a crow and was buried near the tomb of St. Withburga, October 6th, 1799. In 1717

there were six bells, in 1753 they had become eight, most of which have been recast. The tenor is 24 cwt. in E flat. There is also a clock bell by Mears, 1839.

Continuing Norfolk examples, both Terrington St. Clement and Terrington St. John have specimens, the former entirely detached, the latter semi-detached. The Church of Terrington St. Clement is a glorious edifice, one of the largest in the county and almost cathedral-like in appearance, and there are no less than 81 windows. There is the commencement of a central tower up to roof level, but at the north-west angle there is a massive detached tower which contains a clock and ring of eight bells. Of the old six bells, two were recast and two added in 1925 by Mears and Stainbank, and all were rehung by Day and Son.

At Terrington St. John the arrangement of the tower in relation to the church is unusual, and is, in fact, unique. The tower is joined to the church by a building which is certainly not a vestry in the modern sense, but rather consists of a normal stone spiral staircase rising to the level of the nave roof, and—on the ground level—of a brick vaulted chamber giving access to the base of the tower. Immediately above this chamber is a small room, access to which is gained by the staircase mentioned. This room has always been known as the 'priest's room,' the south wall of which is pierced by two rectangular openings to admit light, and there is a similar opening in the north wall.

The west wall of this room is formed by the tower itself, and the east by the west wall of the south aisle. The roof of this room is of stone, and from the level of this roof the building joining tower and church becomes much narrower and consists of the staircase and two passages, one above the other, the lower giving access to the ringing room, and the upper one to a stone spiral stairway contained in the north-east corner of the tower. This stairway continues on to the bell chamber. The upper of the two passages has a brick and stone vaulted roof and has a doorway on its eastern side opening on to the nave roof. As will be thus noted, there is no stairway in the tower itself until one reaches the level of the nave roof.

The belfry door is in the east side of the tower, and is reached through an opening in the south wall of the lower passage. Both belfry door and passage opening are enclosed—for safety—by a wall.

It is suggested, that the tower was built before the joining masonry was filled in, but it may be that the latter was part of the original plan, as had the tower been entirely detached there would have been no means of access to the stairway above. Access to the first stairway is by means of a door in the west end of the south aisle. A larger door at the side of the stair door opens into the lower chamber previously mentioned.

With regard to the 'priest's room,' it is believed that it was for the use of the priest in charge, and since at one time the church was served by the clergy of Terrington St. Clement, it is feasible that the room may have been used by the priest to pass the night.

There are six bells in the tower, weighing 45 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb., all by T. Osborn, of Downham, Norfolk, dated 1784. Previous to that date there were four bells only.

At Little Snoring, near Fakenham, the Church of St. Andrew possesses a round tower with a conical roof,

(Continued on next page.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

detached a few feet from the south-west corner of the present church, having belonged to an earlier church. This tower is Saxo-Norman, built partly of local carstone, and contains one bell by Pack and Chapman, of London, 1770. In 6 Edward VI. there were three bells, but a faculty to sell two bells was granted June 30th, 1772.

At West Walton, St. Mary's Church possesses a fine campanile situated 70ft. away from the main building, forming a grand entrance to the churchyard through its base. It contains a ring of five bells, and is believed originally to have had a lead-covered spire. In the time of Edward VI., there were four bells, weighing 6, 10, 11 and 14 cwt. Of the present five, the 3rd is by John Draper, 1620; 2nd by Tobias Norris, 1623; 1st and 4th by Thomas Norris, 1629; and tenor by Henry Penn, 1708.

Norfolk has several isolated towers still standing in places where the old church has now entirely gone or is in ruins, and I will note these later. At Wood Rising, the tower of St. Nicholas' Church is in ruins. There are pits for two bells. There is now only one bell, by Mears, 1861, and this hangs in a quaint thatched shed in the churchyard.

A unique tower is that at Morpeth, Northumberland. Near the market place it stands, a stone tower that was originally built as a jail, and the basement continued to be used as a town lock-up until 1802. The tower contains a clock and a ring of eight bells, and an inscription on the latter shows that they were given to the Corporation of Morpeth by Major-Gen. Edmond Main, M.P. for Morpeth in 1705. There is a tradition that the clock was brought from Bothal Castle. In 1886 the tower was restored and the bells rehung. In the tower is preserved a rope of special make, formerly used to tether the bull to a huge ring fixed in the ground, on occasions of bull-baiting in the market place.

The eight bells consist of six cast by R. Phelps in 1706, and two trebles by T. Mears, jun., 1833, the tenor being approximately 10½ cwt. A number of peals have been rung on these bells by members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association as well as others by visiting bands. The Rev. F. E. Robinson rang one peal here, and he gives a view of the tower in his book, 'Among the Bells.'

Oxford has two examples of detached towers in New College and Carfax, with ten and six bells respectively. New College was founded by William of Wykeham in 1379 under a charter of Richard II., and formally opened in 1386. It was not until some years later that the founder was able to obtain possession of the land on which the cloisters and tower now stand, these being consecrated on October 19th, 1400. For this reason the tower stands on the north side of the cloisters, quite apart from the chapel. It is 34ft. square, and occupies the site of a former bastion which William of Wykeham was permitted to pull down.

(To be continued.)

IS THAT SO?

A good ringer and a true heart
Will not refuse to stand a quart.—Ringers' Rules
at Drewsteignton Church, Dartmoor.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master took the chair at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on January 16th, and supporting him were the secretary and treasurer and Messrs. J. A. Trollope, J. H. Shepherd, G. N. Price, F. E. Collins, D. Cooper, F. C. Newman, R. F. Deal, C. W. Roberts, J. E. Lewis Cockey, H. Hoskins, H. G. Miles, C. M. Meyer and E. A. Young.

The Master warmly welcomed Mr. E. Maurice Atkins, of Kilburn, and Mr. McDougal. The Forces were represented by L.-Cpl. Len Fox and Pte. Tom Fox.

Visitors were Messrs. G. Dawson (Leytonstone), E. Smith (West Ham) and N. V. Harding (Windsor).

Mr. Trollope said that several people had asked him why no account of the ringing activities of the late F. E. Dawe had appeared in 'The Ringing World.' The reason was that he had not been able to obtain any information.

RECORD OF THE TERCENTENARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If you will permit me to describe the photographs, the copies of which we are offering to members, the twelve are as follow, viz.:

(1) 'Are you ready?' (three ringers on 11, 12 and treble at St. Paul's—Messrs. Langdon, Peck and Fenn).

(2) 'The Master addressing the ringers at St. Paul's re the proposed Cockerill gift.'

(3) Three ringers (as above) descending the stairs after attending the meeting at St. Paul's.

The following nine were all taken at the meeting which followed, and show the well-remembered surroundings typical of The Coffee Pot (circa September, 1937).

(4) Opening ceremony—Steward lights the 'Wellington' candles (Mr. 'Lawrie' Porter).

(5) The Master calls for attention whilst the secretary reads the minutes.

(6) The Secretary reads the minutes (Mr. W. T. Cockerill).

(7) The Master says, 'Who will second the motion?' (Mr. E. H. Lewis).

(8) The Treasurer checking the Pence-book (Mr. A. Hughes).

(9) The Master, 'There being no further business, I will now close the meeting.'

(10) A remarkably fine portrait of the late 'Ernie' Brett and 'Dick' Deal.

(11) The Master joins in a 'touch' on the ten, with Messrs. Passmore, Groombridge, Fenn and Roughton.

(12) Another 'touch' with Messrs. E. Duffield and others.

The photos are all 8in. by 5½in. and are 'Daily Herald' copyright. Nos. 4 to 9 are a unique record of well-known officers and the meeting at the now destroyed Coffee Pot.

E. ALEX. YOUNG (Member of Record Committee).

The Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 52.)

second two the observation bell will make sixth's place, and hence the call is designated by the symbol VI.

Singles are always made in pairs and usually (but not always) the single at VI after quick is complementary to the single at V after quick; and the single at VI after slow is complementary to the single at V after slow.

As the observation bell makes the singles, the result appears somewhat complicated, but actually is not. A single at V after quick, followed by a single at VI after quick, is just as simple an operation as two singles at R in Bob Major, the actual changes concerned being:—

1253746 and 1253476.

2135746

2135476.

But, as the course-end depends on the position of the observation bell, the first single will cut two Sixes and the course-end out of the courses, and the second single will replace them. In the figures they are shown as follows:—

123456 VI V

(514263)

514263

123456 —

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Copies of the 12 photographs to be added to the restored Tercentenary Record Book are available, price 2s. each, mounted 2s. 6d., matt or glossy.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting will be at St. John's, Leytonstone, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells available. Service at 4 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. All welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Meeting in belfry at 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be at the disposal of ringers from 3 p.m. Service, also in the Rectory Room, will be at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1943 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. (silent). Service at 5 p.m.—W. Ayre, Sec., Leverstock Green.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Longton on Saturday, February 6th, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at 5.15 p.m. at the Dorothy Cafe to all who notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than February 2nd.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be at Middleton on Saturday, February 13th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. Reports to hand. All welcome.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

BATH AND WELL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Ilminster, Somerset, Saturday, February 13th. Tower open 2 p.m. (clapper boards). Tea at St. Mary's Hall 4.45 p.m., 1s. Business meeting to follow after. Numbers for tea to T. H. Taffender, 51, East Street, Ilminster. All ringers welcome.—Rev. C. E. Hickman, Hon. Sec., The Vicarage, Ilminster.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than February 17th. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The new address of Mr. F. E. Dukes, Hon. Sec., the Irish Association of Change Ringers, is 1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin, to which all correspondence in future should be sent.

THE LATE HERBERT F. HULL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was sorry to read of the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, whom I well remember meeting (chiefly on account of his deafness, I regret) about twenty years ago during many pleasant and helpful visits to both the Walthamstow towers. My memory pictures a most friendly man, popular with all and known to everyone there as Frank.

About this time the late Mr. E. D. Lillywhite, of St. Saviour's, gave me a self-measuring pocket book as used by surveyors, etc., in which are several touches of Bob Minor and Triples and many such of Grandsire Triples almost all worded instructions, the lengths only in figures. There are only two peals, both Grandsire Triples and similarly described, one the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' Five-part, the other as Hull's Twelve-part; just the notes for calling and a guide for the odd single. The only occasion I called a peal of Grandsire I took Davies' from this book, giving no thought of the other, but as no mention is made of Frank Hull as a composer and me possessing these details, I am sending the peal (also a quarter-peal given as his) with no knowledge whatever as to its merits, originality or if it has been rung. Of course, I am assuming it is by the same person, as the two people were so closely associated. It is possible, too, some of the touches are his, which include Oxford Bob.

Mention is made of Mr. Hull eking out a living after his accident, a most unfortunate position, I consider, for any ringer who has served the Exercise so well, and I think it is a pity we ringers who attach so much to all members of our craft, known and unknown, have not such a thing as a Ringers' Club with funds assuring against such mishaps, and where a member, without any humiliation whatever, could receive benefits on non-charitable lines. My wife's view is we should pay a penny a week and it wouldn't be missed.

All will sympathise with the ringers of Walthamstow in the loss of their friend, especially as they did not know at the time of his passing; another instance, no doubt, of relatives not knowing who would wish to pay their last respects.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 1943.

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BOOKS FOR SALVAGE.

In a letter printed on another page Mr. C. T. Coles calls attention to a matter which is of some importance to the Exercise. A great effort is being made to collect books of all sorts to be pulped and used for the making of munitions of war. So far, it is stated, 2½ million books have been obtained and the aim is to gain 50 millions.

These are enormous figures. The great mass of the books have long since served their purpose, if they ever had any, and no regrets need be felt for their disappearance; but among them there must be some that deserve a better fate, and almost certainly some whose destruction would be a real loss.

The authorities are fully alive to the danger and the books surrendered are carefully examined. If the examiners are competent persons this will ensure that no really valuable volume is sacrificed, though, as anyone who has had the job of going through a mass of books and papers to decide what shall be kept knows full well, after a time the tendency is to get sick of the sight of so much rubbish and to become ruthless. Then it is that books on the border line can expect no mercy.

For us ringers the matter is important because it may lead to the loss of some old ringing books. If any such are among those surrendered we fear they will have little chance of survival. A member of the scrutiny committee might hesitate for a moment over a first edition of the 'Clavis,' but he would not give a second glance at a Shipway, or a Sottanstall or a Thackrah.

What can be done to meet the difficulty is not easy to say. Probably Mr. Coles' suggestion that the Literature and Press Committee of the Central Council should write to the Press is as good as anything. Or if any ringer knows of a scrutiny committee being appointed in his district he might approach the members personally if an opportunity presents itself.

All of us should do what we can at all times to see that old ringing books are not destroyed; and if we know of any that are at all likely to be given up for salvage we should try to persuade the owners to the contrary. But perhaps after all the chance of any really valuable ones being destroyed is not very great.

Fortunately, copies of all the published ringing books from the 'Tintinnalogia' onwards are now available in public libraries, in addition to those in the Central Council library and the libraries of such associations as the Guildford and Hertfordshire. There is also a fair number in private hands in different parts of the country.

(Continued on page 58.)

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It is difficult to say how many copies of, for instance, the 'Clavis' still remain out of the five hundred that were printed a century and a half ago, but many an old ringer treasured his copy and handed it on to his son. It is only when the owner dies and leaves behind no one with an interest in change ringing that the book is likely to be lost sight of and ultimately destroyed. In a case like that, those ringers who know of the existence of the book should do their best to gain possession of it before it is too late.

A lot of good work has been done in late years, much of it unnoticed and unknown by the general Exercise. The Guildford Guild's library, which, in normal times, is housed in the spacious belfry of St. Nicolas', has been formed in quite recent years, yet it has reached the stage when it can challenge comparison with any other collection of ringing books, not excepting even those in the great national libraries. And it is not the only one.

The possession of a good library should be the ambition of every great association. It can be formed if a sufficiently enthusiastic man can be found to act as librarian and if a constant watch is kept to secure any books that may be available. Meanwhile, let every ringer keep his eyes and ears open. The fifty million books that are going to feed the moloch of war need not include many devoted to bells and ringing.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

JAMES PAGETT	...	...	...	1-2	ROGER D. ST. J. SMITH	...	3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH	...	...	...	5-6			

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, January 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD	...	...	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	(New	
(Somerville)	...	...	...	...	College)	...	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	...	...	3-4	JOAN HOUIDSWORTH		
(St. John's)	...	...	...	...	(St. Hilda's)	...	7-8

Composed by J. J. BRIERLEY (C.C.C. 108).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal away from the tenors.

THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

To the Editor.

Sir, — With reference to your interesting article, 'The London Scholars,' I have just been loaned the fifth edition of 'Campanalogia,' corrected by J. Monk and printed in 1746 for L. Hawes, W. Clarke and R. Collins; and S. Crowther, in Paternoster Row, dedicated to our honoured and much esteemed friends, the Society of London Scholars. The 'epistle dedicatory' is by J.D.C.M., evidently the J. Monk who corrected the edition.

Apparently it is as you say. Although nothing was heard of their peals after 1730, they must have been active in ringing, or the social side of ringing, as surely a book would not have been dedicated to them in 1746 if they had not a pretty alive society.

'LISKERRET.'

[The dedication in the 1746 edition of the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanalogia' is merely a reprint of that in the 1702 (original) edition. Joseph Monk was certainly not the C. M., who cannot be identified.—J. A. T.]

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 49.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

George Partrick died in June, 1796. For some time he had been to the London Exercise little more than a memory, for the 'Clavis' (published in 1788) refers to him as the late Mr. George Patrick. His funeral in St. Leonard's churchyard was, however, the occasion of a striking demonstration of esteem and respect. The corpse was followed, according to a contemporary account, by all the ringing societies in the Metropolis and its environs, each sounding handbells with muffled clappers. A 'dead peal' was rung on the church bells which produced a most solemn effect upon 'an innumerable concourse' of spectators.

In his lifetime Partrick enjoyed a great reputation as a composer. The writer I have just quoted said that 'his productions of real Double and Treble Bob Royal are standing monuments of his unparalleled abilities.' How far that is merely rhetoric we have no means of judging, for with one exception all his compositions are lost. Most of the early peals by the Cumberlands he called, and a large proportion of them, no doubt, were compositions by older men which had become the standard peals of the Exercise, such as Annable's Bob Major and Triples and Double Bob Major, Holt's Ten-part, and Baldwin's Treble Bob Major. The St. Simon's and New Bob Triples were probably Annable's composition. It was not until 1753 that he is recorded as having composed and called a peal, but some at least of the earlier ones were, no doubt, his composition.

The one peal of his which has survived is the one-part composition of Treble Bob Major containing 5,088 changes in twenty-two courses. It is still quite well known and has been rung many times, down to recent years. Its peculiar feature is that it contains only fifteen-seven bobs, 'which,' says the 'Clavis,' 'is the fewest you can possibly have in a peal in this method.'

Partrick never called the peal himself and the first time it was rung seems to have been on April 1st, 1759, at Whitechapel, when Samuel Wood conducted with a band of Cumberland Youths. Wood apparently called it again in 1761 and 1763.

Thomas Harrison did not reduce the number of calls, but he did succeed in getting a peal one hundred and twenty changes longer with the same number of bobs. It was a reduction of a 5,920 in five equal parts with five courses to each part. Jasper Snowden, in his collection, gives it as the work of Henry Warhurst, of Mottram-in-Longdendale, where it was rung (reduced to 5,024) in 1847.

The writer of the account of Partrick's funeral went on to say that he 'was the person who composed the whole peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes (till then deemed impracticable), for the discovery of which the citizens of Norwich advertised a premium of fifty pounds, which was paid to him, three years since by the Society of St. Peter's, Mancroft, with the highest encomiums on his superlative merit.' The account appeared in a sporting magazine and was copied by Robert Southey, the poet, into his Common Place Book. I took some trouble to see if the original could be traced, but I could find no periodical of the time with the name. The state-

ment is quite wrong and even absurd. The Norwich Scholars were not in the least likely to have paid fifty pounds, or even fifty shillings, for any peal; they thought themselves quite capable of producing anything they needed; nor is it at all likely that Partrick ever composed or attempted to compose a peal of Stedman.

It would be interesting to know what was the real foundation for the legend. Statements like that, however much they may become distorted, have usually some basis in fact. It is curious that the same tale was told in 'The Norfolk Chronicle' about George Gross, who was said, when he died in 1791, to have left the fifty pounds paid him by the Norwich ringers for the peal of Stedman Triples, to provide for the ringing of Shoreditch bells annually on his birthday and funeral day, for ever. This was still more wildly inaccurate, for George Gross did not die until 1805.

George Partrick cannot be included among the greatest names in the history of the Exercise, but he holds an honourable position in the second rank.

From the earliest times until now the life of the Exercise has flowed in one continuous stream. Sometimes the current has been full and rapid, sometimes shallow and sluggish; but it never has been broken, and everything that we do to-day had its origin and its causes in the things of old.

As we look back over the years we notice only the outstanding men and events, and the story, which is really one connected whole, seems to fall into a number of periods each with its own characteristics, each with its special contributions to the art and science, and distinct from the periods which went before and followed after it.

Annable died in 1756, and with him one of the most important periods in the history of change ringing came to an end. Not only was the great personality which for so many years had dominated the London Exercise removed, but most of those who had been associated with him drop out of sight. We hear no more of John Cundell or John Hardham. Robert Catlin died in 1751, and John Holt's short and brilliant career ended before that of his great rival. The old societies were passing away. The London Scholars had lapsed some years before, the Union Scholars and the Eastern Scholars were soon to come to an end, and even the ancient Society of College Youths, who for so many years had been the leading company, with the death of Annable, drop out of sight, to emerge thirty years later for one short period of activity before it, too, disappeared, leaving its prestige, its traditions, and its name to a younger and more vigorous branch.

During the second half of the eighteenth century, the story of London ringing is largely about the rivalries between this company (which was generally called by the name of the College Youths without qualification) and the new Society of Cumberland Youths. For a time there were other companies not much inferior or less skilful, but gradually these two absorbed all the leading ringers of the Metropolis. The tendency was at work for long, but the full effects were not seen until the nineteenth century, and the result was not good for the Exercise.

During the eighteenth century this rivalry led to the accomplishment of several fine performances and so far

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

was a good thing, but it was by no means a friendly rivalry. The personal feeling between the two companies seems to have been one of strong and even bitter hostility, which was caused largely by the fact that the College Youths looked down on the others as socially their inferiors, and the natural resentment felt by the Cumberlands was increased by the fact that those of their own members who got the chance were usually willing and anxious to desert to the opposite camp. No small proportion of the most skilful among the College Youths had first shown their abilities as Cumberland Youths.

The policy of the older societies had always been to keep the company small, and only to elect new members as they were required to fill vacancies caused by death or retirement, or when one of their number dropped out of the peal band, which consisted of about a dozen men who were keen ringers and personal friends. The Cumberlands adopted a wider policy, and from the first almost any proficient ringer who cared to join them was welcomed. The result was that they usually had more members than they could find room for in their peal bands, and many eager young men who joined in the hope of taking part in a five-thousand found themselves disappointed. A way out of the difficulty would have been to form two bands, for both the men and the conductors were available; but they seem never to have thought of that, or, if they did, they discouraged it as tending to split the society into two parties. Once in 1775 one band went to Spitalfields and rang a peal of Treble Bob with George Gross as conductor, and another to Whitechapel, under Samuel Wood, and rang a peal of Bob Major; but that was looked upon as an exceptional occurrence. In view of the peculiar constitution of these societies no doubt the policy was a wise one, for, after all, peal ringing was only a part of their activities, and it was essential to maintain unity in the meeting room and at the practices. But it frequently happened that a member, disappointed of his hopes of ringing with the company, left them and sought an opportunity elsewhere.

In 1752 several men seceded, including William Simmonds, who had been a member since 1748, Charles Burnard, who had been elected in 1751, and Michael Purser and Robert Reynolds, who had been elected in 1752. Thomas Lester had just hung a new ring of eight at St. George's-in-the-East, and it seemed to these men a good opportunity for forming a new company to practise on them, so they joined forces with some ringers who called themselves the London Youths and who were meeting at Whitechapel, where there then were six bells. Thus was formed a company which had a very successful career and, in the year 1780, was finally merged in the ancient Society of College Youths.

There was another company who called themselves the ancient Society of London Youths. They had been founded at least as early as 1730 and lasted down to the opening years of the nineteenth century. They did little in the way of peal ringing, but once in 1758, when they were joined by deserters from the Union Scholars and the Eastern Scholars, they had a band good enough to ring 6,336 changes of Bob Maximus at Southwark. The tenor was turned in single-handed by the elder Samuel

Muggeridge, who was the first of the very small number of men who have rung a 50 cwt. tenor to a six-thousand.

When George Partrick left the Society of Cumberland Youths the conducting fell to Samuel Wood, and for three or four years only seven or eight peals were rung, none of them of any particular interest except one of 5,400 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at West Ham, at the time the longest in the method. Partrick was back again in 1761, but though he called a peal of Cumberland's Fancy at Shoreditch on January 26th in that year, he did not supersede Wood. Four months



ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

later he was one of a band who visited Bedford and rang the first peal (5,040 Bob Major) on the new bells which Lester had just put up at St. Paul's Church, and then he finally dropped out of peal ringing except for the Treble Twelve at Southwark.

About this time two of the most famous names in the history of the Exercise first appear. John Reeves joined the Society of Cumberland Youths on February 21st, 1761, and George Gross on April 9th, 1763. Although there were many excellent ringers in London during the second half of the eighteenth century, these two men were probably the greatest of them all. They occupied in their time much the same positions that Annable and Holt had done in an earlier generation. Throughout their careers they were rivals, and there is plenty of evidence that there was a good deal of ill feeling between them. Both were fine ringers, conductors, and composers; but while Reeves outstripped his rival as a composer, the other was the greater leader and more popular with his colleagues.

(To be continued.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT COLCHESTER.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday at All Saints' Church, Colchester, and was attended by members from Harwich, Mistley, Thorrington, Thaxted, Ipswich, Rushmere, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, Sudbury, Halstead and Colchester.

Handbells were rung in the Parish Hall at 2.30 and a service in church at 4 o'clock was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Jack. Mr. J. T. Chapman was at the organ.

The Vicar presided at the tea and business meeting. The secretary's report for 1942 was read and accepted. It contained an appreciation of the late W. J. Nevard. The officers were re-elected—District Master, Mr. G. Waterman; district secretary, Mr. L. Wright; General Committee, Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. J. Ellis.

The place for the next meeting was left in the hands of the officers. A discussion took place on the subject of a National Association. Mr. W. Keeble sent in a proposition that it would not be of any use to the Exercise to disturb the present Diocesan Guilds, County Associations and Central Council, and although some advantages might follow the disadvantages would be greater. The meeting agreed.

The Master thanked the Vicar and Mr. Chapman for what they had done. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 11s 1d.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung in church by G. Moss, G. Andrews, A. R. Andrews and C. J. Ellis.

THE VICTORY RINGING.

The following letter has been received by the Dean of Westminster:
Dear Sir,—Would you convey to the bellringers of the Abbey the congratulations of the bellringers of Christ Church Cathedral at Victoria, B.C., on the ringing of the Abbey bells on Sunday, November 15th?

We had our own radio in the bell tower and listened in to the broadcast of the ringing in England, and it brought back many a thrill to those listening, who had previously heard the bells rung.

Here in Victoria we are very fortunate in being able to ring our bells regularly for the morning and evening services, and we often ring a quarter-peal before the evening service. On Sunday, November 15th, we rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, which was broadcast over the local radio station.

We wish to take this opportunity of sending you and the ringers our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.—E. W. Izard, 980, Arundel Drive, Victoria, B.C.

THE OLDEST RINGER.**MR. EDWARD CLAPSHAW.**

On Tuesday, January 26th, Mr. Edward Clapshaw, of Farnham, Surrey, reached the great age of 98.

He has been a member of the band at St. Andrew's, Farnham, for 75 years, but has not taken an active part in the ringing for 10 or 12 years. His last long touch was a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on his 85th birthday.

Mr. Clapshaw joined the old Winchester Diocesan Guild years ago and is now a life member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. He has also been a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild since its formation.

No doubt many of his old ringing associates and friends will be glad to hear that he is still alive and that his health is fairly good considering his great age.

There is little doubt that he is the oldest living ringer, and we send him our congratulations.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS FITZJOHN.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Fitzjohn, of Scarthoe, Grimsby, who passed away on December 20th, four months before his 85th birthday, after a short illness.

He was laid to rest on December 23rd in the churchyard of St. Giles', Scarthoe, and Mr. S. Bromfield attended and represented the ringers.

Mr. Fitzjohn, who was over 40 years of age before he learnt to ring, was captain of the band at St. Peter's, Thetford, for 20 years. He was a very keen ringer and made many friends. Although he rang only 45 peals, he did a lot of spade work. When he retired he went to Grimsby, where he lived with his brother. He joined the St. Andrew's band and rang five peals in the district.

HANDBELLS AT HUGHENDEN.

On Saturday, January 16th, a practice was held at St. Michael and All Angels', Hughenden, to greet Mr. R. Biggs, home on leave once more. Various methods were rung, including touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and a plain course of Double Norwich.

On the following Saturday, January 23rd, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major (1,260 changes) was rung in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, *R. Biggs (conductor) 7-8. * First quarter-peal on handbells and as conductor on handbells.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756, and was buried beneath the tower of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, where he had rung many of his best peals.

The Birmingham men rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters on February 1st, 1832.

James Barham's band rang a peal of Morning Pleasure Ten in at Leeds in Kent on February 2nd, 1765.

On the same date in 1824 one of the earliest peals of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Mary's, Richmond-on-Thames.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Triples was rung at Warnham, Sussex, on February 3rd, 1887, and the first peal of Lutterworth Surprise Major at Old Windsor on February 3rd, 1937.

The Cambridge University Guild was founded on February 4th, 1879.

Grandsire on even numbers was at one time popular in the Birmingham district. On February 4th, 1861, the Walsall men rang 10,032 changes of Grandsire Major.

Mr. F. W. Perrins called the first peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Nuneaton on February 4th, 1928, and Mr. Harold Cashmore called the first peal of Zetland Surprise Major at Bushey on February 4th, 1939.

Thomas Hurry, of Norwich, died on February 5th, 1869, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, a recognised authority on the composition of Grandsire Triples and the author of a book on Stedman, died on February 5th, 1931.

The first peal of Ickleton Surprise Major was rung at Ickleton, Cambs, by the Bushey men on February 5th, 1938.

The Norwich Scholars rang 5,376 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Giles' on February 6th, 1835. They claimed it as the first peal in the method, but one had already been rung at Huddersfield.

The first peal of Knebworth Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on February 6th, 1937.

BOOKS FOR SALVAGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Salvage and Recovery Department of the Ministry of Supply recently announced an extension of a scheme, already in operation in some towns and districts, for collecting books. It was stated that some 2½ million books have so far been collected, and a target of 50 million books has been set. Under the scheme all books collected will be examined by 'suitable persons,' so that no book worth keeping for any purpose will be used for salvage. Books worth preserving will be sent to the British Museum or go to local archives, or be used for restocking public libraries which have lost books in air raids. Other books, suitable for the purpose, will be sent to service depots as reading matter for men and women in the Services. Numbers of books will be available for repulping, and it is anticipated that a great amount of paper will be recovered for war purposes by this means, without destroying any book worth keeping.

It is, however, disconcerting to read in the Press recently that at Bristol a very considerable number of books of great literary value were given up. I need quote only two examples, taken from a long list in a recent issue of 'The Times': 'An edition of Suetonius, A.D. 70, "Lives of the Twelve Cæsars," printed at Leyden in 1651,' and 'An edition of the "Poetical Works of Coleridge, Shelley and Keats," published in Paris in 1829.'

The point of all this is the question, 'What might be done to ensure that no ringing books worth preserving are destroyed?' It is quite certain that the 'suitable persons' mentioned above will not contain any experts on ringing matters, and it is, therefore, conceivable that any ringing books given up will go to be pulped. Not very long ago I had an unpleasant experience of the way in which people are apt to dispose of books when there is nobody left in the family with an interest in the subject matter, and it is hardly to be doubted that many ringing books will be given up in this salvage drive.

What can be done beyond writing to the Press on the subject I do not know, but perhaps some of your readers may be able to suggest something better. In any case, if the Press is written to, it should be done by some person or persons with authority, such as, perhaps, the Literature and Press Committee of the Central Council.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park, E.4.

A POET ON THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Be others pleas'd with trifling gew-gaw sights
Unmeaning—but let me behold a band
Selected, and of twelve compos'd, with arms
Ascending and descending, stand, while health
Sits wreathing roses on their damask cheek
And jocund pleasure dances in their eyes;
While ev'ry bell strikes true, and not a note
Of jarring discord hurts attention's ear.

—William Woty, 1761.

THE LATE HERBERT F. HULL.

A POPULAR CHARACTER.

Referring to the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, a correspondent writes:—

I first knew him about 1904, when my brother and I were learning to ring at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow. Frank, although not a member of the band, was pretty regular in his attendance, and was always made welcome, as he was, in fact, wherever he went.

With his help our band progressed very well, Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Double Norwich all being rung in turn. How long he had lived in Walthamstow before I met him I do not know, but I always understood that his early days were spent in Bedford, where he learned to ring. If ever a man had his heart in ringing that man was Frank Hull, and it was a misfortune for all of us, as well as for himself, when his accident occurred. Whilst he was convalescing my brother and I used to visit him at his home, where he had gathered together many musical instruments and a very large set of handbells. It was as much as we could do to ring the tenors. There was also one of the earliest gramophones, and the only record he had was 'Little Brown Jug,' which was always played when his friends called upon him.

After Frank commenced to ring again we made numerous attempts for a peal of Grandsire Triples under the conductorship of that fine gentleman, Mr. G. B. Lucas. George Lucas' favourite peal was Davies' five-part, and Frank used to try to follow the calling. As by this time his deafness had very much increased he soon began to think that things were going wrong, and then they did go wrong. On one occasion George tried a famous variation of Parker's twelve-part in order to stop Frank worrying, but this only made matters worse, and we soon lost the attempt.

Many incidents come to my mind. On one occasion we went to a ringing meeting at Epping, and after leaving that place on bicycles to return home, Frank collided with a haycart. Fortunately he was not hurt, but his bicycle had to undergo sundry repairs before we could resume our journey.

He was pretty good at playing tunes on handbells, and for years frequented the Walthamstow market places. As a conductor he was not a great success, but he called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, the first peal on the bells after their rehanging some years ago, before the last war. He also called a peal at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton.

At home he was always pricking out touches in various methods, and in conversation could talk of nothing else but bells and composition. Walking home from practice at All Hallows', Tottenham, a distance of nearly three miles, would give Frank a fine opportunity of talking 'Before, Middle, Wrong and Home,' but leaving us just about as wise at the end of the walk as at the beginning.

Frank was a man who was esteemed by all who knew him, and one who, but for his infirmities, would have probably reached a high place in the Exercise.

It is greatly to be regretted that the handbells, which he loved so well, were not rung at his burial, but that was beyond our control. May he rest in peace.

PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very interesting to read the letter of Mr. Charles E. Borrett in last week's columns seeking to obtain the complete list of peals rung at all the twelve-bell towers.

Personally, I agree with him that most of us, whether or not we are twelve-bell ringers, have a reverence for rings of twelve and their history in twelve-bell performances, but to me it certainly seems superfluous to also include peals rung on the back ten and even more so on the back eight, although these in many cases have been feats of physical endurance and have a high place in the history of ten and eight-bell performances.

Then, again, to include in the history of twelve-bell towers peals rung on the front eight or the middle eight would, to my mind, be as interesting as including peals rung on the front six of a peal of ten or the back six or back five of a peal of eight. In the interesting list of peals rung at St. Peter Mancroft and published by Mr. Borrett, out of a total of 119 peals rung in the tower only 32 are twelve-bell peals. Although I have never yet had the privilege and pleasure of ringing on this noble peal I would much prefer when I do to have a pull on the twelve in preference to the back ten or eight, and my admiration of this tower and its history is solely created by its twelve-bell performances.

I hope Mr. Borrett will not misunderstand my intention in so far as to condemn other than twelve-bell ringing in twelve-bell towers, but it does occur to me that to compile an interesting history of our many famous twelve-bell towers, the Exercise in general would appreciate the contribution each tower has given to maintain and raise the history and standard of twelve-bell ringing.

FREDERICK W. ROGERS.

Portsmouth.

VISITORS.

RINGERS, CHOIRMEN AND CRICKETERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice the subject 'Visitors' has again been dealt with in the leading article. It must be less than a year ago a similar article appeared following a suggestion that visitors to London should be 'met' by a committee with a view to sending them to different towers according to their ability, etc., etc.

The same arguments were used then as now, i.e., comparisons were drawn between our Exercise and the church choir, and, further, the cricket team, and I, being interested in all three, remember being quite convinced that such arguments were fallacious.

This time the subject comes up at a time when I have more time to think about it (being confined to bed for a day or two), and I feel sure I have discovered some of the faults. Let us deal with the choir first. If the music of a church is of a high level you will find that each service is 'practised for' separately, i.e., the settings, anthems, psalms and perhaps occasional unfamiliar hymns receive the personal attention of the choirmaster during the week and the full choir on Friday evenings at least. During these rehearsals the choirmaster impresses upon his 'voices' the tempo he requires—the expression—arranges quartette or solo work and any unaccompanied singing, etc., so that even a regular member of the choir being absent from such a rehearsal can ruin things on a Sunday unless he exercises great care. Is it likely a complete stranger, however good his voice, will fit in?

Now the cricket team—the strength of a cricket team, or any team for that matter, depends upon the ability of that team to field a regular eleven, also a keen stranger may not be up to standard (although good), or he may be even too good, with what result? The committee, having decided to include him and exclude someone else, find they have made a mistake, the team is unbalanced, but nothing can be done about it. He is in the eleven for that game, come what may, whilst your regular subscription playing member (rabbit, perhaps) is disappointed and 'fed up.'

Of course, there is the other side. Your No. 1 batsman may be on holiday and a keen visitor may be about who would like a game. Then if you welcome him and do all to put him at ease so that he settles down quickly, you may get your 50 just the same, but much depends on the home team's attitude.

Well, how do these comparisons stand now? In the first place, we rarely practise special touches in the belfry unless it be for an extraordinary occasion (such as a broadcast), when no visitor would expect to be included. Secondly, a ringer tells you he can ring Grandsire Triples. Right. 'Take hold for a touch of Grandsire Triples. Where would you like to ring, sir?' 'All ready?' 'Treble's gone.' Now your preliminary half a dozen rounds will tell you if your man can handle a bell and also will set the rhythm (tempo if you like), a few more rounds and he is getting settled in and you can begin to judge his striking. Should his bell have peculiarities tell him so if he is what he claims he won't mind. 'Go, Grandsire.' Well, sir, I submit that your first half-lead tells you whether he can ring the method, in any case the first call will. How much time has this taken? He is not in your team like the cricketer, you can stop the ringing if necessary and say, 'I am sorry, this won't do for service ringing,' or, if it's a practice, perhaps you can help him if he has overstated his ability. If he is a Grandsire Ringer and your team on the ropes is a Grandsire team, he will fit in and perhaps even improve your usual ringing. It is the same of course, with other methods. Grandsire Triples are Grandsire Triples wherever you go, and, provided the ringer is truthful to the leader of the belfry he is visiting as to his (the visitor's) capabilities, the visitor is an asset to the tower and Exercise in general.

The snags are (1) the visitor who claims too much for himself, but, as I have explained, four minutes find him out, and (2) the conservative band which thinks it is independent of all others outside its membership. I am inclined to think such a band will not exist after this war.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

One of the most pleasing features of the war-time gatherings of the College Youths is for old friends to meet together and recall happy memories of days gone by. Although the attendance was not large, three of the ringers present at the meeting held on January 30th have been members for over 50 years—H. R. Newton, 57 years; R. A. Stannard, 53 years; H. Hoskins, 51 years—and the Master, secretary and treasurer have been members for over 40 years.

Mr. Young sent an apology for absence, as he had to attend a meeting of the Johnsonian Society at Britannic House.

The death of Mr. Frank Hull, of Walthamstow, was mentioned, and the members stood in silence in the usual way.

The election of Mr. Edward J. Charman, of Warrnam, Sussex, was confirmed.

Greetings were received from J. J. Lamb and W. Berry, of Greenwich, E. P. Duffield, of Colchester, R. Fenn, of Gloucester, and A. C. Clarke, of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheshire. Other members present were J. M. Kilby, C. Potheary, R. F. Deal, J. A. Trollope, C. W. Roberts, E. Jennings, W. H. Hewett, A. Miller (Christ Church, Mitcham) and Major J. H. Freeborn.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 21.)

In the last extract we gave from Haweis' 'Music and Morals' he was trying to explain how to read the inscriptions on bells; but it is clear that he did not know very much about the matter. He does not seem to have had any experience of taking rubbings, or to have heard of it being done; though that, of course, is the normal process. In fact, his acquaintance with bell archæology was but slender. His essay goes on—

It may be worth while to mention that it is often possible to pass the arm round a bell and feel the dates and letters which it may be impossible either to see or in any way illuminate. A little practice with raised inscriptions will soon enable the bell-hunter to read as the blind read—with the fingers.

The antiquary will note with satisfaction the incontestable antiquity of bells. We read in Exodus a description of the high priest's dress at the celebration of the high sacrifices. He was to wear 'a golden bell and a pomegranate upon the hem of his robe round about,' and to show that no mere ornament is intended, in the next verse we read: 'It shall be upon Aaron to minister, and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord, and when he cometh out.' This ancient use of bells in the old Hebrew service irresistibly reminds us of the bell which is introduced into the Roman ritual at the celebration of the Mass, for a very different reason.

It is unnecessary here to trace the history of bells before the Christian era. It is certain that they were early used in the Christian Church for devotional purposes. The first large bells for this purpose were probably cast in Italy; they were soon afterwards introduced into this island.

Ingulphus, who died in the year 870, mentions a chime of six bells given by the Abbot Turketulus to the Abbey of Croyland, and he adds with much satisfaction, as the sound of those famous bells came back upon him, with memories perchance of goodly refectons at the Abbey, and noble fasts on fish, and long abstinence tempered with dried raisins from Italy and the British oyster—'Non erat tunc tanta consonantia campanarum in tota Anglia.' There wasn't such a peal of bells in all England. (Note by Haweis: This document is now considered unauthentic.)

We believe there is no bell extant of so early a date as 800. Bad bells have a habit of cracking, and the best will be worn out by the clapper in time, and have to be recast. There are, however, some wondrous bells in different parts of the world, which deserve to be mentioned even in so informal a treatise as the present. Father Le Comte, the Jesuit missionary, speaks of seven enormous bells at Pekin, each of which was said to weigh nine tons. They proved too heavy for the Chinese tower, and one day they rang it into ruins. Indeed, a Chinese tower never look as if it could bear a good storm of wind, much less the strain and heavy rhythmic vibration of a peal of bells.

The largest bell in the world is the great bell of Moscow—if it has not been broken up. It was cast in 1653, by order of the Empress Sophia, and has never been raised—not because it is too heavy, but because it

is cracked. All was going well at the foundry, when a fire broke out in Moscow—streams of water were dashed in upon the houses and factories, and a little stream found its way into the bell metal at the very moment when it was rushing in a state of fusion into the colossal bell-mould and so, to the disappointment of the Russian people and all posterity, the big bell came out cracked.

It may be as well to mention that a gentleman lately returned from Moscow throws discredit upon this generally accepted statement, and maintains that the bell was originally hung, and that the crack was caused by its subsequent fall. It is said to weigh no less than 198 tons. The second Moscow bell is probably the largest in the world in actual use and is reported to weigh 128 tons.

The following extract from Chambers' Encyclopædia, a work of unusual accuracy, will illustrate the great difficulty of arriving at anything like facts and figures. 'The largest bell in the world is the great bell or monarch of Moscow, about 21 feet high, and weighing 193 tons. It was cast in 1734, but fell down during a fire in 1737, was injured and remained sunk in the earth till 1837, when it was raised, and now forms the dome of a chapel made by excavating the space below it. Another Moscow bell cast in 1819 weighs 80 tons.'

Our first account of the great Moscow bell is derived from M. Severin van Aerschodt, the celebrated founder at Louvain.

There are not many English bells worth noticing. In 1845 a bell of 10½ tons was hung in York Minster. The great Tom of Lincoln weighs 5½ tons, his namesake at Oxford seven tons.

We have to allude by-and-by to the bells at St. Paul's Cathedral and at Westminster, but for the present we return to Belgium, 'the classic land of bells,' as it has been well called by the Chevalier van Elewyck.

About 1620, whilst the Amatis in Italy were feeling their way to the manufacture of the finest violins, the family of the Van den Gheyns in Belgium were bringing to perfection the science of bellfounding. The last Van den Gheyn who made bells flourished only a few years later than Stradivarius, and died towards the beginning of this century.

The incessant civil wars in which Belgium for centuries had been engaged—at one time the mere battlefield of rival cities, at another the sturdy defender of patriotic rights against France, Germany and, lastly, against her old mistress, Spain—gave to the bells of Belgium a strange and deep significance.

The first necessity in a fortified town like Ghent or Bruges was a tower to see the enemy from, and a bell to ring together the citizens. Hence the tower and bells in some cathedrals are half civil property. The tower was usually built first, although the spire was seldom finished until centuries afterwards. A bell was put up as soon as possible, which belonged to the town, not to the cathedral chapter. Thus the Curfew, the Carolus, and the St. Mary bells in Antwerp tower belong to the town, whilst the rest are the property of the cathedral chapter.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Tuesday, January 12th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Royal in 50 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3-4, W. Lee 5-6, D. R. Fletcher 7-8, K. E. Fletcher 9-10. First quarter-peal of Royal by all. Also on Friday, January 22nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Wingrove 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher (conductor) 5-6.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DORCHESTER BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Dorchester on Saturday, January 23rd.

Ringling on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's began at 2.30 p.m., and the service followed, conducted by the chairman (the Rev. Canon A. W. Markby), assisted by the Rev. Canon D. F. Slemek. The chairman gave an apposite address on conscience devoid of offence towards God and man.

At the meeting in the vestry about 40 were present. The chairman presided, supported by Canon Slemek, Mr. J. T. Godwin, churchwarden, and Lieut. L. M. Hobson, R.E. The last named deputised for Mr. C. H. Jennings (hon. secretary and treasurer), to whose absence, due to ill-health, sympathetic reference was made. It was decided to send a letter expressing the hope that his health would soon be restored.

In his annual report Mr. Jennings dealt with the ban on ringling. In spite of all the difficulties, the branch had continued its activities very creditably. Three successful meetings had been held and four combined practices on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's, Dorchester. The ringling of the bells for the victory in Egypt and on Christmas Day was a great event in the history of the ringers.

The name of Brian Swaffield, R.A.F., a Wyke Regis ringer, had been placed on the Roll of Honour, and the branch had also sustained a great loss through the death of the Rev. E. de B. Thurston, who was a member for 24 years and always gave the branch a personal welcome to Wyke Regis. Death had claimed one of their oldest members and the founder of the branch, William Williams, of West Lulworth.

Thanks were expressed to the Rev. A. L. Edwards and the Wool band and the Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley, of Stratton, for their hospitality, to the Rector and friends of St. Peter's, Dorchester, to Capt. G. Wheeler (auditor) and to Mr. J. T. Godwin for his assistance in many ways.

The financial statement showed a balance in the Post Office Savings Bank of £18 5s. 11d. The auditor wrote expressing appreciation of the excellent manner in which the accounts were kept. The acceptance of the report and balance sheet, proposed by Miss Markby and seconded by Mr. J. Squire, was carried unanimously.

New ringling members elected were Lieut. L. M. Hudson, R.E., and Mr. W. R. Lloyd (Dorchester), and Mr. C. G. Dunn (Stratton). The Rev. W. G. Squire (newly-appointed Vicar of Abbotsbury) was elected an honorary member.

Apologies for absence were received from the Guild Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox, the Rev. R. P. Farrow, the Rev. A. S. Bryant, Messrs. Martin Stewart, J. Smith, J. Sturme, H. House, J. Marsh, Mrs. J. Orchard, Mr. H. Cornick and Capt. G. Wheeler.

An invitation by Mrs. Godley on behalf of the local band to hold a meeting at Stratton during the summer was accepted, and it was left to the secretary to arrange one at Wool.

A hearty welcome was extended to those members present who are serving in H.M. Forces, to Mr. W. Shute, Ringling Master, North Dorset Branch, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Powell, Lyme Regis (West Dorset Branch).

The members stood in silent tribute in memory of colleagues who had lost their lives in the war. The Chairman mentioned that Mr. H. Steer (Dorchester St. Peter's) was a prisoner of war in Italy.

All the officers were re-elected: The Rev. Canon A. W. Markby, chairman; the Rev. Canon D. F. Slemek, vice-chairman; Mr. C. Smart, Ringling Master; Sergt. P. Toccock, R.T.R., Deputy Ringling Master; Mr. C. H. Jennings, hon. secretary and treasurer.

Canon Slemek proposed a vote of thanks to Canon Markby, to Mr. J. T. Godwin and to the organist. He hoped the bells would soon be ringling again, and emphasised the appeal of the hon. secretary that they should be kept in good order. The Rev. A. F. Godley seconded the vote, which was carried with acclamation.

Practices on the silent apparatus in St. Peter's tower will be continued on every Saturday nearest the full moon.

The majority of the towers in the branch were represented.

Ringling on the silent apparatus followed, the following methods being practised: Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob.

THE MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

What music is there that compared may be

To well tuned bells' enchanting melody!

Breaking with their sweet sound the willing air,

And in the listening ear the soul ensnare.

—From the 'Tintinnologia.'

BELLS AS WARNING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As long as the ban on ringling lasts there will be occasional voices raised demanding its being lifted. Much already, I believe, has been done to this end—certainly much has been written. We all know the disappointing results to date. To me the fact becomes evident that there is still a great gulf between our ringling Exercise generally and the Church which has to be bridged.

If efforts have been made in the name of the Central Council to lift the ban the Exercise should know what they were. If there was no gulf to be bridged I believe that long ago the Central Council would have taken the opportunity of giving a lead and acting jointly with the Church.

It is not yet too late to take that opportunity. Could not some formal appeal be framed for the ringling of bells for a certain period on Sunday mornings (say from 9 to 11 a.m.), and sent to all the Bishops, Archdeacons and Cathedral clergy for signature, and also to all Rural Deans to put before the clergy of their deaneries at the next chapter meetings? No doubt the majority of deanery chapters will be held again before the middle of Lent, and so the signatures of a majority of the clergy would be assured. If this could be done it would show that the Central Council can act jointly with the Church when necessary, and it would test the appreciation which the Church has for the central body of her own bellringers.

I have always wondered whether or not it was seriously intended to use the bells in case of an air-borne invasion, except by the one who conceived the bright idea. It was not until a few months ago that I was approached by a local Home Guard officer regarding the use of the 'bells' here. He approached me because he had to make a report to a senior officer. I explained that we only had one small bell weighing 75 lb., which would be totally inadequate for giving a general warning, and that in making his report he should suggest that some other arrangements ought to be made in this district. I asked if he would like to go up into the ringling chamber, or if I should arrange a secret place for the key to be kept so that he could gain immediate access to the tower. Both offers were declined. As long as I had the key that was all that mattered.

There is one significant fact and that is that never, as far as I know, in all the various district and area invasion exercises which have been held, when the public has been warned to keep indoors for some 24 hours, have the bells been brought into use to give warning or to test their efficiency. I am led to one conclusion; that the bells are now considered by the Government to be a very good occasional tonic for the people. So far it has worked well. The bells are, like much else 'controlled' by the Government and occasionally we are treated to a 'ration' of bellringing. The Church and ringers jointly must ask for the restoration of a greater freedom.

As ringers we must not be misled by the response of all and sundry to help with the recent 'Victory' ringling. On that day everybody was filled with fresh hope and a certain thrill. The response to ring on Christmas Day was not so great. That occasion was not inspired by 'Victory' ringling. From my own observations the efforts on Christmas Day were weak compared to the former occasion. We must plan for our regular post-ban ringling according to the Christmas bells rather than the 'Victory' bells.

First enthusiasm soon wanes, and we shall be thrown back upon the efforts of the various stalwarts of the Exercise. Alas, during the past three years the number of ringling pioneers has decreased—death has claimed so many. The task of teaching will fall heavily on the shoulders of a declining number. The sooner we can get our bells used again with some kind of regularity the sooner we shall realise the exact position of the Exercise and be able to remedy, in part, our many deficiencies.

I do not view the future with despair, but with a sense of urgency lest it be made harder than it need be for the want of some united and weighty effort in the present.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

[When the order was first issued, the Central Council, through its secretary, did get into touch with the authorities, and any action or lack of action since has been after due consideration.—The Editor, 'The Ringling World.']

A SERVICE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Regarding Mr. V. A. Jarrett's enquiry concerning the Service peal of 1914, may I add I was one of the band and am very pleased to have heard of another. I would like my regards conveyed to him.

A. A. PLAYLE, ex-R.N.

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 54.)

How many bells William of Wykeham's tower at New College, Oxford, originally possessed is not known, but in 1655 there was a heavy ring of five there. In that year these were recast into a ring of eight by Michael Darbie, the surplus metal from the old bells more than covering the cost of the whole work. In 1712 two trebles were added by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester. Several of the original eight have since been recast, the present 4th by Rudhall, 1705; the 6th by Henry Knight, 1672; 7th by Rudhall, 1712; 9th by Rudhall, 1723.

Hearne the Diarist gives many accounts of ringing, and the following refers to an attempt for a peal at New College:—

'On Thursday, May 17th (1733) they (i.e. London ringers) began to ring at New College, proposing to ring the said number of changes, viz., 5,040, there. They began a little before twelve, and ran about three-quarters of an hour, when one of the ropes broke, and so they were stopped. . . . The next day being Friday, May 18th, they were resolved to ring the above-mentioned number of 5,040 changes upon New College ten bells, as they had begun to do before. Accordingly they began a little before twelve and rung full two hours in the morning wanting two minutes, when one of the ropes broke and put a stop to the peal, for which all were very sorry as they were at the fall of the great bell at Christ Church. For their ringing at both places, as well as elsewhere, was now surprisingly fine, without the least fault from beginning to end, such as was never before in Oxford, and 'tis a scandal that the bells should not be in good order.'

Hearne next mentions an attempt to ring 6,876 Caters at New College by Oxford ringers on May 1st, 1734, which came to grief after ringing about 2¼ hours. Then he records:—

'1734, September 28th, 4 Kal. Oct.—Yesterday being the obit of William of Wykeham (founder of New College) and the festival of S. Cosmas and Damianus, some of the Oxford ringers agreed to ring at New College proposing to ring 6,876 Cater changes upon the ten bells there.'

Hearne goes on to say that there were so many 'gross faults that it is not worth while to particularise them all.' However, they eventually did ring the peal on March 22nd the following year, and Hearne says: 'Tis the first time that such a number of Cater changes was ever rung in Oxford upon ten bells,' and gives the names and occupations of the ringers thus:—

1. Hearne, the Taylor.
 2. Mr. Vickers, second Butler of New College.
 3. Mr. George, the Taylor.
 4. Mr. Guy Terry, Pot-ash maker in St. Clement's.
 5. Mr. Yates, second Cook of Magdalen College.
 6. Mr. John Broughton, Barber.
 7. Mr. Richard Smith, Glover.
 8. Mr. Barnes, second Cook of Christ Church.
 9. Mr. Arthur Lloyd, of Holywell, Carpenter and Bell Hanger.
 10. Mr. Nicholas Benwell, who shows Great Tom.
- Hearne adds, 'They were much caressed when they had done, and were handsomely treated or entertained at

New College, but Mr. Barnes could not be at the entertainment, being obliged as soon as the ringing was done to go to his brother the waggoner's of St. Aldgate's then dying, who indeed died that very evening of a drosy. He is the same Barnes that set up a waggon in opposition to the Vice-Chancellor.'

Needless to say, since that time many peals have been rung in most standard and some Surprise methods at New College; a tablet in the tower records a peal of 10,008 Grandsire Caters rung here Easter Day, March 27th, 1815, in 6 hours 42 minutes, composed and conducted by E. Nickolls.

Carfax Tower, Oxford, is all that remains of St. Martin's, Carfax, which was demolished in the latter half of the 18th century. It contains a ring of six bells which are still rung on special civic occasions by the Oxford Society. It is also famous for its clock and unique 'quarter boys' which I have already referred to in these columns.

Oxford also possesses what might be described as a semi-detached tower, that of its Cathedral of Christ Church. Here, according to Hearne's account, there were originally six bells named respectively Hautclere, Clement, Austin, John, Mary and Gabriel, which were brought from Oseney Abbey. Possibly the present 9th and 10th (from inscriptions threon) may be the 4th and 5th of the above-mentioned. For many years the ring consisted of ten bells, which hung in the central steeple of the Cathedral. Hearne, in his diary, mentions a visit to Oxford of a party of London ringers who walked all the way from London, and arrived at Oxford on Whit Sunday, 1733. On the Wednesday following they attempted a peal at Christ Church but, after ringing over two hours, the gudgeons of the tenor broke and so the peal failed. He records a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Caters rung by the Oxford men on New Year's Day, 1734. In 1872, the central steeple being deemed unsafe, the bells were taken down, and to receive them a large square wooden structure was erected over the entrance to the College Hall, and this was known as 'the meat safe' and gave rise to many witticisms. It answered its purpose, however, for, although the ringing room is somewhat noisy, the bells go well, and many peals have been scored upon them. The ugly square box has been hidden by an outside tower of stone, in a style of architecture to correspond with the surrounding buildings. In 1897 two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank, and the ring now forms one of twelve with a tenor of 31½ cwt. It is somewhat strange that neither this tower nor that containing 'Great Tom' are consecrated buildings.

Another tower that must be noted, although not actually in England, is that of St. David's Cathedral, which is in Pembrokeshire. The ring of eight bells hangs in the gateway tower and not in the cathedral tower. This bell tower is unusual in proportions, being octagonal in plan. Its height from the ground to the top of the parapet is about 46ft., the internal span of the belfry is approximately 28ft., and from the belfry floor to the ground is about 20ft. The ringing chamber on the ground floor is heavily vaulted and impressive, but, while the sound of the bells outside has been pleasantly modulated by the closing of louvres, and providing a lantern in the roof of the tower, the noise in the ringing chamber is very considerable owing to the close proximity of the bells.

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. —D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Rd, Croydon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Copies of the 12 photographs to be added to the restored Tercentenary Record Book are available; price 2s. each, mounted 2s. 6d., matt or glossy.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be at Middleton on Saturday, February 13th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. Reports to hand. All welcome.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea will be provided. There may be food. Will be grateful to any who bring a sandwich.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphthill Road, Liverpool.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch. —The branch annual meeting will be held at Desborough on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who notify me previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Feb. 13th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service at 4.45. Tea, at the Duke's Head, 5.30. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Feb. 10th? Handbells and 8 silent tower bells available during afternoon and evening.—A. H. Smith, Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. —The annual meeting will be held at Daybrook, on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at 3 p.m. Election of officers for the year. Handbells available. Please make own arrangements for tea. —F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District. —A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks,

not later than February 17th. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20th, at Attleborough. Bells (silent), 2. Service 4. Tea and business meeting in Church Hall 4.40. Please let me know numbers for tea by Monday, February 15th. Trains leave Norwich 2.5 and 2.25; leave Attleborough 5.47 and 6.32.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring your own eatables; cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Central Committee will meet at the Hind Hotel, Wellingborough, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Copies of agenda will not be sent by post this year.—Robert G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Gedding-ton, Kettering.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., is now 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham. He will be glad to hear from any handbell ringers in the Nottingham district.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

By Auction, on February 11th next, A SET OF 29 HANDBELLS by Taylor, Loughborough.—Apply G. B. Avant & Son, Auctioneers, Dawlish, Devon.

WANTED.

WANTED, copies of 'Bell News' or 'Ringing World' prior to 1916; bound or unbound.—G. E. Fearn, 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

BIRTH.

BOWERMAN.—On Sunday, Jan. 31st, at Dromenagh Wood Cottage, Iver Heath, Bucks, to Frances Mary, wife of Lance-Bomdr. C. F. Bowerman (nee Guttridge), 99/74 Regt. of R.A., the gift of a son.

DETACHED TOWERS.—Continued from previous page.

The bells—the tenor of which is 24 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.—were rehung and recast in 1928 by Mears and Stainbank, and each one bears a name as follows:—

- Treble. Mair Fendigaid=Blessed Virgin Mary.
2. Sant Stinan=St. Justinan.
3. Sant Andres=St. Andrew.
4. Esgob=Bishop.
5. Deon=Dean.
6. Sant Iago=St. James.
7. Sant Mihangel=St. Michael.
- Tenor. Dewi Sant=St. David.

In addition there is a service bell hung in a curious wooden 'bell-house' on top of the cathedral central tower, by William Savill, of London, 1777, weighing 14 cwt., and on the floor of the cathedral is an ancient mediæval bell of 10½ cwt., now disused.

(To be continued.)

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 1943.

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THE CHURCH BELLS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE

A notable addition to the archæology of bells has just been made by the publication of 'The Church Bells of Monmouthshire' by Mr. Arthur Wright. Mr. Wright's interest in bells began many years ago as a schoolboy in Norfolk, and for nearly forty years he has been engaged on a systematic investigation of the belfries of South Wales. His research work extended largely over Glamorganshire and other counties, but before a work of this sort can be published one whole county must be finished to the last bell, and thus it is that Monmouthshire is the first Welsh county to have a complete survey of its bells in book form.

In one respect Mr. Wright has been fortunate. Had he remained in Norfolk he would have had to face the fact that John L'Estrange had already published his book on the bells of the county, a most excellent work, though since it appeared so long ago, it might well be revised and brought up to date. But in Monmouthshire and in South Wales generally Mr. Wright could deal with a virtually unexplored district, and could set about his task as a pioneer filled with the hope of making discoveries and coming across some ancient and forgotten bell, whose origin and history would supply the problem dear to the heart of the antiquary.

In that he has not been disappointed. As we might expect, Monmouthshire is not rich in bells and never has been, but there are three or four of great interest. Four of them are of the early long waisted type without inscriptions, which date from the early thirteenth century. Bells of that class could only survive in small and obscure parishes, for wealthier places would have replaced them long since. In many ways it would be a pity if, after so many centuries of active service, they were turned into mere museum pieces, yet it might be a good thing if they were taken down from the steeples, and hung inside the church where they could be seen and perhaps serve some purpose such as sacring bells.

Mr. Wright gives the details of every bell in the county, and in a final chapter a general survey and a very full account of the Chepstow foundry, the only one in the county. This belonged to the Evans family and lasted from 1686 to 1767, during which time 508 bells are known to have been cast by them, though the number is almost certainly greater.

Mr. H. B. Walters has contributed a foreword to Mr. Wright's book. He justly calls it 'a comely and beautifully printed and illustrated volume,' and calls attention to 'the patience and perseverance with which the writer has done all he could have done to ensure its complete-

(Continued on page 70.)

ness and place it on the level with the more fortunate English counties.' Patience and perseverance are indeed necessary to the bell archæologist, but they would be of little avail without enthusiasm and a profound love of the subject.

'The Church Bells of Monmouthshire' is printed in a limited edition only. In years to come a copy will be a valuable item in any collection of books devoted to bells and bell lore.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

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

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Umpire—Mr. F. V. Nicholls, Stourbridge.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, February 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2	PETER WOODWARD 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	RAYMOND FORD 7-8

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. Harold Chant and Miss Mary Sykes. Also to celebrate the 21st birthday of the ringer of '8, which occurred the previous day.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT PUDSEY.

The January meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Pudsey on Saturday week, attended by members from Armley, Bradford, Barnsley, Calverley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Liversedge, Rothwell, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

The president, Mr. F. J. Harvey, was in the chair, and Messrs. Gordon Thompson, of Calverley, and C. W. Woolley, of Bushey, were elected as members.

A vote of thanks to the Pudsey company was proposed by Canon C. C. Marshall and seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who spoke of the many happy times he had come to meetings at Pudsey.

Mr. Barton replied and said he was pleased to see so many present, for their attendance showed that the spirit of the associations was still alive and it was to the associations (large and small) we should have to look after the war for instructors and ringers.

There was handbell ringing before and after the business meeting, and well-struck touches on 8, 10 and 12 bells.

The next meeting will be at Liversedge on February 27th.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was 50 years on the 9th inst. that I rang my first peal, one of Bob Triples here at Debenham. The band consisted of six Williams and two Johns, all of whom except myself have passed on.

The composition was Annable's six-part, conducted by William Grimes, and we thought it a wonderful performance (despite the four blows in seventh's).

Two of the band, Messrs. Crickmer and Flory, each walked five miles alone to make the attempt. I finished with a dozen blisters, some of which were due to the cot not being securely fastened, but did not mind in the least.

WILLIAM C. RUMSEY.

Debenham.

BUSHEY.—On Thursday, February 4th, 1,280 London Surprise Major: *E. Jennings 1-2, *Ernest C. S. Turner 3-4, Harold G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, Frederick W. Brinklow 7-8. *First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

MORPETH.

MORE INTERESTING RECOLLECTIONS.

Mr. Ernest Morris has received the following interesting notes on the detached tower at Morpeth from Mr. C. L. Routledge, of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association:—

The only instance in the north of the Tees of a detached tower is that of Morpeth, which was at one time the county town of Northumberland, about 13 miles north of the Tyne. It is known as the Watch Tower and contains a bright harmonious peal of eight with a tenor of 12 cwt. in G.

A 'couplet' was posted in the tower, and is probably still there, and is full evidence of the detachment:—

'Morpeth folks are silly people,

A mile divides their church and steeple.'

A steeple it is not by any means—that may just be poetic licence—save the mark—for it is just a solid square tower about 55 to 60 feet high, containing also a clock and chimes. You reach the ringing chamber by a short outside staircase by a side door.

The tower stands in the Market Place and is the property of the Mayor and Corporation. I know the ringers were paid by the Corporation and used to ring on Sundays, and at one time I believe all denominations of places of worship synchronised their times of service to fit the ringing of the bells.

The bells were cast by Phelps in 1706—about the same time as the old six at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were metalled.

I remember, too, the old bull-baiting rope with its strong poles and snout-rings which was hung round the belfry on hooks, for this cruel sport was in great favour in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

We had a distinguished member of the Exercise to our tower at St. John's, Newcastle, in March of 1892, in the person of Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., of Loughborough (and of pleasant memory), and took him to Morpeth Watch Tower on Tuesday, the 12th, after he had conducted us through a good peal of Stedman Triples at St. John's on the previous night, calling Heywood's No. 1, which we found a treat after plodding on with Brooks' Variation for a long time. This was the second peal of Stedman by the Durham and Newcastle Association.

At Morpeth we tapped off the first peal on the bells, 5,088 Kent Major, a favourite three-part by Tom Lockwood, in 3 hours and 3 minutes: C. L. Routledge 1, Francis Lees 2, W. Holmes 3, J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor) 4, R. S. Story 5, A. F. Hillier 6, W. Story 7, F. J. Harrison tenor. At the time this was the most northerly peal rung in England. Since then we have rung peals at Rothbury, Aytnick, Embleton and Berwick-on-Tweed.

The latter peal of bells, tenor 21 cwt. in F, is hung in a tower dominating the Town Hall itself, and is the property of the Mayor and Corporation. They were installed there in 1852. This town, though on the northern border of the River Tweed, is part of England and an English borough. The bells were rehung and retuned by Carrs, of Birmingham (Smethwick), in 1894, and a band representative of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association went through on Monday, August 5th, 1894, and reopened them with a well-struck 5,040 Stedman Triples, Thurstans' Four-part, in 3 hours and 1 minute: W. Holmes (conductor) 1, Thomas Hudson, sen. 2, R. S. Story 3, F. Lees 4, C. L. Routledge 5, A. F. Hillier 6, F. J. Harrison 7, John Burrey tenor. The latter was employed by Carrs' firm and had done the rehanging of the bells. He was a well-known ringer in Birmingham for many years.

MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one who has always been interested in music of various kinds, vocal and instrumental, I thought I would send to you a few musical memories, chiefly handbell ringing, but also tower bell ringing.

Thirty years or so ago we had a good band of tower ringers at Moorside, and the methods rung were Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. The bells are in the key of E, tenor 18½ cwt. I always enjoyed hearing good ringing. There are a set of handbells, seventy in number, in our school, with which, many years ago, as a band of eight ringers, we spent many happy hours. I will tell you what pieces we had in the following manner.

A meeting was arranged, so the 'Men of Harlech' tramped 'Over the hills and far away,' passing the residence of 'The Maid of Llan-gollen' singing 'Land of my Fathers' as they wended their way through 'The Ash Grove.' On arrival 'In my Cottage,' 'The Harmonious Blacksmith' recited 'The Legend of the Bells,' and also sang 'Drink to me only.' After a rest the company enjoyed change ringing, a few plain courses, also tune ringing. The 'Old Folks at Home' greatly enjoyed 'The Blue Bells of Scotland' blooming in 'Home Sweet Home' for 'Auld Lang Syne.' We also had Mozart's 'Gloria' from 12th Mass, a selection from Weber's 'Der Freischütz' and Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

I have written this just to contribute something of interest to your readers. A few of us have met at Mr. Ivan Kay's home many times to ring a few plain courses. 'Tis a pleasant pastime. There is a good peal of eight at Leesfield Church, near Oldham, also a nice minor ring at East Crompton. Best wishes for your paper, also for the art of change ringing.

JOHN OGDEN.

18, Turf-pit Lane, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 60.)

JOHN REEVES AND GEORGE GROSS.

Except for the peals he rang and the compositions he worked out, we know practically nothing about John Reeves—what sort of a man he was—what were his profession and his station in life—whether he was an educated man, or whether, like John Holt, he was self taught. No tales are told of him and no traditions have come down to us. That he was a brilliant composer, far in advance of any of his contemporaries, his compositions show. In that respect he stands among the greatest ringers of all time. Stedman in the seventeenth century, Holt and Reeves in the eighteenth—these names stand alone until Thurstans and Day and Johnson appeared in the nineteenth.

Reeves had a long and distinguished career as a peal ringer, but it is significant that through he was associated with several brilliant bands, his connection with none lasted more than a few years, and usually ended with a quarrel. He was born about 1740, and probably lived at Whitechapel, where he rang his first peal (Oxford Treble Bob Major on April 3rd, 1761) and where forty years later he rang his last.

George Gross was about the same age as his rival. He was a weaver by trade and lived at, or near, Shoreditch. The records give him as the composer of many peals, and in a note to his last five-thousand it is said that he surpassed all his contemporaries as a composer of Treble Bob. Unfortunately, nearly all his compositions are lost, and we have no opportunity of judging his qualifications. It seems clear that he laid claim to peals which Reeves considered were his, and this no doubt was one of the principal causes of the ill feeling between the two. In 1783 a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Bishopsgate, 'being the first ever called with 100 bobs and 2 singles, composed and called by George Gross.' It does not take much imagination to see that it was Holt's Ten-part with two plain-lead singles instead of two bob-lead singles. The 'Clavis' (of which Reeves was part author) says that 'if any person will produce a peal of Grandsire Triples with two singles, and will say he did not borrow his plan from Mr. Holt, he is a braggart and an impostor, and will be branded as such by every judicious professor of the art.' The authors, no doubt, were genuinely trying to do justice to Holt, but it is pretty certain Reeves had Gross' peal in mind.

John Jennett, who had called the long peal of Bob Maximus at Southwark, joined the Cumberlands in 1760, James Titchbourne, Thomas Bennett and Christopher Wells in 1763. Charles Purser's and Joshua Brotherton's names appear for the first time in the same year, and John Povey's in the following year. All these men had ambitions as conductors, and there was not nearly enough room for them in the company.

Bennett quickly went back to the College Youths. Titchbourne was Warner in 1764, but in the same year he returned to the London Youths and took Brotherton with him. Samuel Wood was still calling most of the peals, but in 1764 Reeves called 5,040 changes of Bob Major, 'in three parts with 66 bobs only,' his first as conductor and probably his own composition. Samuel Wood did not take part.

George Gross' first peal was one of Bob Major at Rom-

ford in 1764, and during the following twenty years the society rang only seven peals in which he did not stand, not counting those rung by provincial members. He called his first peal, one of Bob Major, in 1768, and after 1770 he conducted nearly all those in which he rang.

The presence of so many brilliant and ambitious ringers was not altogether a source of strength to the Cumberlands. There were many rivalries, and members were continually joining and leaving the company. Between April, 1764, and October, 1766, only one peal was rung, and, as it happened, in 1765 Shoreditch bells were increased by the addition of two trebles cast by Lester and Pack. The College Youths rang the first peal on the ten, 5,112 Grandsire Caters on September 29th, and followed it on December 8th by 5,202 Double Grandsire Caters, both peals conducted by William Underwood. The London Youths rang 5,435 Grandsire Caters on June 29th, 1766, and it was not until the following October that Samuel Wood called the Cumberlands' first peal on the ten. A year later Wood called 5,312 changes of London Court Bob Major at Whitechapel, the only peal rung by the society in the method.

Ever since Annable had conducted the first peal of Double Bob Major at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West in 1727, the method had been one of the most popular in London, and many peals of it were rung on eight, ten, and twelve bells, though it does not appear to have been much practised outside the Metropolis. Barham's band rang two ten-thousands and one or two five-thousands, but the only record of any other early provincial peal is one in 1761 at Alburgh in Norfolk by a mixed band.

After about 1780 the method dropped into general disuse, and, except for an occasional peal in recent times, has not been practised since. We rather wonder why; for it is a method with many good features, as musical as Plain Bob and without the long lengths of plain hunting which some men think monotonous. Probably the reason is that the old ringers found it more difficult and less interesting than Treble Bob, which gradually became almost the only even-bell method practised in London.

Until about 1769 the bobs in Double Bob were made when the treble is leading as in Plain Bob, but then the variation called 'real double' was introduced in which the bobs are made both when the treble is leading and lying. On January 29th, 1769, at Whitechapel, the Cumberlands rang the first peal, George Gross calling what he claimed was his own composition, but what was the obvious adaptation of Annable's Bob Major. The bobs were made alternately, one when the treble was at the front and one when it was behind.

The society gave its own name to the variation and booked the peal as Cumberland real double eight-in, but the Exercise would not accept the title.

The College Youths had rung a peal of Double Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch in 1765, and in 1770 the Cumberlands rang there 5,040 Grandsire Caters new double, conducted by Samuel Wood. What it was is not clear, but probably it had bobs behind as well as in front. Later on in the year George Gross composed a peal of real double Grandsire Caters with the bobs alternately before and behind, and conducted it at St. Magnus the Martyr's. Six years later he composed a similar peal of Cinques and called it at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The peals were booked as Cumberland Caters and Cinques.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, president of the Norwich Diocesan Association, was instituted and inducted to the parish of Mulbarton on February 3rd by the Bishop of Norwich. Handbells were rung before and after the service by F. Wacey, H. Nicholls, F. W. Middleton and F. C. Goodman.

Lieut. G. A. Bell, who has been for two and a half years in the Army, is the second member of the Prestwick band to be granted a commission. Another member, Sapper B. J. L. Whittaker, has been acting as organist at Gibraltar Cathedral.

As will be seen from our peal column, Birmingham men rang a peal of Stedman Cinques for the Ancient Society of College Youths on January 30th. In accordance with the rule, this needed an umpire, and the services of Mr. George Swann were secured, but unfortunately at the last moment he had an attack of influenza and could not leave his bed. Mr. Nicholls, of Stourbridge, who came to hear the peal, took his place and proved a thoroughly competent umpire. The Birmingham band are fortunate in being able to get such men to serve.

We have received a letter from Mr. C. K. Lewis. He sends best wishes to all ringing friends, and relates some of his experiences on the journey to the East. Like many other soldier ringers he had a break in South Africa and managed to get some handbell ringing with Mr. D. H. Parham and Mr. Manicom. They rang 360 Bob Minor. Mr. Parham is one of Mr. J. E. Spice's pupils and he has taught Mr. Manicom something about change ringing since he has been abroad. Unfortunately, they have no opportunities for practice.

The ring of eight at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was opened on February 7th, 1783, when each of the three leading companies rang a peal. The board which once recorded them has long since disappeared.

John Reeves called his well-known variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples for the first time at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, on February 7th, 1801.

On the same date in 1925 the College Youths rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Paul's.

John Carter called the first peal of Forward Major at St. John's, Deritend, Birmingham, on February 8th, 1889.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major in London was rung at Bethnal Green by the St. James' Society on February 9th, 1850. In the previous year on February 10th the Woolwich men had rung a peal. Five members of the Banister family took part.

The first peal of Yoxford Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on February 9th, 1934, and the first peal of Bedford Surprise at Bushey on February 9th, 1939.

Barham's band rang 6,720 changes of Morning Pleasure, at Leeds, on February 10th, 1757. We much doubt if the peal was true.

Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of St. Lawrence Little Bob Major at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on February 10th, 1920.

A peal in one of the extensions of London Surprise to ten bells was rung at St. Peter's, Brighton, on February 11th, 1926.

Mr. W. H. Hewitt called the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Croydon on February 11th, 1939, and on the same day Mr. Harold Cashmore called the first peal of Northchurch Surprise Major at Northchurch in Hertfordshire.

William Wakley was born on February 12th, 1853, and on the same date in 1921, the Oldham men rang 14,016 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters was rung by the Birmingham men at Aston on February 13th, 1848.

A NOTABLE SIX-BELL PERFORMANCE.

'On Shrove Tuesday, February 7th, 1826, the Society of Change Ringers of Bingley met in the tower of the parish church, and rang during the day in three touches of 12 twelve-scores each, without a single break down or a false change, the extraordinary number of 36 twelve-scores, making a total of 8,640 changes in the following methods:—

Oxford	Morning Exercise	Royal Bob
Violet	Cambridge	Worcester
New London Pleasure	Morning Star	Chichester
Duke of York	Evening Star	Durham
Kent	Coventry	York
College Pleasure	Ely	Bristol
College Treble Bob	Rochester	Lichfield
City Delight	Treble Bob Reverse	London
Tulip	Morning Pleasure	Wells
Primrose	Symphony	College Exercise
Oxford Reverse	Cheapside	Evening Exercise
London Scholars' P.	College Delight	London Delight

The Ringers were stationed as follows:—

John Briggs ... 1	Hezekiah Briggs ... 3	Henry Dickinson ... 5
David Bailey ... 2	James Lilley ... 4	Isaac Rhodes ... 6

Weight of tenor 11 cwt. 3 qrs.

These twelve-scores were conducted by H. Briggs and I. Rhodes. The total time occupied in ringing was 5 hours and 11 minutes. All the ringers were resident members of the Bingley Society.—From the 1879-1880 Report of the Yorkshire Association.

PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS

MR. BORRETT REPLIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank Mr. Rogers for his notice and criticism of my letter. But may I point out the heading was the same as to this letter, and with this title peals on all numbers had to be included.

In the case of Mancroft there were special reasons for peals on the lighter rings, one of which was at the time no ring of eight was available or pealable in the city. I hold that a good eight-bell ringer soon makes a good one on twelve, and consider those peals were justified.

My idea, however, was not merely a local one. Nearly fifty years ago, Mr. Editor, I remember you remarking, 'Rings of twelve are white elephants.' It stuck in my mind and I have often recalled it, for if you take a general look round the 12-bell towers in the provinces you will find their peal performances lamentably small. Birmingham and Ipswich are, of course, brilliant exceptions, and prove the weakness of the others. What have great centres such as Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield contributed to 12-bell peals? Very little indeed. And in recent years the number of rings increased to twelve have been as flies in summer—Canterbury, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Christchurch, Safron Walden, St. Albans, Taunton, Tewkesbury, Trowbridge, etc. What likelihood is there of 12-bell peals at these, except by visiting companies or largely made up of visitors?

Alas! local peals on 12 bells are, and always have been, rare indeed amongst the towers we have in mind. I even wonder at how many of them is the full peal used at practices.

Of the 32 peals on Mancroft 12—over 168 years—not half were rung by a local company—even with a generous application of 'local' too!

But I still hope other correspondents will carry out my original idea of lists from other towers. We shall then have information at our disposal—at present only a negligible amount—and it would give us something to think about. I know well enough that the building up, and the keeping together, of a 12-bell company in the provinces is no easy job, but now, with so many towers available in the country, I fear they are not put to their best and fullest use.

Naturally, I am writing of normal, and not these abnormal, times.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL.

Dear Sir,—Following the lead of Mr. C. E. Borrett, the following complete list of all peals rung in the magnificent tower of the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, may be of some interest to ringers.

A ring of eight, tenor 36 cwt., was installed somewhere about the end of the 18th century, and four peals, all of Grandsire Triples, were rung on them in 1808, 1809, 1842 and 1848.

In 1892, a ring of ten were installed, tenor 37½ cwt. in D flat. The most interesting performances on them were a peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1894) and Double Norwich Major (1898), in which F. J. Harrison turned in the tenor. R. Richards turned in the tenor to Forward Major in 1913. One false peal of Stedman Caters was rung in 1901. The bells were increased to twelve in 1914 and an extra bell added later in the same year to make a middle eight, the 'Dixon Eight.'

The first peal of Spliced Caters ever rung, Stedman and Erin, was rung in 1925, conducted by W. H. Barber, who, incidentally, has conducted 50 of the total number of 81 peals rung since the ten were installed. These peals include the first ever of Little Bob Maximus and a great variety of compositions in Stedman, such as the first peal of Stedman Cinques with short courses only. The full list is as follows:—

Maximus.—Cambridge Surprise 1, Kent Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob (Granta) 1, Little Bob 1=4.

Cinques.—Stedman 20, Erin 1=21.

Royal.—Kent Treble Bob 6, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Little Bob 1, Plain Bob 1=9.

Caters.—Stedman 29, Grandsire 3, Spliced Stedman and Erin 1=33.

Major.—Superlative Surprise 1, Double Norwich 1, Forward 1=3.

Triangles.—Stedman 5=5.

On the 'Dixon Eight':—

Major.—Cambridge Surprise 1, Double Norwich 2=3.

Triangles.—Stedman 3=3.

On old eight:—

Triangles.—Grandsire 4=4.

Grand total 85.

ERNEST WALLACE.

88, Grainger Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.

A BAD FAULT.—It is undoubtedly a fact that many beginners are pushed on too rapidly, attempting rounds before they can ring round properly.—Jasper Snowdon.

THE ONE GREAT AIM.—The one great aim of every beginner should be to become an accurate striker.—Jasper Snowdon.

GOOD LEADING.—Good even ringing depends much upon the accuracy of the time sustained by the bell at the lead.—Henry Hubbard.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOOLWICH.

The Lewisham District of the Kent County Association held its first meeting of the year at Woolwich on Saturday, January 30th, and 17 members attended from Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Lee and Woolwich.

Handbell ringing in the Rectory room was followed by a short service, conducted, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector, by the curate, the Rev. P. Ashe, who gave a short, informal, topical, instructive and very original address.

At the conclusion of the service the curate had to leave, but before departing he extended a warm welcome to the members and regretted that health reasons prevented the Rector (the Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley) from attending.

Tea followed, prepared, on behalf of an anonymous host, by Mrs. Aldridge and her friends.

Mr. E. A. Barnett took the chair at the ensuing business meeting. Mr. R. Wake, of Woolwich, was elected a member of the association. The district secretary suggested that it might be useful to combine with the Tonbridge District to hold the spring meeting somewhere in the area where the two districts are contiguous. This was agreed to, the secretary being entrusted with the charge of making the necessary arrangements.

Mr. E. Barnett gave the meeting a brief resumé of the history of the District, which he had drawn up upon realising that the last meeting had marked the jubilee of its organisation. The paper was received enthusiastically, and Mr. Barnett agreed to submit it to 'The Ringing World' for publication.

News was exchanged of members serving with His Majesty's Forces and of Mr. G. V. Murphy, now, unfortunately, a prisoner of war.

Mr. R. A. Jenkins moved that the meeting consider possible means to ensure the rehabilitation of ringing in the District as soon as possible after the lifting of the ban. There was a lengthy discussion, but no new suggestions were forthcoming, and it was agreed to circulate the bands in union to see what support was likely to be afforded the obvious schemes of mutual co-operation between neighbouring towers.

Questions were asked about the future of the bells at Quex Park, Birchington, and the secretary agreed to get what information he could through the general secretary and the Canterbury District in time for the attention of the next meeting.

Cordial votes of thanks to the Rector and curate of Woolwich; to Mrs. Aldridge and the generous host; to the local secretary and to the chairman concluded the business.

Further handbell ringing followed before the members dispersed at the conclusion of (by common consent) a very pleasant meeting.

THE LATE MR. EDWIN BREEZE.

Mr. Edwin Breeze, whose death we announced recently, was one of the oldest and at one time one of the most active members of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

Although 76 years of age, his health was apparently all right until three weeks ago, when he was compelled to remain indoors and eventually to take to his bed. He had a seizure from which, owing to the state of his heart, he never recovered and passed away on January 20th.

Mr. Breeze was born at Battlefield, a small village near Shrewsbury, and learnt to ring at Shrewsbury. Fifty years ago he went to Bebington and was associated with the church as a ringer and chorister. About the year 1904 eight bells were installed in the tower of Port Sunlight, and Mr. Breeze was appointed towerkeeper. He carried out the duties there with zeal and efficiency.

He was made a member of the Lancashire Association in 1898, and up to the end he was a loyal supporter of the Liverpool Branch meetings and up to the ban a constant attendee at the weekly practices at St. Nicholas'.

He kept no record of his peals, but there were one or two he was very proud of—a peal of Minor in seven Surprise methods at Eastham when he was upwards of 70 years of age, his first peal of Stedman Triples at St. Mary's, Handbridge, Chester, on January 6th, 1900, and the first peal of Double Norwich by the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association on February 26th, 1906.

The passing of Edwin Breeze is a great loss to the Exercise on Merseyside. He was full of energy and enthusiasm and his place will not easily be filled.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WANSTEAD.

The annual district meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Wanstead on January 30th, and was attended by 32 members from Hornchurch, Leytonstone, Woodford, Collier Row, Brentwood, West Ham, Dagenham, Romford and Wanstead. A most excellent service was conducted by the Rev. C. K. Waller, who said how pleased he was to welcome all present, especially some of his old friends from Hornchurch.

Tea followed, and the business meeting was presided over by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, who stated how pleased he was to see so many at the meeting, especially Mr. R. Heazel, who had managed to come after a very long illness. The secretary read a report on the previous year's work, and the yearly account, both of which were accepted. Two honorary members had been elected during the year, as well as the Rev. — Rooke, of South Weald, who was elected during the afternoon. The secretary thanked all those who had helped to make the meetings successful.

Mr. Joyce then took the chair, and Mr. J. Chalk and Mrs. J. H. Crampion were re-elected as Master and secretary respectively for the ensuing year. Mr. A. Prior and Mr. Dawson were re-elected as committee members. The secretary reported the death of Mr. Hull, of Walthamstow, who passed away last September, and all present were asked to stand in silence for a few seconds.

It was proposed by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. Petty that the next meeting be held at South Weald about the middle of April.

Mr. Butler stated that when Mr. Dawson and he attended the funeral of the late Mr. Nevard, he was surprised that no mention was made of all the work Mr. Nevard had done towards procuring the bells at Great Bentley, and it was proposed and seconded that a notice be put on the agenda to this effect.

During the afternoon a few touches were rung on the handbells, in particular a touch of Bob Minor by Messrs. J. Bullock, T. H. Bullock (15 years) and L. W. Bullock (13 years), which was a credit to them and their father. They also entertained the company by ringing tunes on the handbells, which was much enjoyed, and a great feat by such very keen and enthusiastic youngsters.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. C. K. Waller for conducting the service and to Mr. Crellin, the organist. Mr. Joyce expressed a vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the meeting a very successful one.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT IRLINGBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irthingborough on Jan. 23rd. Towers represented were Wellingborough, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Earls Barton, Great Doddington, Wollaston, Warkton and the local band. The Guild service was conducted in St. Peter's Church during the afternoon by the Rector (the Rev. R. S. Sleight), who also gave an interesting address. The organist was Miss Lamb.

The Rev. R. S. Sleight paid tribute to the way the bells and ringers were found ready for the recent temporary lifting of the ban, and the thrill that the sound of Irthingborough bells gave to him on first hearing them. Tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall by the local ringers' wives, 23 people being present, including Mr. and Mrs. Sleight.

In the absence of the branch president (the Rev. J. H. Marlow), the Rector very kindly presided at the subsequent business.

After mentioning the names of three members (Messrs. T. R. Hensher, G. W. Brafield and C. W. Clark) who had died during the year, also the sad news that Mr. Donald Cockings was reported missing at sea, the members stood a moment in silent tribute.

The officers were all re-elected, and the auditor (Mr. E. W. Johnson) was warmly thanked for his many years of good service. Two new honorary members (the Rev. R. S. Sleight and the Rev. W. R. Flex) were elected. Miss M. Frost (Great Doddington) was elected a ringing member.

The Chairman congratulated the branch on the splendid way in which it was carrying on in difficult times. Mr. F. Barber also urged the older members to do all in their power to keep things going and to encourage the younger members. He also commended the practice, where possible, of Church Councils paying the subscriptions of their ringers to the Guild.

On the proposition of Mr. J. R. Main, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to all the Irthingborough people who had contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment.

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THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 54.)

Some time ago the question was being debated: How far is it possible to obtain a peal of Stedman Triples with only two singles and in two exactly similar parts? Let us see what would be the conditions necessary for such a peal on the twin-bob plan.

The 5,040 rows would first have to be set down in two round blocks, each consisting of thirty courses and each produced by 120 bobs. One of the round blocks would have to be the reverse of the other, much in the same way that the second half of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples is the reverse of the first half.

We are doubtful if this could be done, but we will assume we have done it. We have now to join the two blocks together by singles. One of the blocks must be reversed, which will make the two alike in calling, but one with the even rows at backstroke and the other with the even rows at handstroke. The singles must be added at the same point in each block. But since the observation bell must make the singles, that is an impossibility, and therefore a peal of Stedman Triples in two exactly similar parts, and only two singles is definitely not possible on the twin-bob plan.

The nearest that can be had is probably Thurstan's Four-part. There the two halves are alike, except that the 'extras' in the first half (that is, a bobbed Q Set) are balanced by the 'omits' in the second half (that is, a plained Q Set). And since the observation bell has to make the singles, the position of those calls is not the same in the two halves.

The use of singles in peals on the odd-and-even plan is not unlike that in peals on the twin-bob plan; but since our knowledge of the plan is limited, we do not propose to say anything about it. We come to peals based on B Blocks.

The first men to attempt to compose a peal of Stedman Triples—Annable and Melchior and Crane, of Norwich—thought that the job had to be tackled much in the same manner as an extent in any other method. They had no idea of the peculiar difficulties in the way, and of course they failed, and failed so badly that they did not even know they had failed.

John Reeves was the first to gain any real insight into the problem. He got as far as realising what he had to contend with, and that was a great advance. He did not succeed, mainly because he was hampered by conditions which the best men of his time held were essential to the method. The most important of these was that bobs should never be made at two consecutive Sixes. Working on these lines, he produced a quarter-peal and cautiously observed that the 1,260 came very near to the extent of the method with single bobs only, 'that is to say, by having two bells dodge behind not more than five whole pulls.'

The investigations, however, had shown him another plan on which it might be possible to compose a peal, if only it was admissible. 'The only method that seems to carry the least appearance of possibility is by using a multiplicity of bobs, and thereby keeping two bells continually dodging behind, which must produce music extremely disagreeable and tedious to every judicious ear.'

Experience has compelled the Exercise to acknowledge that Reeves was right. Any hopes of a peal with single

bobs throughout had to be abandoned, and when the method came to be really understood some sixty years ago, all the leading composers set their faces against a multiplicity of bobs. Four-bob sets had to be admitted—they could not be avoided—but six-bob sets (and, of course, anything more) were looked on as blots, the presence of only a few of which was sufficient to condemn a peal.

Meanwhile, however, multi-bob peals had been composed and rung and proved very useful as stepping stones to better things.

The plans on which these multi-bob peals are constructed are very interesting to an expert composer. They have been explained at length by Earle Bulwer and Arthur Heywood, whose writings will be found in the 'Investigations' given in C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman.' We need not go into them now, but we must deal with the class of composition to which most of them are ultimately related. We mean the peals formed of B Blocks.

In any method a B Block is a block produced by making bobs at every lead-end (or, in Stedman, at every Six-end). In some cases the B Block is just as good a basis for a peal as the P Block (which is produced by plain lead-ends). It is so in Grandsire Triples; in fact, peals based on B Blocks are almost universal in that method. It is so in Grandsire Caters. In Major methods the B Block is not so useful, but short-course peals of Bob Major are now and then rung and have their uses.

In Stedman Triples the B Block would be most valuable if it were not for the fact that the consecutive bobs keep two bells dodging behind throughout. That is a defect which nothing can palliate, and it would be a bad thing if ever it was looked on as other than a defect; but it is a defect which belongs to practical ringing. If the composition of peals were no more than the solution of mathematical problems, then peals of Stedman Triples based on B Blocks would be entitled to rank with those based on any other plan. That is why it is worth our while now to consider them.

When we are composing with B Blocks the bob is really a part of the method, and the links by which courses and blocks are joined together are omits. The use of these omits is subject to the same laws and conditions as is the use of bobs when we are composing with P Blocks.

If we ring Stedman Triples and call continuous bobs until the bells come round (so producing a B Block), what we do in effect is to ring Stedman Doubles with 6-7 dodging behind. This has led people to say that multi-bob peals are no more genuine Stedman Triples than Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 or 7-6-8 covering, is Grandsire Triples. To a very great extent this is true, but for the purposes of producing a true peal it is a great advantage.

For a course of Stedman Doubles is not only true in itself but contains the full extent of the rows of like nature, and therefore in the B Blocks of Triples we have that most desirable thing not otherwise attainable, the whole extent of the 5,040 rows set down in a number of independent and mutually exclusive round blocks which only need to be joined together to give us a true peal.

The existence of such a set of mutually exclusive blocks is what makes the extent of a method like Bob Major, or Grandsire Triples, possible, and when once we have got a set for Stedman Triples the composition of a peal does not in essentials differ very much from that

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Copies of the 12 photographs to be added to the restored Tercentenary Record Book are available, price 2s. each, mounted 2s. 6d., matt or glossy.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—The next meeting will be at Middleton on Saturday, February 13th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. Reports to hand. All welcome.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea will be provided. There may be food. Will be grateful to any who bring a sandwich.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Feb. 13th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service at 4.45. Tea, at the Duke's Head, 5.30. Handbells and 8 silent tower bells available during afternoon and evening.—A. H. Smith, Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at Daybrook, on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at 3 p.m. Election of officers for the year. Handbells available. Please make own arrangements for tea. — F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than February 17th. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A joint meeting with the Biggleswade District of the Bedford Association will be held at Henlow on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 5 p.m.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20th, at Attleborough. Bells (silent), 2. Service 4. Tea and business meeting in Church Hall 4.40. Please let me know numbers for tea by Monday, February 15th. Trains leave Norwich 2.5 and 2.25; leave Attleborough 5.47 and 6.32.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring your own eatables; cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Handbells: Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea, Warburton's Cafe, 5 p.m. Business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. W. Green, 9, Moor Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, not later than Feb. 18th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Chew and Axbridge Deaneries.—A combined meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Bells, with silent apparatus, from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—P. Yeo, Long Ashton, Bristol, E. J. Avery, Sandford, Bristol, Hon. Local Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., names for which should be received by me by the previous Tuesday. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

By Auction, on February 18th next, A SET OF 29 HANDBELLS by Taylor, Loughborough.—Apply G. B. Avant & Son, Auctioneers, Dawlish, Devon.

THE USE OF SINGLES—Continued from previous page. in these methods. There are, however, one or two special things to be noted.

NOTE.—We wonder whether any of our readers noticed a slip we made in our last article. We said that if we prick a full natural course from 564312 we shall find that it contains the same rows as the plain course, and in the same order, but backwards. We should have written, 'the course 123456' instead of 'the plain course'; for, as everyone knows, the plain course is 231456.

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that we are no longer permitted to make
SILVER BELL INKSTANDS, and our
reserve stock has now gone.

When normal times return we hope we
shall renew the pleasure of supplying
our numerous bellringing clients.

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29, CHERTSEY ROAD, WOKING

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE BAN ON RINGING.

Since the temporary lifting at Christmas time of the ban on the use of church bells, the demands in Parliament and the Press for its total abolition have abated, but that does not mean any lessening of the feeling that it is useless and quite unnecessary. Many people are inclined to look on it as a bureaucratic infringement of rights and liberties, and resent it accordingly.

This feeling finds expression in a letter by the Rev. Stewart B. Preston which recently appeared in 'The South Wales Argus,' and which we reproduce on another page. Mr. Preston calls attention to the fact (which we ourselves had already noted) that no general provisions have been made to ensure that the bells could be used as a warning, and no general tests have been made to see if the warning would be effective. The obvious conclusion is that the authorities do not now attach any importance to the use of the bells as warnings and therefore the reason for the order has passed away.

So far we quite agree with the Vicar of Worsborough Dale, but there is much in his letter to which neither we nor, we believe, ringers in general will assent. The order may have been inadvisable, it may be useless, it may be an infringement of rights. But it certainly is not illegal. No doubt the Prayer Book orders that a bell should be tolled before divine service, and as the Prayer Book is a schedule to an Act of Parliament, that is statute law. But Parliament which has made a law can also amend or suspend a law, and that is what has been done in this instance, for the order issued by the responsible Ministry has the full authority of Parliament. Anything like an attempt by the clergy to set the order at defiance, as is recommended by Mr. Preston, would be distinctly wrong, and not only wrong, but eminently foolish. It would have short shrift from those men (not the Government) who have to administer justice, and it would bring the clergy and the Church into direct conflict with the general public. But there is little fear of such happening. For one thing we do not believe ringers would lend their aid.

Nor do we believe the order was the work of some stupid panic-stricken official who lost his head, and is now too pig-headed to acknowledge he made a mistake. It was issued at a time of dire peril, when anything and everything which could or might help had to be done, when there was no time to wait for tests of efficiency. The emergency passed and it is hardly likely that any enemy invasion of this country will be attempted. The reason for the ban has largely ceased to exist, and we

(Continued from page 78.)

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imagine that the authorities no longer attach any value to the use of bells as warning.

Why, then, it may be asked, is the ban not removed? The answer, we are convinced, is not because it is feared that the ringing of bells would cause a panic, but because it might lead careless and unthinking people to imagine unconsciously that there is less need now for effort, and chiefly, perhaps, because the Prime Minister attaches great value to the use of the bells at the time of victory. It is not without significance that in most of his important speeches Mr. Churchill has referred to church bells and always in the same spirit. Last week in the House of Commons, when he was asking the members to have confidence in Generals Eisenhower and Alexander, he said, 'Let them alone and give them a chance and it is quite possible that one fine day the bells will ring again.'

If church bells are to be the supreme expression of the feelings of the people of England in the hour of victory it is essential that they should remain silent at other times. Whether that is too high a price to pay we do not venture to decide, but we do think that it is the real reason for the continuance of the ban and the only one which has any sort of justification. We may be allowed to ring on Easter Sunday, but we shall not be surprised if the general restriction remains until the end of the war sweeps the order and all its fellows into the limbo of old, unhappy far-off things and battles long ago.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, February 7, 1 43, in Two Hours,

AT 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 15.

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

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

First peal of Minor 'in hand' by all.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 14, 1943 in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 21A, STOVARD ROAD, PALMER'S GREEN, N.13.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	...	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER	...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	...	3-4	FREDERICK G. SYMONS	...	7-8
			WALTER J. BOWDEN	...	9-10

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Fifty years ago yesterday the first peal of Surprise in the City of Birmingham was rung at St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral by the Worcester and Districts Association. The method was Superlative and the band stood as follows: John Barber treble, William Short 2, George Salter 3, Albert E. Parsons 4, Thomas J. Salter 5, Thomas R. Bennett 6, John Crane 7, R. E. Grove tenor. Composed by C. H. Hattersley and conducted by R. E. Grove.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, February 14th, at No. 49, Windsor Avenue, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 40 minutes: George Kilby 1-2, Frederick W. Goodfellow 3-4, Frederick G. Baldwin 5-6, Thomas G. Bannister (conductor) 7-8. First quarter-peal on handbells by ringer of 5-6. First quarter-peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Bowerman (nee Guttridge), of Iver Heath, Bucks.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

THE LOCAL BANDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reply of Mr. Borrett to my comments on his letter seeking the list of all peals rung in 12-bell towers has, to my mind, justified my point in trying to ascertain the 12-bell performances in these towers, rather than the total rung on all numbers. In his original letter he points out that we as ringers hold a reverence for 12-bell towers and I certainly agree, but surely Mr. Borrett would also claim that this reverence is more likely to be given in listening to well-struck Stedman Cinques rather than, say, a good touch of Double Norwich on the middle eight, which may be heard from many of our eight-bell towers.

With the exception of Birmingham and Ipswich, he goes on to lament the contribution given by many of the provincial centres to 12-bell ringing, and on this reckoning, when these towers publish their lists of peals rung, there will certainly be another large percentage of ten and eight-bell peals among them. This point is also answered this week by the interesting list of peals from Newcastle Cathedral. Out of 85 peals rung in this tower only 25 are on the twelve bells. The reasons for this, I appreciate, may be similar to those given for Mancroft, but my point is that we as ringers recognise these towers as 12-bell towers and look to them, in normal times of course, to practise and promote the art of 12-bell ringing and, as a rule, only to resort to ten or eight-bell peals when, for instance, they meet short for twelve.

Mr. Borrett raises another interesting point when he asks, 'What likelihood is there of 12-bell peals at these (naming several 12-bell towers), except by visiting companies or largely made up of visitors?' Well, in a good many of these towers and many of our cathedrals where the number of rings have been increased to twelve 'as flies in summer', as Mr. Borrett puts it, the augmentations have been carried out by our guilds and associations as memorials and thankofferings to their members who have died or fallen in action, and no doubt after the end of this war many similar schemes will be carried out, but often enough these towers have not the good fortune, at the time, to be equipped with a local 12-bell company. Surely it is not to be encouraged that a strong mixed company should be denied the opportunity of ringing 12-bell peals in such towers, possibly with the inclusion of many of the local company.

In mentioning this I should like, on the other hand, to instance the example of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, possessing a brilliant local company which has achieved perhaps the highest yet in 12-bell ringing and could content themselves, if they wished, with entirely local peals. But the visitor has a warm spot in the Ipswich heart and many of us have got to thank them for the opportunity given to ring our first peal in a method that would be denied us if all our 12-bell towers were to close their peal ringing doors to visitors.

Fortunately similar treatment is afforded us visitors by many of our famous 12-bell towers, and for this blessing alone the practice of encouraging 12-bell peals inclusive of visitors is to be welcomed and not looked upon as a weakness of the local band not to be able to do it 'off their own bat.'

Mr. Borrett hopes that by publishing the complete list of peals rung on all numbers in 12-bell towers we shall have information at our disposal that would give us something to think about. Well, if these statistics help to infuse some spirit, when we return to normal, to raise the percentage of 12-bell ringing in these towers, I am all for publishing them.

In conclusion, I would suggest that to allay our friend Mr. Borrett's fear that our 12-bell towers are not put to their best and fullest use, we should still promote the opportunities to augment our depleted local companies with a good acquisition of proficient visitors rather than have to leave the local company to ring the back ten or eight which otherwise would be the case until the millennium we all look for is reached.

FREDERICK W. ROGERS.

Portsmouth.

ST. PETER'S, SHEFFIELD. A GOOD RECORD.

Dear Sir,—I think that Mr. Borrett, in his latest letter headed 'Peal performances in 12-bell towers,' is hardly fair to Sheffield. He asks the question, 'What has Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield contributed to 12-bell peals?'; by inference it would appear that they have done little or nothing. He goes on to answer the question himself by stating, 'Very little indeed'; with that statement I do not agree.

I cannot speak for either Bristol or Liverpool. Leeds, perhaps, has not done much, but there are mitigating circumstances to take into account there, as, I suppose, there are at many twelve-bell towers. Sheffield, however, has, to my mind, a record of which no twelve-bell tower need be ashamed, even if it does not come up to the standard of Birmingham and Ipswich, the two towers which Mr. Borrett specifically mentions.

On looking through the performances that have been recorded by the Yorkshire Association since its inception in 1875, I find that 69 peals on 12 bells have been rung by the association during that

period, and of those no fewer than 36 have been rung at St. Peter's, Sheffield (now the Cathedral). I hardly think that that fits in with Mr. Borrett's statement '... if you take a general look round the 12-bell towers in the provinces you will find their peal performances lamentably small'; of course, much depends on the interpretation of the term 'lamentably small,' but one would hardly compare by numbers peals on 12 as against peals on eight or even on ten bells.

An analysis of the twelve-bell peals at Sheffield will perhaps, be interesting. Although it does not include Surprise, it is, at any rate, one not to be despised: Kent T.B. Maximus 10, Bob Maximus 2, Little Bob Maximus 2, Oxford T.B. Maximus 1, Stedman Cinques 17, Grandsire Cinques 4, total 36. How many peals were rung on the bells prior to October, 1875, I cannot say. Perhaps one of our Sheffield brethren will be able to supply that information. Altogether 105 peals have been rung on the bells at Sheffield Cathedral since that tower has been affiliated to the Yorkshire Association.

WILLIAM BARTON,

Hon. Peal Sec., Yorkshire Association.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, near Leeds.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM. A FINE LIST.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in the list of peal performances at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich and Newcastle Cathedral, and enclose you a list of peals rung at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, from 1758 to 1938.

This list totals 260 peals and has been compiled by Mr. George F. Swann, St. Martin's Guild librarian, and his list gives totals of Maximus, Cinques, Royal, Caters and Triples. They comprise many historic performances and record lengths at the time rung. The 11,111 Stedman Cinques rung in 1901 is the true record length to present date.

We in Birmingham are very much indebted to Mr. Swann for his untiring work, and I trust it will be possible for you to publish with this letter the various methods rung and the summary from 1758 to 1938.

I myself have been privileged to ring 159 peals on the 12, 10 and eight bells at St. Martin's, am looking forward to the 160th as a great victory peal, and may it be soon.

ALBERT WALKER.

86, Scriber's Lane, Birmingham 28.

	S. Martin's Holt S. Martin's				Total
	Society	Society	Guild	Visitors	
Grandsire Maximus	1		1		1
Bob Maximus	1		1		2
Kent T.B. Maximus	3		6		9
Oxford T.B. Maximus	2				2
Forward Maximus			2		2
Duffield Maximus			1		1
Cambridge Maximus			4		4
Grandsire Cinques	8		2		10
Stedman Cinques	17	1	171	5	194
Kent T.B. Cinques	1				1
Bob Royal	1		1		2
Kent T.B. Royal	1		3		4
Oxford T.B. Royal	1				1
Cambridge Royal			2		2
Grandsire Caters	5		1		6
Stedman Caters	4	1	5		10
Oxford T.B. Caters	1				1
Kent T.B. Major	1				1
Double Norwich Major			1		1
Superlative Major			1		1
Cambridge Major			1		1
Stedman Triples	2		1		3
	49	2	204	5	260

The first peal on the bells was rung on November 19th, 1758, and from then till December 24th, 1888, 51 were rung.

The Guild was formed on January 1st, 1889, and 25 peals were rung up to the end of 1900, so 76 were rung in 142 years, and since then 184 have been rung in 38 years.

The Stedman Triples rung on May 18th, 1846, was, I believe, rung on the front eight. The Kent Major rung on February 25th, 1847, may also have been, but I have no information. All the rest were, to the best of my knowledge, rung on the back bells.

MR. GEOFFREY V MURPHY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just received a card from Geoffrey V. Murphy from a prisoner of war camp in Italy. It was dated in November last. He just says he is well and adds very pathetically, 'Write to me as often as you can.' I shall be very pleased to let anyone have his address if they will drop me a line.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 71.)

SOME INTERESTING PEALS.

On March 21st, 1773, George Gross called the first peal, one of Bob Major, on the new ring of eight which Thomas Janaway, of Chelsea, had put up at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and on the following September 21st the first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley.

ber, 1773, 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in the following January, and Plain Tittum Royal and Tittum Treble Bob Royal, both at Shoreditch in 1781. The latter was the first time a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal had been rung in the tittums.

In 1780 Gross called Holt's Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples. The composition has never had anything like the popularity of the Ten-part, and this seems to be the earliest recorded performance, though it is not un-



ST. SAVIOUR'S IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

Both towers were shortly to be the headquarters of a first class band. At Kensington many peals were rung during the closing years of the eighteenth century, most of them, but not all, by the College Youths. The Bromley Youths, at the same time, were one of the best of the provincial bands.

In June, 1773, the Cumberlands visited Gravesend and rang a peal of Bob Major 'by desire of William Manley, Esq.' Manley was a country gentleman, a patron of ringing, who lived at Woldham Hall, four miles south of Rochester. He joined the Cumberlands in the following year and held the office of Master. He gave the medal representing the Duke of Cumberland with the attached silver medallion about 4 x 3½ inches in size, which is still worn by the Master at the society's meetings.

Other notable peals, conducted by George Gross, included 7,001 Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch in Novem-

ber, 1773, 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in the following January, and Plain Tittum Royal and Tittum Treble Bob Royal, both at Shoreditch in 1781. The latter was the first time a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal had been rung in the tittums.

In 1777 we get one of the very rare glimpses of these ringers in their relations to their contemporaries and to the life of the world outside the Exercise. On December 21st they rang at West Ham a peal of Grandsire Caters 'in remembrance of John Wilkes, Esq.' Wilkes was one of the most notorious men of the eighteenth century. Journalist, demagogue, freethinker, libertine, Member of Parliament, outlaw, Lord Mayor of London, he played a prominent part in the political struggles of the time. A man of extraordinary contrasts, as ugly as sin, but with

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Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
pairs, or Repainting of Dials

a charm, that captivated even those, like Samuel Johnson, who thought the worst of him. A man who fought for liberty and freedom of speech, and who shared in the dissolute orgies of the 'monks' of Medmenham Abbey where 'black masses' were celebrated and vice practised for its own sake. In his struggle with the Government he gained enormous popularity with the common people and this peal is a proof of it. What he had done to be specially remembered on this occasion at West Ham I do not know, and it is not at all likely that the clergy either ordered or condoned the ringing, any more than their successors would have had the bells rung for Charles Bradlaugh in the nineteenth century, or for Horatio Bottomley in the twentieth. The churchwardens may have done so, for they represented the laity and lay opinion, but it is probable that the ringers took the matter into their own hands, knowing that they had the support of outside people behind them. But it was the men from Shoreditch who rang the peal, not the local ringers.

In January and February, 1775, Charles Purser rang five peals with the Cumberlands, one of them 5,111 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow, 'being the greatest performance' (so the peal book says) 'ever done on those bells.' Purser rang the ninth (later the eleventh) and three were needed for the tenor. He also rang the seventh to 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where he was for many years steeple keeper.

There were several ringers of the name of Purser, all probably belonging to the same family, and quite likely descendants of a man who had been sexton at Stepney in the previous century. Michael Purser rang in the first ten peals by the London Youths. In 1760 he joined the

Cumberlands and rang ten peals with them. Four years later he was back with the London Youths and took part in a couple of five-thousands. Then he returned to the Cumberlands and rang six more, the last in 1773. He probably was the brother of Charles, but there was only one peal—Grandsire Triples at Spitalfields in 1769—in which they rang together. It may have been only a coincidence that directly Michael dropped peal ringing with the Cumberlands Charles became active, and when Charles left the company Michael resumed peal ringing until Charles returned.

Charles Purser was at one time (probably later in life) the landlord of the Ben Jonson tavern in Booth Street, Spitalfields, a house, we are told, 'which was resorted to by the gentry of the parish.'

Like many another ambitious ringer, Purser wanted to call peals, and so far no band had given him the chance. Among the Cumberlands George Gross monopolised the conducting, but in 1776 the College Youths lacked a conductor and that gave Purser his opportunity. He joined them and during the next four years called nineteen peals, some of them of more than usual interest. They included a peal of Real Double Bob Major at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West (which was false in its composition), a 7,008 of Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1777, and the first peals on the new bells at Dunstable (1776), Chelmsford (1777), and St. Mary's, Walthamstow (1778). It was while Charles Purser was leader of the College Youths and George Gross was leader of the Cumberland Youths that the famous contest took place to see which could ring the longest lengths of Oxford Treble Bob on ten and twelve bells.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Two or three of our readers have called us to account for referring to Monmouthshire as a Welsh county. Mr. Edwin Barnett in particular protests against being classed as a Welshman. We apologise, but the lapse, such as it was, was due neither to ignorance nor carelessness. Technically and historically Monmouthshire is in England, but for all practical purposes it is usually included in Wales. For instance, the Church in Wales includes the parishes of Monmouthshire.

Mr. G. L. Grover, hon. secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, has been awarded a certificate for gallantry or good service by the Army Commander of South-Eastern England (Lt.-Gen. J. G. des R. Swayne). Mr. Grover is a sergeant in the 5th Surrey Battalion of the Home Guard.

Mr. George H. Cross tells us he has received a letter from Thomas H. Francis, who is serving as a staff sergeant in the Forces overseas. At the time of writing Sergt. Francis was quite happy and well.

Joseph Tebbis, of Leeds, a prominent Yorkshire ringer and composer, died on February 14th, 1936.

On February 14th, 1931, the College Youths, with Benjamin Annable as conductor, rang 7,018 Grandsire Cinqs at St. Michael's, Cornhill. Three men were needed at the tenor.

On the same date in 1920 the Painswick men rang 13,001 changes of the same method.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Yorkshire Major at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on February 14th, 1903. Yorkshire Surprise is a fairly close variation of Cambridge, but is an excellent method and is likely to increase in popularity in the future. It is undoubtedly the best Surprise method that can be had on ten and twelve bells.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three other Surprise Major methods fall on February 14th: Irchester at Irthlingborough in 1931; and Lincoln at Helmingham, and Belvedere at Staines in 1935.

The Oldham men rang 9,999 changes of Grandsire Major on February 15th, 1825. The composition turned out to be false.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Uxbridge Surprise Major at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on February 15th, 1936.

John Holt and the Union Scholars rang a peal of Court Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on February 16th, 1752.

On February 16th, 1789, 14,224 changes of Bob Major were rung at Aston.

The Painswick men rang 8,448 Stedman Cinqs on February 16th, 1858. It beat the College Youths' 7,524 at St. Giles', Cripplegate, rung in 1851, and was in turn beaten by the College Youths' 8,580 rung at Cernhill in 1861.

Mr. T. W. Last called the first peal of Clacton Surprise Major at Helmingham on February 16th, 1938.

The first known peal of Union Triples was rung at St. Lawrence Jewry by the College Youths on February 17th, 1727. The method was by Robert Baldwin, of the Union Scholars, and was the result of an attempt to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples. It evidently was suggested by John Garthorn's peal. Whether the Union Scholars ever rang it we do not know.

The first peal of Shipway's method, Place Triples, was rung by the Cumberlands at Hackney on February 17th, 1801.

London lost a fine ring of twelve bells when the steeple of Christ Church, Spitalfields, was burnt out on February 17th, 1836.

On the same date in 1856, Henry Johnson called the first and only peal of Stedman Major at Aston Parish Church.

The College Youths rang 10,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on February 18th, 1777, and the second peal of Stedman Cinqs at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on the same date in 1792.

The Trinity Youths, the society referred to by Mr. Edwin Barnett on another page, rang their first peal on February 18th, 1782.

Henry Haley was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1851.

The Oxford University Society was founded on February 20th, 1872.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would congratulate Mr. Arthur Wright on having completed his Survey of the Bells of Monmouthshire and on the publication of his book under the above title.

In order, however, that I may bring my geography up to date, I should be much obliged if you could tell me when Monmouthshire became a Welsh county, as it is described in your leader in 'The Ringing World' dated 12th inst.

A. PADDON SMITH.

Donnor. Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

DEATH OF MR. J. M. ROUTH.

We regret to announce the death on February 15th, 1943, of John Martin Routh, in his 97th year.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

A PROTEST FROM SOUTH WALES.

The following letter, protesting against the continued ban on the use of church bells, appeared recently in 'The South Wales Argus':—
 'Sir,—Is it not high time that the ridiculous superstition banning the use of church bells from their lawful purpose was brought to an end? There is some doubt if there is any legal regulation in existence which forbids them to be rung for worship. Some panic-stricken official issued the original ill-conceived idea as to the consequences involved. It is at least doubtful whether this order has proper legal authority in face of the statutory obligation laid on the clergy to ring their bells for divine worship. Nevertheless the original order has been reaffirmed on the wireless, and in the Press, and even, I believe, in Parliament. And now the clergy are afraid to ring their bells, not because there is any real reason why they should not be rung, but simply because, owing to the wireless support of the original stupid blunder, the ringing of the bells might cause panic to large numbers of ordinary people, who might imagine that the Nazis were at hand.

I believe the following facts are indisputable:—

(1) No intelligent provision has ever been made to carry out the ringing of the bells in case of emergency.

(2) No competent persons have been provided to ring them; and most of the trained ringers are no longer available.

(3) If unskilled Home Guards or others attempted to ring heavy bells (which are the only ones which could be of any use), there would undoubtedly be heavy casualties, and possibly even deaths in the belfries concerned. A heavy bell is most dangerous if tackled by an unskilled ringer.

(4) Not one person in a thousand knows what to do if the bells were to give the alarm.

(5) In the unlikely event of the emergency contemplated in the original panic order actually arising, there are several easier and more effective ways of giving the alarm, provided, of course, that proper instructions were given beforehand to all concerned. At present no instructions have been given which could be of the slightest use in an emergency. So the ringing of the bells, if the amateur ringers succeeded in getting them rung, would serve no useful purpose, even if they were heard by any considerable number of people amid the noises of the town or the distances of the country.

I, therefore, seriously suggest that all the clergy should agree to advertise their intention to ring their bells as usual from Easter onwards. No one would then be alarmed; and I should be much surprised if the authorities, who must, if they have any intelligence, have long ago regretted the issue of the order, would take any action against the ringers in ten thousand churches who obeyed the law of the land, which says that church bells must be rung before service. —Stewart B. Priston, The Vicarage, Worsborough Dale.'

A BISHOP'S OPINION.

A recent issue of the 'Chelmsford Diocesan Chronicle' contains the usual monthly letter by the Bishop of the diocese, in which he writes:—

There is a growing volume of protest against the continued prohibition of the ringing of the church bells. I always regarded it as an emergency measure of rather doubtful value. It is not everyone who can ring a bell. The whole process of discovering the approach of the invading force, wakening the custodian of the church, opening the church building and ringing the bells, would appear to be so complicated that when at last the ringer approached the church he would probably be greeted by a contingent of the enemy, who would naturally make straight for the church, since that was known to be the place from which the warning would be given. Moreover, as I discovered to my cost in my first years in Essex, it is an exceedingly difficult thing to locate the sound of a church bell, as the echoes are most confusing.

I have always felt the firing of a rocket would be a much more effective warning. However that may be, it is most desirable that the authorities should reconsider the whole question and restore a traditional feature of our national life, the loss of which has definitely contributed to the decay of churchgoing.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BETTISON.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Bettison, which took place in hospital on February 3rd.

Mr. Bettison was born at Ripley in Derbyshire, and for some years was a member of the skilful band at Bolsover under the leadership of John Flint. He had rung over 200 peals.

Mr. Bettison, who was 77 years of age, had resided at Watford, Hertfordshire, with his daughter since the death of his wife. He leaves a son and two daughters. He was of a quiet nature, beloved by all with whom he came in contact. His body was cremated at Golders Green on February 8th.

Among other diversions and recreations practised by and delighted in by the inhabitants of this land none is more diverting, ingenious, harmless and healthful than the art of ringing used and practised with discretion.—'The Clavis.'

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held on Saturday, February 13th, at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and was attended by members from several towers in the district. Welcome visitors were Messrs. R. Moseley, of Bolton, Norman Heaps, of Southport, and H. Martin and S. Moston, of Aston.

Handbells were rung before service and after the meeting. The Rector, the Rev. R. A. Reeves, conducted the service, and tea was served in the lower vestry. The Rector regretted he was not able to stay for the meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. D. P. Roberts. The curate, the Rev. Leslie Evans, was present.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. E. Breeze, and the branch secretary was requested to send a letter of condolence to the widow and family.

The meeting instructed Mr. R. W. Cave to prepare a suitable theme for discussion at a joint meeting with the university members of the Student Christian Movement on February 20th.

On the suggestion of Mr. T. S. Horridge, it was agreed to support an effort to arrange a joint meeting with the Wigan Branch.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed for St. Nicholas' on March 27th. In the meantime we may expect to see the completion of the building of the temporary chapel—in the ruins of the old church—which will allow for the accommodation of 200 people. Votes of thanks to the Rector and the ladies who prepared the tea concluded the meeting.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM WEATHERLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. William Weatherley, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, who passed away on January 28th at the age of 57.

Mr. Weatherley, who was born under the shadow of the parish church tower, learned to ring at an early age, and had been connected with the clock and bells all his life. When his brother Ernest went abroad about 22 years ago he was elected captain of the local band.

He had rung close on 100 peals, ranging from Doubles in two methods to Treble Bob Maximus, and including Double Norwich, Cambridge and New Cambridge Surprise Major.

The funeral service at St. Mary's on February 1st was conducted by the Vicar and was attended by a very representative congregation. During the service handbells were rung by Messrs. W. Saunders, F. Pryce, W. Chester and A. Harrison. The handbells were a gift from Mr. Ernest Weatherley, of Los Angeles, to Mr. W. Saunders, and were then used for the first time.

On the following Sunday, at the request of the Vicar, Mr. W. Chester tapped a course of Bob Major during both the morning and evening services.

At the annual meeting of the Shropshire Association, held at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, on February 13th, reference was made to the deaths of Mr. Weatherley and Mr. C. R. Lilley, who had done good work among the ringers of Shropshire.

DEATH OF LT. COL. G. C. ROGERS.

The death is announced of Lt. Col. G. C. Rogers, of the Royal Engineers, who has been killed in action in North Africa.

Col. Rogers was one of a number of young men, members of the congregation at St. James', Clerkenwell, who formed a band under the leadership of Mr. Arthur G. Millett, now captain of the Rickmansworth company. In 1912 they joined the Middlesex County Association. Despite the drawback of a badly going ring of bells, considerable progress was made, and five of them, including G. C. Rogers, rang a peal of Grandire Doubles on handbells single handed. In May, 1914, G. C. Rogers rang in a peal of Grandire Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, conducted by the late G. H. Daynes. This was his first tower-bell peal.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 G. C. Rogers joined the 5th City of London Regt., the same battalion as Bertram Prewett belonged to. He was wounded at Hill 60. Later on he became Staff-Sergeant at the School of Musketry. Of the ten members of the Clerkenwell band, nine joined the Forces in 1914-15, two gained commissions, others non-commissioned rank, one was killed and others wounded.

Col. Rogers, who was 48 years of age, entered the service of the Port of London Authority in 1911 as a clerk, and was stationed at Surrey Commercial Docks until 1914. After the war he served in various posts in the docks, and in 1939 he was granted a commission in the Royal Engineers. He saw service in France until the evacuation, and was among the first ashore in the North African landings.

IVER HEATH, BUCKS.—On Sunday, December 13th, at Seaford, Slough Road, a quarter-peal of Grandire Caters in 43 minutes: George Kilby 1-2, Edward G. Coward 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner (conductor) 5-6, Frederick W. Goodfellow 7-8, Thomas G. Bannister 9-10. First quarter of Grandire Caters on handbells by all except the conductor.

THE MEAT SAFE.

A TALE OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

In his description of Oxford bell towers Mr. Morris mentions the belfry at Christ Church and says it was known as the 'meat safe,' and gave rise to many witticisms. It is still often called that name by ringers, though we doubt if many, or any, know what it means, or rather what it once meant, for to-day it has no meaning at all.

About the year 1870 extensive improvements and alterations were carried out at Christ Church. The Cathedral was restored and the east end rebuilt from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott. The bells were taken down from the tower, in order (we believe, but are not quite sure) that the ringing floor could be removed and the lantern opened out to the church as had been done at Norwich, Hereford, St. Albans, Merton College, Pershore Abbey and other large churches.

Scott then handed the job to his pupil, George Frederick Bodley, who was entrusted with the construction of a new passage from the Tom Quad to the Cathedral, and the rehousing of the bells over the staircase leading to the Great Hall. Bodley designed a tower of wood and copper, but for lack of money it was not built, and bells were hung in a massive wooden structure. To do this, part of the stonework had to be temporarily displaced.

The passage was rather narrow and dark, the plain square wooden casing to the bells was incongruous among the spires and turrets of Oxford, the gap in the stonework was an eyesore; and not unnaturally there were many hostile critics. Foremost among them was a Christ Church don and mathematical lecturer, the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who earned undying fame as Lewis Carroll, the author of 'Alice in Wonderland.'

'ETYMOLOGY.'

Dodgson wrote and published three pamphlets on the subject. One was in serious style, the other two were clever skits which were intended (and succeeded) in throwing ridicule on the work. The passageway was 'black as midnight' and minded people of vaults and of charnel-houses. He called it 'the Tunnel.' The gap in the masonry was 'the Trench.' The belfry was likened to a box, a bathing machine, a clothes horse, a meat safe, a tea caddy, a cake of soap, a parallelopiped, a portmanteau, and a tea chest.

The first of the two skits, 'a monograph' on 'The New Belfry of Christ Church, Oxford, by D.C.L.,' has a view of the belfry as seen from the Meadow. The 'view' consists of four straight lines arranged as a square, and nothing else. The letterpress is divided into paragraphs, each numbered and with its appropriate heading. The first is:

'On the etymological significance of the new Belfry, Ch. Ch.
'The word "Belfry" is derived from the French "bel, beautiful, becoming, meet," and from the German "frei, free, unfettered, secure, safe." Thus the word is strictly equivalent to "meat-safe," to which the new belfry bears a resemblance so perfect as almost to amount to coincidence.

The joke is not a bad one: no joke by Lewis Carroll could be that. But it is rather laboured and far-fetched, and decidedly below the author's standard. Evidently he did not think much of it himself, for he did not refer to it again.

Two puns which follow shortly after it are vastly superior, (though perhaps a little too subtle for ordinary readers. The belfry is said to be a 'casus belli'; and the rhetorical question is asked, 'What traveller is there, to whose lips when first he enters that great educational establishment and gazes on this its newest decoration, the words do not rise unbidden—Thou tea-chest?'

THE 'TEA-CHEST.'

The Tea-chest was Dodgson's favourite name for the belfry, but we are not quite sure whether the pun was really his. There was a famous and very complicated pun current in Oxford which turned on the inter-relationship of Thou teachest, its Latin version Tu doces, Thou tea chest, and Two doses. It, however, may have been Dodgson's, for it is quite in his style.

The cause of all the trouble is said to have been that one day, when the Dean and the architect (Scott) were away in London on business, a wandering lunatic architect turned up and got the job. 'The poor man is now incarcerated at Hanwell.' Scott's disapproval, we are told, took the following poetical form:—

'If thou wouldst view the Belfry aright
Go visit it at the mirk midnight—
For the least hint of open day
Scares the beholder quite away.
When wall and window are black as pitch,
And there's no deciding which is which:
When the dark Hall's uncertain roof
In horror seems to stand aloof;
When distant Thames is heard to sigh
And shudder as he hurries by;
Then go, if it be worth the while,
Then view the Belfry's monstrous pile
And home returning soothly swear,
'Tis more than Job himself could bear!'

'Credible witnesses assert,' says D.C.L., 'that when the bells are rung the Belfry must come down. In that case considerable damage (the process known as pulverisation) must ensue to the beautiful pillar and roof which adorn the Hall staircase. But the architect is pre-

pared even for this emergency. On the first symptom of deflection (he writes from Hanwell) let the pillar be carefully removed and placed with its superstruent superstructure in the Centre of Mercury (the ornamental water in the quad). There it will constitute a novel and most unique feature of the venerable House.'

The other skit, 'The Vision of the Three T's,' was published in 1873 and was in the form of dialogue between various persons who hold a conference in the quadrangle. 'Think you,' says one, 'that those two tall archways, that excavation in the parapet, and that quaint wooden box belong to the ancient design of the building, or have men of our day thus sadly disfigured the place?'

'I doubt not they are new, dear Scholar,' was the reply. 'For indeed I was here but a few years since and saw naught of these things.'

To them as they discuss many things, enters a Professor to whom one puts the question, 'But, Sir, I will by your favour ask you one other thing, as to that unseemly box that blots the fair heaven above. Wherefore in this grand old City, and in so conspicuous a place, do men set so hideous a thing?'

Prof.: Be you mad, Sir? Why this is the very climacteric and coronal of all our architectural aspirations! In all Oxford there is naught like it!

Venator: It joys me to hear you say so.

THE WANDERING BURGESS.

When the Professor had gone one of the men read to the other the 'Ballad of the Wandering Burgess,' a skit on a visit of W. E. Gladstone to Oxford. 'Our Willie' came to Christ Church (his old college) to look round.

The first look that our Willie cast
He leuch loud laughters three,
The neist look that our Willie cast
The tear blindit his e'e.

Sae square and stark the Tea-chest frowned
Athwart the upper air,
But when the Trench our Willie saw
He thought the Tea-chest fair.

Sae murderous-deep the Trench did gape
In parapet aboon,
But when the Tunnel Willie saw,
He loved the Trench eftsoon.

He turned him round and round about
And looked upon the Three
And dismal grew his countenance
And drumlie grew his e'e.

George Frederick Bodley was an eminent architect who left some excellent work behind him. The reredos at St. Paul's Cathedral is his, and so are many fine churches up and down the country. He did work at both Oxford and Cambridge among the colleges, and when he died was engaged on the designs for the vast new cathedral at Washington, U.S.A. But Dodgson satirised him unsparingly. He was Jeepy (J.B.) the lunatic architect, who, having escaped from Hanwell, turned up in the Tom Quad fantastically dressed. Asked, 'Why do you wear so gaudy, but withal so ill-sorted, a garb?' he replied, 'This raiment that I wear is not the newest fashion. No, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, the fashion.'

Venator: I can well believe it.

Lunatic: And therefore 'tis, Sir, that I wear it. 'Tis but a badge of greatness. My deeds you see around you. Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice! You know Latin?

Ven.: Not I, Sir. It shames me to say it. But if, as you affirm, I see your deeds around you, I would fain know which they be.

Lun.: Aloft, Sir, stands the first and chiefest! That soaring minaret! That gorgeous cupola! That dreamlike effulgence of—

Ven.: That wooden box?

Lun.: The same, Sir? 'Tis mine.

Ven. (after a pause): Sir, it is worthy of you.

A COMPARISON.

And so on with a lot more most excellent fooling. The Latin quotation was an extraordinarily clever comparison of Bodley with Sir Christopher Wren, who built the Tom Tower at the other side of the quad. But it had an application which Dodgson never dreamt of. For the man who standing in St. Paul's accepts the invitation to 'look around' for the memorial to Wren, cannot fail to see also what may prove to be Bodley's most lasting memorial.

When Jeepy had had his say and was gone, a learned Tutor turned up, who proceeded to expatiate on a Latin text. Witness, said he, 'that beauteous Belfry which, in its ethereal grace, seems ready to soar away even as we gaze upon it! Even as a railway porter moves with an unwonted majesty when bearing a portmanteau on his head—or as ocean charms us most when the rectangular bathing-machine breaks the monotony of its curving marge—so are we blessed by the presence of that which an envious world hath dubbed the Tea-chest.'

Ven.: But for the Belfry, Sir. Sure none can look on it without an inward shudder?

Tutor: I will not gainsay it. But you are to note that it is not permanent. This shall serve its time, and a fairer edifice shall succeed it.

(Continued on next page.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**THE LEWISHAM DISTRICT.**

At the meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association, Mr. Edwin Barnett read a paper on the activities of the district since its formation in 1892. The paper will be read with interest by many more than the local ringers, and we gladly agree to the suggestion that it should be published in our columns.

The meeting which was held at Woolwich in November last year was the jubilee meeting of the district, and the fact that it was overlooked is not surprising when we consider the times we are living in.

It would not, however, be right for it to be passed over without reference, and as one who has been associated with the Lewisham District practically ever since its formation, I thought it not out of place if a short account of our fifty years were given to-day.

Before the year 1892 we were included in the Rochester District, but Canon Helmore rightly thought that this district was too large to admit it being properly worked. With that object in view, he proposed at Greenwich on May 30th, 1892, 'that a new district be formed comprising those towers which lie north of the L.C. and Dover Railway, and west of a line drawn southwards from the Thames at Greenwich to the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, to be called the Lewisham District,' and this was agreed to.

The Rev. E. E. Teignmouth Shore, a ringer and assistant curate at Lewisham, was the first secretary, and Mr. George Conyard, of Crayford, the first district representative, a post he held until his death in 1909.

At that time there existed in this district an old society called the Trinity Youths, whose founders were mainly shipwrights working in the Royal Dockyard and other shipyards at Deptford. They took their title from Trinity House, with which some were said to be connected. For many years this society had been in a state of suspended animation, but their old records and peal books were preserved at Greenwich Church.

THE TRINITY YOUTHS.

In or about the year 1888 the Rev. H. A. Cockey came to Greenwich as a chaplain in the Royal Naval College. He revived this old society and for a few years it entered on a new lease of life, but with the departure of Mr. Cockey to take up the living of Oldland, near Bristol, its fortunes began to ebb, and to save it from extinction Canon Helmore offered to amalgamate them with the Kent County Association, and to preserve their individuality by calling this new district he proposed to form the 'Trinity Youths District.' This proposal the Trinity Youths rejected, and by so doing signed their death warrant.

At a meeting they held in the vestry at Greenwich on April 5th, 1892, they passed the following resolution: 'That this meeting is of the opinion that it is inexpedient to amalgamate the Society of Trinity Youths with the Kent County Association, and that the secretary be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the secretary of the Kent County Association.'

Very little was heard of them after this. Many of their old peal books and records disappeared, but some have been preserved in the Central Council library.

In passing it is worthy of note that Mr. Cockey became a tower of strength to the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and was Master for many years until his death.

The Rev. Teignmouth Shore left the district in 1894 to take up a position in India, and in 1895 he was succeeded by Mr. William Bedwell, of Lewisham. Mr. Bedwell was a good ringer and conductor, and is remembered by his efforts to start a new ringing paper in opposition to 'The Bell News.' This venture, unfortunately, failed, mainly because of Mr. Bedwell's lack of experience as a journalist, but it had the effect of waking 'The Bell News' up, for a time at least.

He held the post for two years and was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Jeffries in 1897. In his report for that year Canon Helmore said, 'Mr. W. J. Jeffries has succeeded Mr. Bedwell at Lewisham, and the district are to be congratulated on their choice.'

TWENTY-ONE YEARS' SERVICE.

Mr. Jeffries retired in 1899 and was followed by Mr. Percy E. Bex, of Crayford. Percy Bex is remembered by few to-day, but those who do will agree that it was a privilege to have known and worked with him. He had a wonderful personality and a great gift for organisation, and the lines on which he worked have served as a pattern to his successors. He was forced to retire from active ringing by reason of his public duties as deputy town clerk of Bexley, but his interest remained unabated until his death. He held office for three years.

Joseph E. Sykes was our next secretary, but he'd the most a few months only when he left the county. Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., took over the duties pro tem, and thus began his wonderful record of service to the Lewisham District.

Mr. Groombridge was elected to the office in 1903 and retired in 1924 after 21 years of faithful service. These services were recognised by the members in 1913 when they presented him with an illuminated address and cheque as a token of their esteem.

(Continued in next column.)

SURREY ASSOCIATION.**NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association at St. Peter's, Croydon, on Saturday, February 6th, was attended by about 40 members and friends from Banstead, Beddington, Benlinton, Carshalton, Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Chadwell Heath, Epsom (Christ Church), Mitcham (SS Peter and Paul's and Christ Church), Leatherhead, London, Sprotborough, Yorks, and St. Leonard's, Streatham.

Handbells and silent tower bell practice during the afternoon was followed by a service in the church, conducted by the curate, the Rev. — Hyde. Tea in the Church Hall was kindly arranged by the lady ringers of St. Peter's, under the able leadership of Miss Pat Terry.

At the business meeting, Mr. Harold Pitsoy, of Banstead, presided, supported by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master (acting district secretary in the absence of Mr. G. Massey, who is serving with the R.A.F.), Mr. H. Simmons, treasurer, and members of the committee. Two new members were elected. The company stood for a few moments in silence as a token of respect to three members who died during the past year—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, of Woking, Mr. A. H. Jones, of St. Peter's, Croydon (killed on active service with the R.A.F.), and Mr. A. Calver, of Mitcham Parish Church. The treasurer's statement, which showed a small increase on last year's balance, was approved.

The district officers and committee were re-elected, no other nominations having been received; and all the general officers were re-nominated for election at the annual general meeting.

It was agreed to hold four district meetings during the year and the annual district meeting in January, 1944, circumstances permitting.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all concerned in making the meeting such a success, and further handbell ringing was indulged in before the ending of another very happy gathering of ringers in spite of the ban and the war.

THE 'MEAT SAFE.'

(Continued from previous page.)

Ven.: In good sooth I hope it. Yet for the time being it doth not, in that it not permanent, the less disgrace the place. Drunkenness, Sir, is not permanent, and yet is held in no good esteem.

Tutor: 'Tis an apt simile.

To appreciate the wit and cleverness of Dodgson's skits they must be read in their entirety, for, of course, we have given only a few scraps. They served their purpose, for they hastened the time when the wooden box was screened by the stone walls of Wolsey's tower, as had been intended all along. Lack of funds was the only cause of delay. To talk about the 'meat-safe' has long been meaningless and even ridiculous.

THE LEW SHAM DISTRICT.

(Continued from previous column.)

SOME PROMINENT MEMBERS.

Our present secretary, Mr. Hill, succeeded Mr. Groombridge in 1924. He is fast approaching the latter's record, and how faithfully he has carried out his duties is too well known to require further comment.

We can look back with pride on our 50 years as a district, and it would not be right if we did not refer to some of those men, past and present, who have done so much to build up our wonderful record.

Here I know I shall be forgiven if I enter on a personal note and refer first to my father. He was a member for 43 years and called no fewer than 30 'first peals in the method for the association' on eight, ten and twelve bells.

Jack Cheesman, whom we all loved, called 11, also on eight and above, including the first twelve-bell peal by the association.

William Pye, who in the years 1898-1902 was so active in this district, called five. He also called a 10,464 of Treble Bob Major at Erith in 1898, and in 1899, also at Erith, the then record peal of Double Norwich, 15,072 changes, and the first peal of London.

Frank Bennett, while resident at New Cross in the years 1907-13, and to whom so many of us owe our first peals of Surprise, called eight on both tower and handbells.

Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., and Mr. F. J. Cullum, who both belong to the second generation of our founders, have carried on the good work of their fathers by calling four and five respectively.

Mr. George Cross in the past 11 years has called seven in tower and hand, and the third generation has been represented in the 'firsts' by one young member who in 1937 called the first peals in two new methods, and in 1940 called the longest peal of Double Norwich yet rung 'in hand.'

Last, but not by any means least, we must remember those clergy whose interest and encouragement meant so much 50 years ago. To-day a greater understanding exists and we take it for granted, but in our early days ringers to many incumbents were 'necessary evils,' and one remembers with gratitude the ever ready welcome to their towers and their hospitality in those early days of Canon Escreet, of Woolwich, Dr. Bickersteth, of Lewisham, the Rev. Arthur Hart, of St. Nicholas', Deptford, and the Rev. Brooke-Lambert, of Greenwich.

E. BARNETT.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 67.)

At Tongham, near Seale, Surrey, St. Paul's Church has a bell tower which is more curious than picturesque. This detached and rather ugly toy tower of wood is riveted to the ground with iron struts and contains a set of 13 tubular 'bells' erected in 1899 by Henry Morris Chester, Esq., L.L.D., C.C., of Poyle Park, as a memorial to his mother. The tower, which is only six feet square, was erected in 1898; the church itself is modern, being built in 1863.

Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in Sussex, has a detached campanile, the only one of its kind now existing attached to a cathedral in England. It is 120 feet high, and contains a ring of 8 bells, with a tenor approximately 20½ cwt. The bells originally were a ring of six only, but in 1729 two trebles were added, the gift of Mr. Musgrave. These are by R. Phelps, who also cast the tenor in 1706. The 3rd and 7th are by John Wallis, dated respectively 1583 and 1587; the 5th and 6th are by William Purdew, both of the Salisbury foundry and of the date 1665. The 4th was cast by William Eldridge, the Chertsey founder, in 1674. There is also a service bell without inscription, and in 1876 a large clock bell, weighing 3 tons 13 cwt., was put up in memory of the late Dean Hook, inscribed in Latin with the phrase 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?' It was cast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

At Holy Trinity, Coventry, there is a curious wooden detached campanile containing a ring of eight bells. When a general renovation of the church was undertaken in 1855, these bells were taken out of the church tower, and seven of them were recast by Messrs. Mears at a cost of £162 16s. and the whole ring hung in a timber campanile in the churchyard, where they remain to this day. The original eight were cast in 1776 by Pack and Chapman, with a tenor 20 cwt. 18 lbs., and cost £284 4s. In 1898 the tenor was recast by J. Taylor and Co., and now weighs 23 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lbs.

Mr. H. B. Walters, in his 'Church Bells of Warwickshire,' gives many extracts from ancient records of the bells and ringing here from 1563 onwards, and there are some of the most interesting records extant on the duties of the 'Dekyns of Coventry' connected with this church, dated 1462. These have already been fully dealt with in these columns by Mr. J. Armiger Trollope. One full peal of 5,000 changes was rung on the old bells when they hung in the church tower, but none since their removal to the 'wooden hut.' This is about 35 feet high and is very unsteady when the bells are swung. In spite of the terrible air raids suffered by Coventry in this present war, this campanile still stands intact. An ancient endowment of £100 exists here, the interest of which is given to the ringers on January 24th yearly to ring a muffled peal in memory of one Thomas Smith.

Warwickshire also has an example of a **semi-detached** tower at Lapworth, where, at the church of St. Mary, the tower is connected to the church only by a vestibule. The tower has a turret at its north-west angle, and a spire. It contains a ring of five bells, one of which—the 3rd—is of mediæval date and bears an invocation to St. Katherine. The treble and tenor are by William Mears and dated 1786; 2nd is by Bryan Eldridge 1656

and the 4th is by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, and dated 1600. There are pits for six bells, and the treble hangs above the others. The tenor is approximately 18 cwt. An endowment of £50 per annum from the Lapworth Charity for the Maintenance of Divine Service, covers the supply of bell-ropes, but not ringers' payments.

One of the most famous of all detached campaniles in England is that at Evesham, Worcestershire. This bell tower, which is an independent and separate campanile, with a roadway through its base, stands in a churchyard in which there are two parishes—All Saints and St. Lawrence. It was built by Abbot Clement Lichfield between 1533-9 and is 110 feet high, is in the Perpendicular style, and is undoubtedly a most splendid tower. It now contains a ring of ten bells, tenor approximately 29½ cwt. Originally a ring of eight by Abel Rudhall in 1741, two trebles were added by Messrs. Barwell, of Birmingham, in 1910. The tenor was recast by T. Mears, of London, in 1821 and, besides other sentences, bears:—

'I sound the sound that dolefull is
To them that live amiss:
But sweet my sound is unto such
As live in joy and bliss.'

The first detached tower here is said to have been built after the fall of the central tower of the Abbey about 1220. There are records of bells here at a very early date, and in Browne Willis' 'Mitred Abbeyes,' i, p. 91 (1721), referring to the visit of Leland, the historian, he says:—

[In the Bell Tower] 'hang eight bells tho' not very great ones, which at the Restoration of King Charles the 2nd were taken out of the two parish churches. . . . neither of them hath any Bells, but the Bells in the Abbey Tower serve for the use of them both. Leland hath informed us that in the aforesaid Tower was a Great Bell and a goodly clock: but I have not been able to learn what is now become of this Clock Bell, tho' I suppose it continued till the Restoration of King Charles the 2nd, when the Youth of the Town joyning together and taking the Bells out of the Parish Steeple, melted them and coined the present ring of eight Bells now hanging together in the Tower.'

At a special Vestry meeting in August, 1664, it was agreed

'that ye ring of Bells that are speedily to be hanged in the Great Tower in ye churchyard of ye Parishes aforesaid shall be repaired for ever thereafter by equal charge of the Whole Towne, and not by district parish payments.'

And on February 16th, 1663, there is a further resolution that

'the overplus of the Metall of ye Ring of Bells that was lately cast and hanged in ye Tower shall be sold by ye present churchwardens of both Parishes for a defraying ye charges of casting and hanging ye said bells.'

The bells were rehung in 1875, but in 1895 were reported on very unfavourably, the framework being declared insufficient for their weight. In 1909 a committee was formed for the restoration and eventually Messrs. Barwell's tender for rehanging in a steel frame, and adding two trebles, was accepted. The old clock here had two Quarter Boys or Jacks outside the tower

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A joint meeting with the Biggleswade District of the Bedford Association will be held at Henlow on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 5 p.m.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20th, at Attleborough. Bells (silent), 2. Service 4. Tea and business meeting in Church Hall, 4.40. Trains leave Norwich 2.5 and 2.25; leave Attleborough 5.47 and 6.32. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring your own eatables; cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., names for which should be received by me by the previous Tuesday. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30. — H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells in Millbridge W.M. Club from 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) of those who notify Mr. F. Hodgson, 566, Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, by Feb. 25th. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st, certain? All welcome. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SITUATION VACANT.

GARDENER or LADY GARDENER wanted; good wages; eight bells. — Rector, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

to strike the quarters on two small bells. It is said they dated from the time of Edward IV., or at least from that of the erection of the present tower. They were taken down about 1860, and transferred to the Abbey Manor, where they still remain. In 1665 the Vestry agreed 'that Anthony Munslow shall keepe the Bells in ye Tower with sufficient Roopes and shall abate Twenty Shillings of the pay that formerly he received of the two parishes for the Ringinge of greate Bell Mornings and Nightes and Keepinge the clocke.' Chimes used to play regularly on the bells since 1878 when the carillon was put up, the tunes from Sunday to following Saturday being respectively:—Bedford: My lodging is on the cold ground: Blue Bells of Scotland: Drink to me only: There's nae luck: Barbara Allen: Home Sweet Home.

Seven new tunes were added in 1910, being:—Nicæa: The Minstrel Boy: Ye Banks and Braes: Bonnie Dundee: The Banks of Allan Water: The Wearing of the Green: The Bailiff's Daughter.

(To be continued.)

ACCRINGTON.—On January 10th, at Newstead, Willows Lane, 720 Bob Minor: *J. Howe 1-2, R. Leigh 3-4, C. Blakey (conductor) 5-6. * First 720.

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UNIVERSITY RINGING SOCIETIES.

The Oxford University Society held its annual lunch on Saturday last, and the opportunity was taken to bring forward a scheme which is of great importance to ringers who are connected with the various universities, and is not without interest to the Exercise at large.

The proposal is to form a new society, to be called The Universities' Association of Change Ringers, the membership of which will be open to ringers from all the universities, and the purpose and aim of the new organisation is to provide a name under which joint university peals can be rung and joint tours arranged, and to do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change-ringing societies in the newer universities. Nothing will be done to absorb the guilds which already exist at Oxford and Cambridge, and nothing to alter their present status.

At the time of writing we are ignorant of what was said and done on Saturday, for the prior claims of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Council debarred us from first-hand information, and we must therefore hold over any comment which may seem advisable until we receive the full report. But on the general subject of ringing at the universities there is a good deal to be said.

The Exercise owes much to Oxford and Cambridge. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that change ringing is a product of those two famous seats of learning. Some time in the late sixteenth century, or early in the seventeenth, ringing, which had long been a popular athletic sport among all classes of young Englishmen, was transformed and enriched by an art based on a strict mathematical science, and thereby given a vitality which still shows no signs of abatement. Exactly how that happened we do not know; such things always occur almost unnoticed and seemingly haphazardly. But all the evidence goes to show that it began among the students at Oxford and Cambridge, who took the new art with them when they went, as was usual in those days, to London to spend a term at the Inns of Courts, and afterwards spread it among the steeples of the country.

We know little about the ringers of the seventeenth century, but among those of whom we do know something the percentage of university men is high. Richard Duckworth, the author of the 'Tintinnologia,' was an Oxford man. Samuel Scattergood, one of the earliest of composers, was a Cambridge man. The membership roll of the Society of College Youths contains the names of many university men: Fabian Stedman was not him-

(Continued on page 90.)

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self a university man, but he certainly derived help and inspiration from men who were.

Then came the time when change ringing ceased to be a university sport, and the loss to the Exercise was marked. But when, some eighty years ago, the fortunes of the Exercise, which had been declining, began to revive, the men who led the upward movement included not a few who were university men, and the formation of the two guilds at Cambridge and Oxford was both a sign and a cause of the better days to come. Many of the men who have been trusted leaders of the Exercise during these last sixty or seventy years learnt their ringing as undergraduates. One of the original band at Oxford, John Martin Routh, has just passed away at the venerable age of ninety-six, and we only need mention such names as C. D. P. Davies, Arthur B. Carpenter, Francis E. Robinson and John S. Pritchett, of Oxford, and A. F. H. Boughey, Henry Law James, C. W. O. Jenkyn, H. S. T. Richardson and B. H. T. Drake, of Cambridge, among the dead, in addition to Canon G. F. Coleridge, E. H. Lewis, W. H. J. Hooton and E. B. James, among the living, to show how much the Exercise owes to the university societies. Arthur Heywood and Henry Earle Bulwer were both Cambridge men, but their connection with ringing did not begin until after they had gone down.

So long as we can look to Oxford and Cambridge to supply us with worthy leaders, we can face the future with hope and confidence, and anything which will promote the knowledge of change ringing among the students at the other universities cannot fail to be productive of good.

JASPER WHITFIELD SNOWDON.

MARTIN ROUTH'S TRIBUTE.

When Jasper Snowdon died in the year 1885, the general feeling of regret and sorrow throughout the Exercise was perfectly expressed in the following verses by John Martin Routh, which appeared in 'The Bell News.' Now, 58 years later, the author, who was born a year or two before Snowdon, has himself passed away.

Let comrades muster round the old church tower
To tell the tidings sad with bated breath;
Then let the bells ring out in muffled power
Their plaintive requiem for untimely death.

List to the mighty steeples of the North
Re-echoing their distress from shore to shore,
Mark how each tenor chants her sorrow forth,
The master-hand that changed her is no more.

And we shall miss him sadly one and all;
E'en those who ne'er in friendship grasped his hand
Have each some kindly action to recall,
Some point obscure he bade them understand.

In search of truth through disconnected lore
He traced arrangement with a ready pen.
The veil from seeming mystery he tore
Bequeathing knowledge to his fellow men.

Chosen as ringers' leader through the land,
Acknowledged arbiter for common weal,
While crowning merit with unsparing hand
He crushed imposture with an iron heel.

What though the deeds in which he played his part
Are not inscribed in England's roll of fame,
So long as future ages prize our art
So long shall reverence be for Snowdon's name.

NEWPORT, I. of W.—On Tuesday, February 9th, at the home of Mr. W. Upton, Master of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, 1,344 changes of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. A. M. Guy 1-2, Mr. F. Taylor (conductor) 3-4, Mr. W. Upton 5-6, Mr. W. Scott, sen. 7-8.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 81.)

TREBLE TEN AND TREBLE TWELVE.

During the seventeen years which followed the peals of Treble Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's in 1741, no five-thousand was rung in the method on ten or twelve bells until George Meakins and his band scored their 5,040 of Maximus in 1758. Later in the same year the Cumberlands rang 5,400 of Royal at West Ham, conducted by Samuel Wood, and in 1759 the College Youths rang 5,040 at St. Magnus'. Then, so far as London is concerned, there followed another blank of seven years, dur-



ST. LEONARD'S, SHOREDITCH.

ing which, however, James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent three peals of Royal—5,040 in 1760, 5,040 in 1762, and 6,000 in 1765. The latter took its place as the longest in the method, but probably the London men knew nothing of it, for in October, 1766, the College Youths rang 6,000 changes at Shoreditch, evidently thinking they were setting up a record and beating the Cumberlands' performance at West Ham.

Three weeks later the latter retaliated and captured the record for Maximus by ringing 5,136 changes at St. Saviour's. George Partrick rang the treble and conducted the peal, his own composition, and the rest of the

company consisted of men who were among the most prominent peal ringers in England.

Probably in the whole of their history the Cumberlands never had a better band. Thomas Dunmore (3), John Purlement (7) and William Lister were with Partrick, original members of the society; Isaiah Bray (6), Francis Wood (8) and Samuel Wood (9) had been members almost as long; William Scott (11) and Samuel Muggeridge had come from the ancient Society of College Youths; while the younger generation of ringers was represented by George Gross (2), John Reeves (4), Charles Purser (5) and William Jakins (10).

Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor, but evidently it was not going very well, for he had William Lister to help him. Eight years previously he had turned it in single-handed to the London Youths' 6,336 of Bob Maximus.

Two months after the Maximus, on January 19th, 1767, the London Youths captured the record of Royal by ringing 6,200 changes at Shoreditch, conducted and probably composed by Christopher Wells. Abraham Smith rang the tenor single-handed and the band included Michael Purser, Joshua Brotherton, Robert Reynolds, James Titchbourne, and James Partrick.

Christopher Wells in many ways is one of the most attractive figures of the time. He was a clever and versatile ringer, a good conductor, and a composer of more than average ability. His signature can still be seen in one of the Cumberland Society's books. Bold and large, with plenty of swagger and flourish, it gives a good indication of the man's character. But he never quite reached the front rank, and as he got older he was overshadowed as composer and conductor by men like John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore, and as leader by men like John Povey and George Gross.

There were two men called Christopher Wells, father and son. The elder is nothing more than a name unless (which is likely) it was he who rang in two peals by the ancient Society of College Youths—Bob Royal at St. Magnus' in 1761 and 10,098 Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1762. If that was so the younger Christopher began his peal ringing career as a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, which he joined in 1763. With that company he rang four peals, two of Oxford Treble Bob Major and one of each of Plain Bob Triples and Major, and then, being an ambitious man with a desire to call peals, and finding no likelihood of satisfying his ambition, he went to the London Youths, where he speedily made his influence felt. The peal of Treble Ten was false in the composition, but that was not known at the time and the figures were entered in the peal book.

The London Youths' record only stood for three months, for on April 6th, 1767, the Cumberlands rang 7,080 changes in 5 hours and 14 minutes, also at Shoreditch. John Reeves called from the 4th, and the band included Charles Purser, Isaiah Bray, George Gross, John Povey, Francis Wood, John Purlement, Samuel Wood and Samuel Muggeridge, who rang the tenor single-handed. The peal probably was composed by Reeves, and probably was found out to be false at once, for the performance is not recorded in the society's peal book.

In October, 1776, Charles Purser called 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal for the College Youths at Fulham, and

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

in November 6,200 at West Ham, which may have been the same composition Wells had called in 1767, for now someone (it may have been George Gross) discovered that all the six-thousands rung in London were false. On January 20th, 1777, Gross called 6,240 changes for the Cumberlands at Shoreditch, and they claimed it as 'the first true six-thousand and the most ever rung'; which seems to suggest that there was some error in the actual ringing of the 7,080 in 1767. Samuel Muggeridge again rang the tenor with Robert Mann, another fine big-bell ringer, on the ninth.

The peal and the claim were a challenge to the rest of the London ringers which the College Youths were not slow to take up. They were well equipped for a contest. They had a good many skilful ringers, an ambitious and enthusiastic leader, and (which was equally important) they had now a first class tenor man in Samuel Muggeridge the younger, the son of the man mentioned above.

The Muggeridges lived at Southwark, where they were persons of some local standing. The younger man joined the Cumberlands in 1771, and rang his first peal in the December of the following year at Cripplegate.

The first peal on the new bells at St. Giles', one of Grandsire Caters, had been rung on November 3rd. by the College Youths. They needed two men to the ninth and three to the tenor, but when, a month later, the Cumberlands rang 5,111 in the same method, the elder Muggeridge rang the ninth single-handed, and his son the tenor with the help of Abraham Smith.

In 1773 young Muggeridge rang the eighth at Shoreditch to 5,039 Grandsire Caters, his first peal inside; and in 1774, when George Gross called 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark, the father rang the tenth, the son the eleventh, and Abraham Smith rang the tenor with help.

The young man was now one of the Cumberlands' regular peal band, and took part during 1774 and 1775 in seven or eight peals, mostly Plain and Treble Bob Major. His first outstanding feat as a tenor man was to ring the tenor at Spitalfields to 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major. No doubt the bell went exceptionally well, for five men had already turned it in to peals—Mainwaring in 1735, Trenell in 1736, Robert Wight in 1752, and the elder Muggeridge and Joseph Monk in 1760, the last to a six-thousand. But, however well it may have gone, it was no small thing to ring a 44 cwt. bell to a peal of Major.

Both Samuel Muggeridge and his father took part in the Real Double Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in 1776, the younger ringing the ninth, and the elder the eleventh, with Robert Mann and another at the tenor. After that young Muggeridge followed Charles Purser to the College Youths.

Three weeks after the Cumberlands rang the 6,240 of Treble-ten at Shoreditch their rivals set up a new record for Maximus by scoring 5,232 changes at St. Bride's. Charles Purser called the peal, his own composition, and the band included several men whose names will always be famous in the history of ringing—Winstanley Richardson, Thomas Bennett, William Lyford, James Darquitt, Joseph Monk, Edmund Sylvester, and John Povey.

Povey, like Charles Purser, had recently been a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths. He joined

them on August 14th, 1764, and rang his first peal (5,076 Grandsire Caters) at Shoreditch on October 8th, 1769. During the following six years he rang ten peals with the company.

Nine days after the Maximus the College Youths rang 10,000 changes of Royal at Shoreditch, and so in less than a month the double record passed from one society to the other.

The band naturally were very pleased with themselves, and boasted that 'the curious composition, the great length of time, and the masterly manner in which it was rung, justly entitled it the most excellent performance ever achieved from the first invention of the ingenious art of ringing to the present time.'

The Cumberlands at once set about regaining the record, but before actually starting for a longer length they rang two peals as a preliminary, in order to test the capacity of their heavy-bell men. The first was 5,080 changes on March 12th, the other 8,120 changes on April 5th.

The elder Muggeridge was still their most experienced tenor ringer, and he had a greater reputation than any other living man except Joseph Monk; but he had now come to the age when mere physical and muscular strength began to lessen, and in those days of crude bellhanging and slower ringing, though skill counted, perhaps, as much as it does to-day, physical strength counted far more. He therefore stood out of the band, and his place was taken by Robert Mann. It would have been rather remarkable if, in the most famous of all long-peal contests, the tenor man of one company had been the father and the tenor man of the other company had been the son, and both with the same name.

Meanwhile the College Youths tightened their grip on the Maximus record by ringing 6,000 changes at Southwark on April 17th. Samuel Muggeridge, the younger, rang the eleventh, and the tenor was rung double-handed by Edmund Sylvester and William Mills.

On May 10th, 1777, the Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, and regained the record, but they held it for only a week. Their rivals, 'insatiated by glory,' as they said, rang 11,080 changes on May 19th, and once more secured the double honour. The Cumberlands' band consisted of Thomas Whitaker, George Gross, John Larney, Isaiah Bray, Thomas Harrison, Francis Wood, James Barnard and Robert Mann. The following rang in the two College Youths' peals: Winstanley Richardson, James Darquitt, William Hatt, Charles Purser, John Povey, Joseph Monk, William Lyford, Joseph Holdsworth, Edmund Sylvester and Samuel Muggeridge.

The peals were composed and called by George Gross for the Cumberlands, and Charles Purser for the College Youths. The figures are all lost, and when we consider that the proof of Treble Bob was at the time but imperfectly understood, there is a strong doubt if any one of them was true. Men had just discovered that most of the peals of Treble Bob Major already rung were false, and so were the six thousands of Royal. The result was that conductors tore up their figures, lest others should come along and find faults in them, and the old and excellent custom of putting compositions in the peal books was dropped. There is nothing to lead us to suppose that Purser was a safe composer, and something the other way.

(To be continued.)

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 64.)

In the following quotation from his essay, Haweis becomes quite lyrical in his description of bell archæology, but it is pretty certain that he knew very little about the subject. He was a genuine lover of bells, and especially of Belgian bells, but his love was based on mere sentiment and had no solid knowledge behind it.

It is (he writes) with no ordinary emotion that the lover of bells ascends these ancient towers, not knowing what he shall find there. He may be suddenly brought into contact with some relic of the past which will revive the historical life of a people or a period in a way hardly anything else could. He hears the very sound they heard. The inscriptions on the bells in their solemn earnestness or their fresh forebodings are often like drops of blood still fresh in the veins of the past.

None but those who have experienced it can understand the thrill of joy, as of treasure trove, which strikes through the seeker upon catching sight of the peculiar elongated kind of bell which proclaims an antiquity of perhaps four hundred years. How eagerly he climbs up to it! How tenderly he removes the green bloom over the heavy rust that has settled in between the narrow Gothic letters! How he rubs away at their raised surfaces in order to induce them to yield up their precious secret! How the first thing he always looks for is a bell without a D or 500 in it—e.g. MCCCXX, and how often he is disappointed by deciphering MCCCCXX,

where MDXX might have been written, and put an end at once to his hopes of a thirteenth or fourteenth century bell.

Then the first bell he will seek on reaching a famous tower will be the bourdon or big bell, which has probably proved too large for the enemy to carry away, or which by some lucky chance has escaped the sacrilegious melting down, and been left to the town, perhaps at the intercession of its fairest women, or its most noble citizens.

Ascending into the open belfry, his eye will rest with something like awe upon the very moderate-sized bell hanging high up in the dusk by itself—the oldest in the tower, which from its awkward position and small value has escaped the spoliation and rapine of centuries.

We can hardly wonder at the reverence with which the inhabitants of Mechlin, Ghent, and Antwerp regard their ancient bells, and the intelligent enthusiasm with which they speak of them. Certain bells which we shall have to mention are renowned, not only throughout Belgium, but throughout the civilised world. Most people have heard of the Carolus bells at Antwerp, and there is not a respectable citizen in any town of Belgium who would not be proud to tell you its date and history.

(To be continued.)

BELLS AT EASTER ?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As there seems to be a chance that we shall be allowed to ring on Easter Sunday, would it not be a good thing if someone with influence were to approach the authorities so that the permission is given early enough for us to get the bands together and make the necessary arrangements?

WILLIAM H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Street, S.E.5.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The letter we published last week on the ban appeared in 'The Barnsley Chronicle,' and was from the Vicar of Worsborough Dale, Yorkshire, not South Wales.

Sixty years ago next Sunday, John Martin Routh rang the fourth to a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Peter's, Walworth, conducted by Henry J. Tucker.

Fifty years ago yesterday, Mr. George Williams called the first peal (Stedman Triples) on the eight bells at Henfield, Sussex.

On February 21st, 1903, the first silent peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells was rung at Leicester. The composition was by Mr. J. O. Lancashire, who rang 1-2.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first peal of Dartford Little Bob Major, at Dartford on February 21st, 1925.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three Surprise Major methods fall on February 22nd—Lessness, at St. John's, Erith, and Droitwich, at Helmingham, both in 1937; and Lavenham, at Helmingham, in 1938.

The second peal of Cambridge Surprise Major ever rung was accomplished by the ancient Society of College Youths at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on February 23rd, 1785. John Reeves conducted, but the composition was not a true one.

William Estcourt, who composed and called several long peals on Painswick bells, died on February 23rd, 1876, aged 78 years.

A peal of Sowerby Exercise Major was rung by the Yorkshire men, at Denholm Gate, on February 24th, 1877.

On the same date in 1900, Mr. H. R. Newton called the first peal of St. Stephen's Surprise Major, at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row. The method does not now rank as Surprise.

The first peal of St. Clement's Bob Triples was rung at Chester on February 24th, 1911; and the first peal of Staffordshire Surprise Major at Church Lawton, on February 24th, 1934.

The year 1777 was one of the most famous in the annals of change ringing. Some of the peals rung then are referred to on another page. On February 25th the Leicester men rang 10,080 Grandsire Caters, and on February 26th the Shrewsbury men rang 10,080 Bob Major at St. Mary's.

What is sometimes reckoned as the earliest double-handed handbell peal of Bob Royal was rung at Abingdon on February 25th, 1777. The probabilities are, however, that the bells were lapped.

At Rowley Regis, on February 25th, 1889, 10,272 changes of Grandsire Major were rung. This has not been exceeded in the method.

Two first peals of Spiced Major were rung on February 25th—Bob Major, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Sunderland in 1926; and Bob Major, and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Dartford in 1928.

The first peal of Maximus, Plain Bob, was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by the College Youths, on February 26th, 1726.

George Gross called the first and only peal of Real Double Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on February 26th, 1776; and his son, George Gross the younger, called 6,129 Stedman Caters at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on the same date in 1805.

John Briant, bellfounder and clockmaker, of Hertford, died on February 27th, 1829.

THE BAN ON RINGING

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a small footnote to your very sound and statesmanlike leader in 'The Ringing World' of February 19th?

Before the war people were continually bursting into the newspaper columns passionately demanding, in the name of their poor nerves, that church bells should be silenced. Since the prohibition of ringing, the papers are full of equally passionate letters, angrily demanding that the bells should ring again. That is human nature: we never know how we value anything until it is taken away. (Oddly enough, I do not remember to have seen any letter or paragraph saying, 'Well, thank Hitler, that horrible noise has stopped!')

The ringers can afford to smile and bide their time. Let them meanwhile carefully collect and preserve all the published evidence that people like bells, want bells, and are indignant at the silencing of bells. Then, when the ban is lifted, and all the drearies start up once more to protest that bellringing is useless, burdensome, dangerous and ought to be abolished, there will be an answer ready for them.

DOROTHY L. SAYERS.

24, Newland Street, Witham, Essex.

NORTHCHURCH SURPRISE.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of 'The Ringing World' for February 12th, 1943, under 'Belfry Gossip,' you state that the first peal of Northchurch Surprise Major was rung at Northchurch on February 11th, 1939.

When the figures of this method appeared it was found to be Lessness Surprise Major, which was rung for the first time at St. John the Baptist's, Erith, for the Kent County Association, on February 22nd, 1937, and I was the conductor. Trusting you will correct this.

F. J. CULLUM.

78, West Street, Erith.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER, IPSWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. E. Borrett's list of peals at St. Peter Mancroft was very interesting and I am glad to see it has been followed by the Newcastle list.

His suggestion that the peals at other twelve-bell towers should be published is worth very serious consideration in view of what has happened to well-known towers and what can very easily happen to others. Yarmouth, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Giles', Cripplegate, have gone. Are lists of the peals rung at these in existence, and can we have them published? We have had bombs within a couple of hundred yards of St. Mary-le-Tower, and other well-known towers have had closer shaves.

I have been to some trouble to get a complete list of peals at St. Mary's, and perhaps a note on the church will not be out of place first.

The Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, or St. Mary at the Tower to give it its proper name, is an ancient foundation taking its name from its proximity to a tower on the town walls. Tower and walls have long since been swept away, the only remembrance being a street, 'Tower Ramparts,' nearby.

The church became dilapidated about 1860, and in the following years was almost entirely rebuilt at the cost of a parishioner. The tower was included in the rebuilding scheme, and at the same time two bells were added to the existing ten. They were reopened by a band of College Youths in 1867, who attempted a peal, but were not successful. It was not until 1878 that a local band scored the first peal on them—Grandsire Caters, conducted by Daniel Prentice, since when 264 peals have been rung.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.

LIST OF PEALS.

Cambridge Surprise Maximus	26
New Cambridge Surprise Maximus	5
Superlative Surprise Maximus	15
Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	4
Pudsey Surprise Maximus	4
Rochester-Surprise Maximus	4
York Surprise Maximus	2
Double Norwich C.B. Maximus	6
Duffield Maximus	2
Forward Maximus	2
Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus	1
Oxford Treble Bob Maximus	3
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	45
Plain Bob Maximus	2
Stedman Cinques	49
Grandsire Cinques	7

On the twelve ... 177

Cambridge Surprise Royal	7
New Cambridge Surprise Royal	1
Rochester Surprise Royal	1
Yorkshire Surprise Royal	1
Double Norwich C.B. Royal	10
Oxford Treble Bob Royal	4
Kent Treble Bob Royal	10
Plain Bob Royal	2
Stedman Caters	23
Grandsire Caters	6

On ten ... 65

London Surprise Major	1
Cambridge Surprise Major	2
Superlative Surprise Major	3
Double Norwich C.B. Major	4
Oxford Treble Bob Major	2
Kent Treble Bob Major	1
Plain Bob Major	1
Stedman Triples	3
Grandsire Triples	5

On eight ... 22

Total ... 264

The following is the list of conductors:—

James Motts, 53 (12), 35 (10), 17 (8)=105.

George E. Synmonds, 53 (12), 13 (10), 1 (8)=67.

Charles J. Sedgley, 29 (12), 2 (10)=31.

William L. Catchpole, 10 (12), 10 (10), 4 (8)=24.

William J. G. Brown, 7 (12), 1 (10)=8.

William Pye, 7 (12)=7.

Daniel Prentice, 1 (12), 3 (10)=4.

Sylvia R. E. Bowyer, 2 (12), 1 (10)=3.

Charles Mee, A. W. Brighton, F. G. Newman, 2 each (12)=6.

F. E. Dawe, W. Holmes, C. E. Borrett, A. R. Aldham, F. J. Tillett,

F. Dench, J. D. Matthews, W. H. Hewett, A. Walker, 1 each (12)=9.

Total 264.

Some interesting facts come to light from a perusal of these records. The following are a few of them:—

First peal on the twelve, Kent Treble Bob Maximus, March 1st, 1881, conducted by Daniel Prentice.

The peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus are the only ones in the method excepting that recorded in St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in 1817.

The first peals in all seven Surprise Maximus methods were rung here. William P. Garrett is the only man who took part in all, and is the only one who has rung 100 peals of Maximus.

Frederick J. Tillett has turned the tenor in to 44 peals, and, including 'covering,' has rung her over 50 times.

The peals of Rochester, York, Pudsey, New Cambridge and Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus are the only ones ever rung.

The only peal of 5,040 Cambridge Maximus.

ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

Dear Sir,—I feel that Mr. C. E. Borrett's example, followed by Mr. Wallace, of Newcastle, should be copied. I think it is interesting to know how the various lesser important twelve-bell towers have used or missed their opportunities. I personally would like to know what the records are of Birmingham, Ipswich and some of the London towers, including St. Paul's. We know the latter cannot amass a very large total, owing to the long intervals that must be observed between the attempts. Why should not all the twelve-bell towers, if they are able, give their records? Of course, I must not forget your difficulties of space, etc.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphyll Road, Liverpool 17.

LIVERPOOL'S RECORD.

A peal of twelve bells, cast by Dobson's, of Downham Market, and rung in June, 1814. The first peal, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung shortly after the opening. There have been altogether, as far as can be ascertained, 113 peals on the bells; 28 were rung in the period 1814 to 1881. The bells were unpealable for many years, and it was until they had been rehung and the tenor recast in 1911 that further peals were rung.

A peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung on February 17th, 1912, the first of 85 that have since been rung in the tower. The old tenor of the peal weighed 41 cwt., but after recasting the weight was 39½ cwt. The following is the list:—

Plain Bob—Major 2, Royal 2, Maximus 2.

Grandsire—Triples 8, Major 1, Caters 8, Royal 1, Cinques 9.

Stedman—Triples 9, Caters 17, Cinques 13.

Oxford Treble Bob—Major 3, Royal 1, Maximus 1.

Kent Treble Bob—Major 5, Royal 4, Maximus 6.

Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2.

Superlative Surprise Major 3.

Cambridge Surprise—Minors 1, Major 6, Royal 5, Maximus 4.

Total 113.

One peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, one peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and three peals of Stedman Triples were rung on the back eight.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.**

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on February 13th, and was attended by 24 members and friends from Banstead, Glaygate, Cobham, Epsom, Ewell, West Grinstead and Pulborough, Sussex, Kensington, Newdigate, with the general secretary and members of the local band.

Silent tower bells and handbells were kept going until the service, which was conducted by the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, and in place of an address he read part of the Song of the Three in the fiery furnace upon which the Benedicite is based, because, he said, that always seemed to him to be the bells' message.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, and was presided over by the Vicar. Unfortunately he could not stay to the business meeting and left with votes of thanks to himself and to the organizer.

The meeting, with Mr. A. Harman, the Master, in the chair, first stood in silence to observe the deaths of three hon. members from the district, the Rev. E. J. Austin (Ashtead), Mrs. A. E. Coombe and Mr. S. G. Welsh (Cobham), and also two of the Guild's vice-presidents, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. Walter Harrison.

Six new members were elected, the Rev. A. E. Chapman (honorary), the Rev. W. A. J. Yeend and Masters Nicholas Coleridge (younger son of the Vicar), Gordon Peters and Bernard Hawkins, all of Leatherhead, and Miss H. Mills, of Claygate.

The district report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The balance showed a slight decrease, while the report showed that the district had played its part in the ringing for the Victory and Christmas Day services.

The district officers were re-elected and the Guild officers re-nominated, and the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge proposed as a vice-president.

There was further handbell ringing until about 8.30. The methods ranged from Bob Minor to three leads of Treble Twelve, Grandsire Triples to Cinques, and a course of Stedman Triples, while the tower-bell ringing was from Grandsire Triples to an attempt for Cambridge Major.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 74.)

Natural courses and other round blocks are said to be mutually exclusive when no two pricked from different natural course-ends can ever contain the same row. Two obvious conditions, however, are to be understood.

The first is that the rows chosen to be the natural course-ends must always have the half-hunt, or observation bell, in the same position, and the second is that, since some natural courses can be written out both forwards and backwards, each variation has its own natural course-end, but includes the other.

In Bob Major, so long as the tenors are not parted, there are 120 natural courses, and each of them has its proper natural course-end, which is the row when 1, 7 and 8 are all in their home positions.

When the tenors are parted there are 360 natural courses, not one of which contains a row which is also included in another natural course. They are therefore mutually exclusive, but each can appear either in its direct form or its reverse form, and for purposes of proof it is necessary to treat the natural course-end 13254768 and the natural course-end 12345678 as identical, and all the rest in similar pairs.

These are examples of natural courses which are mutually exclusive under all circumstances, but there are others which are mutually exclusive under certain conditions. Unsymmetrical Plain Major methods which are constructed with backstroke places only, have mutually exclusive natural courses so long as the tenors are not parted and singles are not used. Symmetrical Royal Methods on the Treble Bob Principle have mutually exclusive natural courses as long as the treble in its journey from front to behind never occupies the same position in two rows of like nature. In Superlative Surprise Major the natural courses are mutually exclusive so long as the tenors are not parted and the bells in 5-6 at the course-end are never reversed.

We could give a good many more examples, but they would all illustrate how important this quality of mutual exclusiveness is towards getting extents and true peals. It is hardly too much to say that the problem of producing an extent in any method is almost solved when the total number of rows is set down in a group of separate and independent mutually exclusive blocks.

We have seen that this cannot be done with the natural courses—the P Blocks—of Stedman Triples, and that therein lie the difficulties of composing a peal in the method. It can be done in a qualified and limited way when we use Hudson's course-ends, and that is why twin-bob peals are possible. We must now see how far it is possible with B Blocks.

A B Block in Stedman Triples is produced by making a bob at every six-end until the bells come round, and the effect is to produce a natural course of Stedman Doubles with two extra bells continually dodging in 6-7.

Now a natural course of Stedman Doubles is not only true in itself, but includes the full extent of the 5-bell rows of like nature. These are qualities eminently fitted to give mutually exclusive blocks, and they are qualities which are reproduced in the B Blocks of Triples, but with definite and important limitations and qualifications.

Here is the first Twelve of a B Block of Stedman Triples. The whole consists of five such Twelves, and if we prick it out we shall find it will give us the full extent of the in-course changes on 12345.

But these changes have 6-7 dodging behind, and therefore one of the 5-bell rows is closed with 6-7, the next with 7-6, and so on alternately. We get only half of the rows with 12345 in the front and 6-7 behind, and only half of the rows with 12345 in the front and 7-6 behind. We must have another B Block to give us the missing rows.

This we can produce by writing out the same block again but reversing 6-7; putting 7-6 where 6-7 comes in our first block, and 6-7 where 7-6 comes. One block would start from 1234567 and the other from 1234576. These two blocks between them contain the full extent of the rows with 12345 in the front and 6-7 or 7-6 behind. The full extent, that is, so long as the 5-bell rows are even.

The 7-bell rows, as in all pure Triples methods, are of alternate nature, those ending with 6-7 being even and those ending with 7-6 being odd.

The row 1234576 is odd and the B Block based on it cannot be had except by using singles. To get the even form of the block we write it out backwards, and the natural course-end is 1325467.

We have now four B Blocks based on four separate natural course-ends which bear a special and important relation to each other.

1234567 and 1325476 contain exactly the same rows, but one is the even form and the other the odd. Similarly 1234576 and 1325467 are even and odd forms of the same block.

In a peal, if either 1234567 or 1325476 is used, then either 1234576 or 1325467 must also be used.

We have taken 1234567 as the natural course when 12345 are the front bells and 6-7 the dodging bells, but any other row would, for the purposes of composition, serve as well, provided we observe the above relationship in the allied B Blocks. We could choose 3215467, and in that case 3124576 would be the alternative (and odd) block and either 3124567 or 3215476 the complementary block.

So much for the 120 rows in which 7-8 are behind and the changes on the front five bells are in-course. But they comprise only half of the rows with 7-8 behind, for there are 120 more in which the changes on the front five are out-of-course. What of them?

Well, all we need say is that they are completely independent of the first 120: 12345 is an even 5-bell row, and 21345 an odd. When 7-8 are added we get 1234567 and 2134576. Both of them are even, but no B Block can exist which will contain the two.

Here is the explanation of what has always puzzled some Stedman conductors. They successfully get 6-7 dodging behind, but sometimes, however they call bobs and singles, the bells do not come round either at handstroke or at backstroke. The reason is that the bells are in the B Blocks in which the rows on the front five bells are odd, and calling any amount of Singles on 6-7 will not alter it.

(To be continued.)

'TELEGRAM, SIR.'**A HOLIDAY MEMORY.**

It was in amongst some papers, which somehow seem to collect in odd drawers. Date, August 11th, 1937, and bearing the simple message, 'One short, bring J——.' It brought back a flood of memories, very pleasant memories of the peal ringing days before the war.

A hot sunny August, a fortnight's holiday, a brand new peal of bells which hadn't had a peal rung on them, a young lady who decided that comfort came before convention . . . but let us start from the beginning.

The first Saturday of the holiday was spent with the local ringers on their annual outing. They had been saving a little each week for a year, and they intended to have a good outing. Plenty of ringing at about eight or nine towers and two spreads, about which it would be unkind to go into details. It was a grand outing, with a party of ringers who liked nothing better than ringing in the tower and talking about it outside. Quite naturally proposals for peals were heard running in and out of the conversation, and in particular the possibility of scoring the first peal on a newly rehung peal at a place about a dozen or so miles from the local tower.

As it happened, two or three of the ringers from the tower with the newly-hung peal were joining in the outing, and it wasn't so long before date and time had been tentatively fixed. The method would have to be Grandsire Triples so that as many local men as possible could take part. The day of the peal drew near and then came the telegram which inspired this yarn. The person whose services were so urgently sought was a very sun-tanned young lady, who, although fond of ringing, hardly considered peals a suitable way of spending a holiday. Anyway, she was game to ring, but how was she to get there? A dozen or so miles away and the only means of transport a bicycle. The only clothes she had suitable for cycling were the shorts and blouse she had been wearing all the holiday. Well, if they want me to ring in the peal, they will have to put up with my appearance, and anyway it will be much more comfortable for cycling and ringing than a skirt.

Well, there it was, seven men and a young lady in cycling rig attempting a peal of Grandsire on a new peal of bells. Grandsire was perhaps not the best method to ring in these parts, but for one reason or another it couldn't be anything else. Somehow the peal didn't settle down very well. Little trips and silly mistakes by first one and then another—except the young lady, who seemed quite settled down. Then it happened, as it was almost bound to do. Two well-tried Surprise ringers shifted and it was all over, although the young lady was still plodding along without the suspicion of a mistake. The inquest revealed it all, where, how, when it happened, and then someone asked why.

Someone else remarked it was a wonder there hadn't been more shifts, giving the young lady in cycling garb a sly wink. Anyway we had to admit that she did look very cool, calm and collected on that hot August afternoon.

Perhaps if that telegram had not been sent to enlist her services we should have rung the peal.

There it is, we didn't ring the peal. And the telegram which revived this memory has been tucked away for five and a half years. Not a very long time, perhaps, but enough has happened in that time to make that little episode of the telegram seem like a fairy story.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM E. WILSON.**A WELL-KNOWN LANCASHIRE RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death at the age of 78 of Mr. William E. Wilson, of Blackburn, which took place on Thursday, February 11th, at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, after a serious operation.

Mr. Wilson had been a member of the Lancashire Association for over 53 years, and had served on its committee for nine years. He was one of the representatives on the Central Council, and took a very active interest in the Blackburn Branch, of which he had been president. He was also a member of the Society of College Youths and the Yorkshire Association.

His ringing career began in 1887 at the Parish Church (now Blackburn Cathedral), and in 1907 he was appointed captain. Throughout the whole of his life his interest in ringing was unabated, and he rang as recently as Christmas Day and for the Libyan victory.

On the completion of his 40 years as a ringer, the church officers and his brother ringers presented him with a mahogany bureau, and the completion of 50 years was marked by the presentation of a gold watch by clergy and church officers. For the past 17 years he had been a sidesman.

He rang 93 peals for the Lancashire Association and one for the Yorkshire Association.

His favourite method was Stedman. He was one of the pioneers of Stedman ringing in North-East Lancashire and had conducted many peals in the method.

He was laid to rest in Samesbury Churchyard on Monday, February 15th, after service in the Cathedral, at which a large number of his fellow townsmen were present.

He is survived by a widow, one daughter and two sons, both of whom have a long connection with ringing. Mr. Thomas Wilson is the ringing secretary of the Lancashire Association, and Mr. Fred Wilson is associated with the band at Glasgow, formerly ringing at Kingsbury and at Blackburn Cathedral.

A REMARKABLE SPLICED PEAL.

Mr. G. E. Feun, who had already made a great name in connection with Spliced Minor, has produced a really remarkable peal of Spliced Major, which includes the whole of the methods in the Central Council Collection of Plain Major Methods as well as two others of the 'Little' class.

It is hardly likely that such a peal will be rung, at least not as 84 methods, but it would be possible for each member of a band to select one bell and learn the work of each of the 45 courses in turn. That would be no small job.

The peal can be arranged in any number of methods from two to 84. Some methods have only one lead in the peal, others have ten or more. With a smaller number of methods a more even distribution can be had.

5,068 Changes in 84 Methods.						
23456	M	W	H	1st part	2nd part	3rd part
45236	—	—	—	78.43.17.44	78.43.17.40	78.43.17.44
24536	—	—	—	52.43.17.56	52.43.17.56	52.43.17.56
52436	—	—	—	44.37.43.17.44	44.37.59.17.44	54.37.43.17.44
63425	—	—	—	59a.37.43.40.15	59a.37.43.40.15	59a.37.43.40.15
46325	—	—	—	38.37.57a.40.15	38.37.57a.40.15	38.37.57a.40.15
34625	—	—	—	12.43.46.56	12.43.46.56	12.43.40.38
62345	—	—	—	49.37.58a.40.40	49.37.58a.46.40	15.37.58a.46.40
53246	—	—	—	15.37.43.40.40	15.37.43.46.40	15.37.43.46.40
25346	—	—	—	44.45.59.17.15	44.45.59.17.15	44.39.59.17.15
32546	—	—	—	53.16.43.38.44	48.16.43.17.44	53.16.43.38.44
65243	—	—	—	15.14.43.40.44	15.14.43.46.40	40.14.43.46.44
26543	—	—	—	41.30	10.81	6.7
52643	—	—	—	28.29	63.26	64.42
36245	—	—	—	38.13.43.40.44	38.13.43.46.44	38.13.43.46.40
23645	—	—	—	21.45.43.46.15	21.39.43.46.15	54.45.43.46.15
Twice repeated with S for—at end gives 32456.						
32456	W	M	H	4th part	5th part	6th part
64325	—	—	—	50.31.61.9.74.60	50.31.61.9.74.60	50.31.61.9.74.23
36425	—	—	—	19.2.32.47.1	65.3.51.74.1	35.3.51.79.1
42365	—	—	—	76.31.32.77.74.1	76.31.32.77.74.25	76.31.32.77.74.1
34265	—	—	—	33.K.74	33.36	33.11
23465	—	—	—	B.57.62a	73.B.34	73.B.K.52a
46235	—	—	—	8.2.61.5.83.24	8.2.61.5.83.1	8.2.61.5.83.1
24635	—	—	—	4.31.32.77.74.55	80.32.18.55	4.31.32.20.74.55
63245	—	—	—	76.31.75.77.74.1	76.31.75.77.74.22	76.31.75.77.74.1
26345	—	—	—	62.32.77.74.1	62.B.74	62.32.77.74.27
32645	—	—	—	B.58.K.66	82.B.B.74	82.B.K.66
Twice repeated with S for—at end gives 23456.						

52a, 57a, 58a, 59a and 62a are the same as the original numbers, except that 2nd's, instead of 8th's place, is made at the lead-ends.

B=Bastow Little Court 12345678	K=Kent Little Court 12345678
21436587	21346587
21345678	21435678
12436587	12436587
14263857	14263857

THE APPEAL OF BELLS.

Writers and poets of many ages have written and sung of merry bells, solemn bells, joyful bells, sullen bells, sweet bells, silver bells—few things indeed have had so many and so diverse adjectives applied to them. And all the while they were the same bells rung for the most part in the same manner.

The difference has always lain in the listener, for it is the peculiar quality of bells to respond to the varying moods of men; and because that is so, they often sound almost intolerable. The sweet church bell which calls to worship does not always sound sweet. It may at times have a depressing and irritating effect. Charles Dickens in one of his books gives a vivid account of the effect of church bells on a lonely man stranded on a Sunday in the London of the early nineteenth century:—

'It was a Sunday evening in London, gloomy, close, and stale. Maddening church bells of all degrees of dissonance, sharp and flat, cracked and clear, fast and slow, made the brick-and-mortar echoes hideous.

'Mr. Arthur Clenman sat in the window of a coffee-house on Ludgate Hill, counting one of the neighbouring bells, making sentences and burdens of song out of it in spite of himself, and wondering how many sick people it might be the death of in the course of the year. As the hour approached, its changes of measure made it more and more exasperating. At the quarter, it went off into a condition of deadly-lively importunity, urging the populace in a voluble manner to Come to church, Come to church, Come to church! At the ten minutes, it became aware that the congregation would be scanty, and slowly hammered out in low spirits They won't come they won't come, they won't come. At the five minutes it abandoned hope, and shook every house in the neighbourhood for three hundred seconds with one dismal swing per second, as a groan of despair. "Thank Heaven!" said Clenman when the hour struck and the bell stopped.'

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 87.)

On the walls of the ringing chamber at Evesham are the following ringers' rules:—

Gentlemen Ringers, far and near,
That are disposed to Ring here,
Observe these Rules and note them well
The man that overturns his Bell
Unto the Sexton sixpence pay,
Before he passes hence away.
And he that rings with Spur or Hat,
Must pay likewise fourpence for that,
Ropes cost money: Oyl is dear
Therefore make pay or come not here.

On the road from Shrewsbury to Welshpool is the village of Cardeston, and the Church of St. Michael has a quaint 'pepper-box' semi-detached tower not unlike Irthlingborough, but on a much reduced scale. The church is a small building in Early English style, re-erected in 1749, and has an embattled west tower with pyramidal roof, which was erected in 1844. This tower is joined to the main building by a lower roofed short passage. It has one bell dated 1700.

Suffolk has two or three examples of detached towers, the best known being, of course, Beccles and Bury St. Edmunds. St. Michael's Church, Beccles, standing near the market and overlooking the meadow, is a structure of flint in the Perpendicular style, and it has a detached stone tower 92ft. high, erected about 1515 but never completed. It stands about 20ft. from the north-east corner of the church and has an illuminated clock and a ring of ten bells.

Mr. George E. Symonds, of Ipswich, sends me some interesting data in connection with this unique tower, and with his kind permission I give some extracts. He tells me the tower is the property of the Beccles Corporation, who pay for ringing days, and whilst he was there the ringers smoked. Also the late Mr. Henry Hopson, who rang till over 80 years of age, would bring five pints of ale for the ten ringers on practice nights. Mr. Hopson cut the present holes in the steeple for the clock faces, being suspended in a cradle on the outside. It was through his energy that the bells were rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in a new iron frame, and they were re-opened in November, 1909. They are a grand ring, most of them by Lester and Pack, and before being rehung the ropes fell in the following curious order: 1978026543.

Mr. Symonds possesses three picture frames made from the timbers of the old bell frame. He continues: 'Work was scarce in Beccles at times in the building trade, so Mr. Hopson obtained a job at Lowestoft, nine miles distant, and he had to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. There being no petrol in those days, he had to walk, starting out at 4 a.m. and arriving back home at 8 p.m.—18 miles' walk and a long day's work! This would frighten most people to-day, but it did not hurt him.'

There are no parapets to Beccles campanile, and it looks very dangerous to see persons walking on the roof when one is standing in the market place. Another unique feature is its four stairways, one in each corner—one to the belfry, another to the clock, a third to the bell chamber, and a fourth to the top.

It will be remembered that in my series on 'Ringers' Jugs' I gave a description of the Beccles example. This was kept in a cupboard standing on the west wall in the large window of the ringing room. This is about 2½ft. to 3ft. each way, the top acting as a table was cut with straight lines for use as a shove-ha'penny board, the only one I have heard of in any belfry, but Mr. Symonds says he never saw a game played on it in his time.

At Bramfield, St. Andrew's Church has a detached round tower, about 20ft. away from the main building. It contains a ring of five bells in a minor key, i.e., the first five of a ring of six. The first two are dated 1621, but the other three are mediæval, probably by Henry Jordan, of London. They were rehung in 1890 by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye.

Bury St. Edmunds, the capital of West Suffolk, had two civil parishes of St. James and St. Mary, which now have been amalgamated and constituted into the single parish of St. James. In 1914 this church was constituted the Cathedral of the Bishopric of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It was originally built during the 12th century by Abbot Anselm. At the end of the 13th century and during the 14th, the church was reconstructed but not completed until the 15th century. It has been restored and enlarged several times since that time. The gateway tower of the abbey cemetery serves as the belfry, and contains a fine ring of ten bells, all dated 1785.

It has been asserted that this tower, which was built by Anselm, is the finest original example of Norman architecture in the kingdom, and one of the most perfect specimens in Europe. Its walls are nearly 8ft. thick. It is 86ft. high and 36ft. square, the work being executed with the axe and not the chisel. There are four stages and several sub-stages. The archway at base goes right through the tower, but is not now used as a thoroughfare. The tower now stands in a pit or excavation some 5 or 6ft. deep below the pavement level, an iron fence surrounding it. This was done to show the original ground level.

In 1553, Bury possessed 'great bells v.' In 1785, a complete ring of ten was provided, cast by T. Osborn, with a tenor 27 cwt. approximately. Previously there was a ring of eight bells, and on these the local ringers rang a peal of 5,040 Bob Major on March 5th, 1779, in 3 hours 5 minutes, called by William Digby. The ring of ten was opened on August 12th, 1785, by a band of 'Cambridge Youths.' On September 18th, 1791, another local peal of 5,040 Bob Major was rung, and a similar one in 1798. Since those days a number of peals in various methods have been accomplished.

The Church of SS. Andrew and Patrick, Elvedon, Suffolk, has been nearly rebuilt in an elaborate manner, an entirely new nave and chancel having been built north of the old church. The old tower—15th century—is surmounted by full-size statues at the four corners, placed on small pedestals, in lieu of pinnacles. According to local tradition, these statues represent four shepherds who are said to have built the tower.

This tower has one bell, 'John Darbie made me 1664,' and a set of ten tubes. The old church was St. Andrew's, and St. Patrick's was added in 1904-6. In 1922 a new tower containing eight bells was built, and is connected to the church by a long cloister, this addition being erected to the memory of Viscountess Iveagh.

(Continued on next page.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

East Bergholt, St. Mary's, is noted for its curious detached 'bell-house.' A local tradition here is that Cardinal Wolsey, while engaged in the work of the building, fell into disgrace, and so the tower was never finished. Certainly the whole work was not dependent upon him only, if we may judge from the will of Robert Cole, of Stratford, Suffolk, clothmaker, 1527, who writes:—

'I will that my executors, after my departure, at times convenient, do deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the use and building of the church of East Bergholt, as much free stone as shall make up the work there, that is to say the body of the church, with north aisle, according to such promise I have made.'

This bequest was not consistent with Wolsey's idea of building a tower. He was then well up in dignity and wealth, holding the See of Durham with the Archbishopric of York. The bell-cage still contains one bell by Henry Jordan, who died in 1468.

But another legend says of the curious bell-cage:—

'As far back as the fifteenth century, it was erected in another corner of the churchyard, but the squire was so annoyed at the sound of the chimes, that he had the curious building removed, so that the intervening church might deaden the sound.'

The bell-house is only a brick foundation about a foot above the ground, and the bells are hung from the stock without wheels or ropes. They are a heavy ring of five, largest 25 cwt., and each ringer stands on a shelf, two feet from the ground by the side, and swings his bell by hand, by the stock on which the bell is hung, and so, like a pendulum and by centrifugal force, they are rung up in the usual way.

For chiming purposes, small lines are led from the bell clappers over pulleys above, which fall down and are handled by the ringers, who stand on a platform level with the top of the bell frame. On account of the church tower never being finished, this bell-cage was prepared for the bells, and so they remain to this day. Even under these difficult conditions, it is recorded that on Monday, April 23rd, 1821, 120 changes of Single were rung on these bells by making the tenor quick hunt and the treble half-hunt by the following: Samuel Orris, sen., 1, William Bird 2, T. Stoley 3, Thomas Orris 4, Samuel Orris, jun., 5. Samuel Orris, sen., conducted the peal. This would be a unique performance when one considers the weight of the bells, viz.: (1) 12½ cwt., (2) 12½ cwt., (3) 14½ cwt. (4), 19½ cwt., (5) 25 cwt.

(To be continued.)

MR. G. L. GROVER'S AWARD.**AN EXPLANATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your reference to my award is a little misleading, and in order that no one shall be under any misapprehension, I beg to point out that my award was made for good service, and no question of gallantry (in any sense of the word) arises. G. L. GROVER.

East Clendon, near Guildford, Surrey.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st, certain? All welcome. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Sneyd, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, March 6th, at 3.30. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify the Rev. Hugh Benson, Sneyd Vicarage, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, not later than March 2nd.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 8th, 1943.

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THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

The account of the recent meeting at Oxford and the attempt that is being made to form a new Universities Association will be read with attention by ringers generally, and the fortunes of the new society will be followed with sympathetic interest, for one at least of the declared objects may prove to be of lasting benefit to the Exercise.

To have a name under which peals can be rung and tours arranged is of no great importance. The idea that every peal rung must be attributed to some society or other is one which has grown up in the Exercise during the last half century and is universally held; but it has no real basis, and has some disadvantages. It arose because men thought that peals rung without the name of a society would be unrecorded and forgotten. Going to the other extreme, they sometimes put two and even three names at the top of their reports, so as to get a double or three-fold record. This custom was forbidden by the Central Council, but mainly for reasons connected with 'points for peals.'

The name of the society in the report of a peal should be part of the plain, matter-of-fact record, and that is hardly the case when the name is used by men who have no more than a somewhat nominal membership.

An instance of this is referred to by Mr. C. E. Borrett. Some years ago a band made up of distinguished ringers from all parts of England toured the Northern Counties and Scotland. They rang a good many peals and all were published under the name of the Norwich Diocesan Association, which had to pay some extra pounds for the printing of its report and got no benefit whatever.

That was rather an extreme case, for a band on tour usually chooses the association in whose district it rings its peals; but even so it is difficult to see why the association should be put to the expense of printing the peals which are no sign of the skill and proficiency of its own members. There is really no valid reason why peals rung by mixed bands should not be published as non-society peals, which, of course, they are.

Nor do we think it would be any particular advantage to the Exercise at large to form an association which should be open to those who have had a University training. We must not forget that while societies unite people, they also divide people. If inclusion and co-operation are essential features of a society, so are also selection and exclusiveness. The ideal society is that which best combines and reconciles these two opposites. There was a time when ringing societies were mainly

(Continued on page 102.)

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exclusive, and undoubtedly it then was necessary to the life of the Exercise. Now we need the fullest co-operation, and the territorial associations seem to be the best form of organisation to attain that end. If the new society had no other object than to divide ringers into those who hold a University degree and those who do not, it would hardly be an unmixed blessing.

Everything in this world worth having has to be paid for, and this price would be worth while paying if the new society can attain its declared object and promote the practice of change ringing among the students of the newer universities. It will not be an easy thing to do. The conditions are altogether different from those at Oxford and Cambridge, due chiefly to the absence of colleges. But the benefits the Exercise has derived from the ringing societies at the two older Universities are so great that the attempt is eminently worth making, and is a full justification for the new association. London University, we notice, is excluded from the scheme. That, probably, is as well. A ringing society there would hardly be possible, and if possible would not be advisable.

JOINT MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

A very pleasant joint meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at St. John's Church Hall, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th.

About 35 members and friends were present from Beaconsfield, Beddington, Boyne Hill, Burbage (Leicester), Bushey, Ealing (St. Stephen's), Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Kingsbury, Mere (Wilts), Ruislip, St. Albans (St. Peter's), Stoke Poges, Twickenham, Watford, Wembley and Windsor.

The Church Hall was available from 3 p.m., and two sets of handbells were soon in use, the methods rung including Grandsire Triples and Oaters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Major. Some good ringing was accomplished, in addition to some good tune playing by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker and Mr. W. L. Gutteridge.

A substantial tea was provided at 5 p.m. and was followed by a short business meeting, presided over by Mr. G. M. Kilby, Ringing Master.

The secretary apologised for the absence of the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. E. C. S. Turner and Mr. C. T. Coles, who were detained at an important committee meeting in London. A letter of good wishes was read by Mr. F. W. Goodfellow from Messrs. Bray, of Uxbridge, both of whom have recently obtained commissions in H.M. Forces, and he was requested to send a suitable reply.

During the proceedings the Vicar of St. John's, the Rev. A. M. Bashford, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Middlesex Association. He extended a hearty welcome to those present and spoke of the joy of hearing the bells rung recently. Although he himself was not altogether in favour of premature victory ringing, he had to admit that the very large congregation present at the subsequent service was largely due to the call of the bells. He strongly advised those present to get Church authorities interested in ringing, and to get themselves elected to the Ruri-Decanal Conferences, so as to make their views known. With regard to the annual district meeting to be held early in April, he gave a cordial invitation to Hillingdon, the hall being available, and there being no question of coming too often. In view of the difficulty of obtaining accommodation, this kind invitation will probably be accepted.

The secretary made a strong appeal for the payment of subscriptions and arrears, and it is gratifying to record that there was a good response as regards both associations.

A very hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. D. Barker, secretary to the Oxford Guild, to the Vicar, Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow and to all their helpers who had made such excellent arrangements in providing tea and social events, and this was carried by acclamation.

After tea a very successful and enjoyable social programme was carried out, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow, Mr. W. H. Coles and others. It included songs by Mr. W. L. Gutteridge, piano-accompaniment solos by Mr. Toni Corso, dancing and community singing to the same accompaniment, games and a very effective duet by piano-accompaniment and saw, the latter by Mr. Casey Jones, who caused astonishment by the fine effect he produced from the latter. Various touches on the handbells were also introduced into the proceedings, and further refreshments were provided. A very enjoyable evening closed about 9 p.m., great appreciation being expressed at the kindness and trouble taken by Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow and company.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 20 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Ox- ford) 5-6
FRANK E. HAYNES (Cam- bridge) 3-4	REV. MALCOLM C. C. MEL- VILLE (Birmingham) ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 24). Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob. The first peal for the association.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

WILFRID F. MORETON (Ox- ford) 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
MRS. M. R. CROSS (Reading) 3-4	*LT. WILLIAM F. GIBBONS (Oxford) 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY:

On Saturday, February 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
JOAN H. ULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3-4	*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 7-8

Composed by F. E. W. MEADOWS (C.C.C. No. 34).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Liversedge on Saturday, February 27th, and was attended by members from Armley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's) and the local company.

During the afternoon and evening Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on handbells.

A vote of thanks to Mr. F. Hodgson, of the local company, for the day's arrangements, was proposed by Mr. Lofthouse and seconded by Mr. J. F. Harvey.

The arrangement of the next meeting was left with the secretary. This meeting should be a joint meeting with the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association.

DEATH OF STOKE-ON-TRENT RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Austin, who for about 56 years had been a member of the Stoke-on-Trent band.

Although not a great peal ringer, he had taken part in peals in the four standard methods, and was regular in his attendance in the belfry.

The funeral service was on February 24th in Stoke Parish Church and the interment at Hanley Cemetery. The Stoke ringers were represented and sent a floral tribute.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 92.)

COLLEGE YOUTHS AND CUMBERLANDS.

Concurrently with the contest at Shoreditch another was going on at St. Giles', Cripplegate, where the tenor weighed 36 cwt., and where, in the year 1772, Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel, had hung a new ring of ten in the steeple. So far as we know only three peals had been rung on the old bells—5,094 Grandsire Caters by the College Youths in 1726, 6,012 Grandsire Caters by the City Scholars in 1732, and 5,040 Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in 1752.

As I have already mentioned, the College Youths rang the first peal on the new bells, one of Grandsire Caters, and the Cumberlands beat it a month later. The College Youths rang the first peal of Treble Bob Royal, 5,080 changes, in 1774, with Thomas Sylvester and William Mills at the tenor, and in May, 1777, three days after the 11,080 at Shoreditch, the London Youths rang Reeves' composition with the extent of the method in nine courses. Christopher Wells called the bobs, and Reeves rang the tenor with the help of James Truscoat.

On January 5th, 1778, the Cumberlands rang 5,320 changes with the elder Muggeridge at the ninth and Robert Mann at the tenor, the first peal on the bells by ten men only. But their rivals were hot on their heels, and on March 21st, they scored a 6,000 single-handed, in 4 hours and 25 minutes. Charles Purser rang the ninth and the younger Samuel Muggeridge the tenor. It was a very fine performance, for only a short while before, two and even three men were needed to ring the bell behind to a five-thousand. We must, however, remember that in the days of wooden frames and wooden headstocks the go of a bell varied considerably from time to time, and some were very much affected by changes in the weather. The gudgeons were driven into the stock and turned up by hand, which almost always meant that a newly hung bell never went well until the brasses were somewhat worn, or as the saying was, until the bell had got her bearings.

The College Youths were now supreme. Both on ten and twelve bells, in number of changes, and weight of metal, they had beaten their competitors; but now another band took a hand in the game.

The Norwich Scholars were then at the height of their fame; among provincial societies they stood alone in reputation; and only recently Pack and Chapman had cast the grand ring of twelve at St. Peter Mancroft. In the year 1777 some of the Norwich men visited London. What they did there, and whether they attempted a peal we do not know; but they were made welcome by the Cumberlands and joined that society. In the same year Thomas Smith, Thomas Blakemore and Robert Mann visited Norwich and rang a peal of Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, which was entered in the Cumberlands' peal book.

In 1778 the Norwich men again went to London, this time apparently with a full band. Naturally they heard a lot about the long peal contest, and when they returned home they resolved to make an attempt themselves on the record. On March 16th, 1778, they rang 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in five hours and twenty-two minutes. As they were all members of the Society of Cumberland Youths, the perform-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

ance was entered in the company's peal book, and was some consolation for the defeats of the previous year.

The peal was composed and conducted by Thomas Barton, and the figures have survived and are true. It has the rather unusual feature of starting with a bob at Home. Jasper Snowdon suggested that the object was 'of course' to obviate any fear of a jumble out, and goes on to say that when a company is not a very able one, perhaps there is no real ground for an objection to such a proceeding; but for his own part, he would certainly prefer to risk any danger of getting out, rather than have recourse to such a measure.

The argument is scarcely convincing. The Norwich band cannot be said not to have been an able one, and a company which cannot ring the first two leads of a peal is not very likely to be able to ring the last two. The truth is that no conventions had as yet grown up on the matter. The Norwich men saw no more objection to calling a bob in the first lead of Treble Bob than in the first lead of Grandsire, or Plain Bob. Later on, in the nineteenth century, ringers got into very narrow ways of looking at some things, and there were composers, like Henry Dains and Nathan Pitstow, who maintained that to start a peal of Treble Bob with one or two Homes was as much a departure from correct usage, as to start Grandsire Caters with 6-7 lying still. Opinion in the matter has greatly changed, the device is now fairly common, and we are inclined to think that, since Barton finished his peal with nearly the whole of the plain course, his plan was worth while.

Two men, John and James Trowse, were needed to ring Mancroft tenor to the peal. The general hanging of the bells was excellent. The work was done for the Whitechapel Foundry by a man named Turner, and Frederick Day, the bell-hanger of Eye, a competent authority, told me he had never seen a better frame. But the tenor never did go well, and, until modern times, only on one occasion was a man able to ring it single-handed to a five-thousand.

This may have had something to do with the time it took to ring the Maximus. Although the bell was 12 cwt. less than the tenor at Southwark, the peal was rung at a slower rate than any performance in that tower. The average rate of ringing at Southwark in the eighteenth century was just over twenty changes a minute, the slowest being 19.51, and the quickest 21.12; while in recent years the average rate is about 22. The Norwich peal was rung at the rate of 19.38 changes a minute.

For six years after the Norwich peal the long length records remained divided between College Youths and Cumberlands, but neither company had given up the hope of wresting full honours from its rival. George Gross was a man who delighted in long peal ringing, and in 1779 he called 11,088 changes of Bob Major at St. Nicholas', Brighton. We may be sure he was continually urging his friends to make another attempt at Shore-ditch, but the difficulty was to find a competent tenor ringer. Mann rang the tenor to the 10,200, and by turning in Cripplegate tenor had shown that he was a first class heavy bell man; but to ring a 31 cwt. bell for more than nine hours was probably a bigger task than he was prepared to attempt. He rang the bell to a 6,000 in October, 1783, no doubt to test his capacity. Samuel

Wood and his brother Francis, too, were getting older. They had been active ringers for thirty years and were now about fifty years old. They would stand aside and let younger men make the attempt.



ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE,
before the recent air raid.

The Cumberlands found at last the heavy bell men they needed in Malachi Channon and Allen Grant. Channon was born in 1747 and had joined the society on December 28th, 1771, but had not got into the peal band until six years later, when he rang the tenor at Whitechapel to a couple of peals of Bob Major. He took part in a five-thousand in November, 1782, when he rang the ninth at St. Leonard's to Grandsire Caters, and then he was picked as the best man to ring that bell in the attempt for the record Treble Bob Royal.

Allen Grant had been a member of one branch of the Society of London Youths. That society broke up in 1780, and in September, 1782, Grant joined the Cumberlands. He then went to the ancient Society of College Youths to rejoin some of his old friends of the London Youths, and now he was invited back to the Cumberlands to ring the tenor in the big attempt.

Meanwhile Charles Purser had quarrelled with the College Youths and left them. During the few years he was their leader, he had stirred them into great activity,

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

but it seems to have been his fate never to remain for long with one band, and, although he continued ringing for twenty years more, he never again occupied the same prominent position.

He was succeeded as conductor by John Povey, who held the office of beadle, and was for many years the mainstay of the society. They had two important recruits in George Scarsbrook, who came to them from the London Youths, and James Worster, a very excellent ringer, who lived at Chelsea, and did most of his ringing at Kensington and the Middlesex villages to the west of London.

In 1784 both societies were ready to make another attempt on the double record. On March 10th the College Youths beat the Norwich peal by ringing 7,008 changes of Maximus at Southwark in five hours and forty-eight minutes. Povey rang the fourth and called John Reeves' 10-course composition with the sixth the extent each way, the peal which is given in the standard books as a 5,040 of Royal. The other bells were rung by Winstanley Richardson, William Hatt, sen., William Hatt, jun., James Darquitt, George Scarsbrook, James Worster, William Lyford, Joseph Monk, Joseph Holdsworth, Edmund Sylvester, and Samuel Muggeridge. Muggeridge thus beat his father's 6,336 of Plain Bob Maximus. The rate of ringing was about the same in both peals, the earlier being at 20.11 changes a minute, and the other at 20.24 — much slower than is usual nowadays.

A fortnight later the Cumberlands made their attempt. On the morning of Saturday, March 27th, they met in

(Continued in next column.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CHELMSFORD.**

The annual meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex Association was held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday and was attended by twelve members representing six towers. The Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer Phillips, took the chair.

Mr. L. J. Clark informed the meeting with regret that Mr. H. W. Shadrack, the district secretary, was unable to be present owing to the death of his wife, which had taken place on the previous day. The deceased lady had been a regular attendant at the meetings of the district for some years past, and had on a number of occasions given able assistance in providing teas. Those present stood in silence for a few moments, and it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. Shadrack.

The secretary's report stated that during 1942 meetings were held at Chelmsford, Great Baddow, Writtle, Springfield and Widford, the average attendance being 15. Three members had died during the year, namely, Mr. Davis, of Great Waltham, Mr. Bird, of Galleywood, and Mr. S. C. Card, of Maldon St. Mary's, the latter as the result of enemy action.

Mr. H. J. Mansfield was re-elected Master and Mr. H. W. Shadrack secretary. Messrs. G. Green and E. J. Runter were re-elected to the committee. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Maldon in April, subject to the defence area restrictions not being re-imposed.

A service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. E. R. Morrow, with an address by the Rev. W. F. G. Mitchell.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

St. Leonard's belfry, and, all being ready, they struck into changes at one o'clock. They rang for nine hours and five minutes, and at five minutes past ten they came into rounds. Outside the church a big crowd had collected, and as the ringers came out of the tower they were greeted with 'a great shout of approbation and joy' by the people, who formed a cheering lane through which they made their way to the White Hart nearby. Thus both records changed hands once more.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Spliced Major given in our last issue was by Mr. G. E. Feirn, of Barnetby, Lincolnshire. We are sorry his name was printed incorrectly.

Miss Cross should have taken part in the first peal by the new Universities Society and so made it representative of five universities, but unfortunately she had to stand down owing to a headache.

The most interesting accounts by Canon Coleridge and Mr. R. T. Hibbert of the late John Martin Routh should have appeared in our last issue. The parcel containing the manuscripts, however, got hung up on the railway and did not reach the printers in time.

We are glad to hear from Mr. Hibbert that though the windows of St. Laurence's Church have suffered badly, the ring of twelve bells is safe.

Those who wish to join the new Universities Association should send their subscription (minimum 1s.) without delay to Mr. John E. Spice at New College, Oxford.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major in the county of Essex was rung at Saffron Walden 50 years ago on February 27th, 1893.

Fifty years ago yesterday William Snowdon presided at the Johnson anniversary dinner at Birmingham.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday Samuel Wood called at Ashton-under-Lyne John Thorpe's peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 10,464 changes.

Henry Johnson, whose memory will be honoured at Birmingham to-morrow, was born on February 28th, 1809; and on the same date in 1838 Edwin Horrex, for many years a leading member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born at Ipswich.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Royal at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on February 26th, 1733; and on the same date in 1801 a mixed band rang the second peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal.

The St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham regained the record for Stedman Cinques (which they had lost in 1851) by ringing 9,238 changes on February 28th, 1881.

The first peal of Premier Surprise Major was rung at Whitley Bay on February 28th, 1922. The method is Bristol Surprise with seconds and sevenths added.

Two early long peals of Grandsire Caters were rung at Painswick on March 1st—8,064 changes in 1734, and 10,080 changes in 1735.

The extent of Canterbury Pleasure Major with the tenors together, 13,440 changes, was rung at Warnham, Sussex, on March 1st, 1889.

The Leicester men rang Melton Surprise Royal on March 2nd, 1929; and the Nottingham men rang 10,260 Grandsire Caters on March 3rd, 1778.

One of the many long lengths at Appleton was a peal of Grandsire Caters, 12,041 changes, on March 5th, 1888.

The first peal of London Bob Triples was rung at Bridgend, Glamorganshire, on March 5th, 1927; the first peal of Warwickshire Surprise Major at Nuneaton on March 5th, 1932; and the first peal of Chester Surprise Major at Helmingham on March 6th, 1936.

The Oldham men rang 7,392 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on March 6th, 1832, and took the 12-bell record from Birmingham. They lost it the next year to Painswick.

THE FIRST PEAL AT BROMLEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I write to point out a small error in your article in 'The Ringing World' of February 19th.

I am a Cumberland man and am naturally following your interesting columns of the Cumberland Society in bygone days, but I am also a Kentish man and a great admirer of James Barham. It was he and his band who rang the first peal on Bromley bells on Monday, June 14th, 1773. The enclosed copy of the peal was passed on to the Bromley Youths by Mr. Phil Hodgkin, of Headcorn, who has some of James Barham's books.

P. SPICE, Secretary, Bromley Youths.

6, Glebe Road, Bromley, Kent.

'Monday, 14th June, 1773, was rung at Bromley 5,068 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 3 hours and 7 minutes by William Davis treble, William Cook 2, William Tilly 3, Thomas Austin 4, George Tilly 5, John Freeland 6, James Barham 7, Thomas Lacey tenor. This is the first long peal on them bells, though there has been two companies from London to try.'

THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In regard to the ban on bellringing, I am sure that some of your readers did not see or hear some of the goings on out in France during the last war. I well remember going through one village early in the morning when the church bell started to ring, and we soon had some shells coming over to us. I still wonder if something of that sort of signalling was in our Government's mind when the ban was imposed on us. May we soon ring the victory bells again.

PEARL INSKIP.

38, King Street, Kempston, Beds.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.

Although he was hardly a name to the present generation of ringers, Mr. Routh was well known in the Exercise fifty years ago and more. He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1873, the same year as the Rev. C. W. Kennaway, afterwards hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, the Rev. Erskin Clarke, afterwards Rector of Battersea and Editor of 'Church Bells,' Lord Justice R. R. Cherry, and his brother, F. B. Cherry, of whom the latest news was that he is still alive and living in British Columbia.

Martin Routh was Master of the College Youths in the year 1885.

Canon Coleridge, who knew him well, sends us the following account, which, as he says, will be appreciated by young and old:—

CANON COLERIDGE'S MEMORIES.

It has been suggested to me that a short 'In memoriam' notice of the late J. Martin Routh by one who has known him for over 60 years would be appreciated by ringers generally, whether old or young. I gladly respond to the suggestion.

Tilehurst, Berks, in days gone by, was highly esteemed among the medical practitioners of Reading as eminently suited to patients in the convalescent stage. It was on a hill and was noted for its pure air—a great asset to speedy recovery. Here it was that Martin Routh was born just over 96 years ago, and no doubt attributed his long period of life to favourable country surroundings.

His father was Rector for 44 years, succeeding the well-known Dr. Routh, president of Magdalen College, Oxford, who lived to his 100th year, partly owing no doubt to the fact that being Rector of Tilehurst as well, he could spend his long vacations there, and gain benefit from the salubrious air at frequent intervals. Those were the days of pluralities, when it was no uncommon thing for a man to hold several 'offices of profit' in the Church at the same time, paying a curate £40-60 a year to do the work. ('Those good old days,' say some; happily for us they are long past.)

Here it was that Martin Routh was brought up, and, after matriculating at Oxford, proceeded to the Bar. My first meeting with him was in the street near the Temple, in which he had chambers; also at the meeting place of the College Youths near Southwark Cathedral when he was present as an ordinary member. Later he became Master of the society, and at his death was the oldest in age (96 years); also in membership (70 years).

PEAL RINGING.

As to his peal ringing prowess, I must leave that to others. I can only mention those in which we stood in together—all within the short space of eight years—50-60 years ago, eight in all, viz., at St. Laurence's, Reading, three, Stedman Caters, Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal; at Tilehurst, three, Grandsire (Holt's Original), conducted by himself, on augmentation of peal with two new trebles, Stedman Triples and Double Norwich; one at Drayton, Berks, Stedman Triples, the first peal in the method by the Oxford University Society, to which he was elected, the society being formed after he had 'gone down' from Oxford; one at Lambourn, Berks, Stedman Triples, on the opening of the restored bells, a notable day for Lambourn, for the Bishop preached and Sir John Stainer, a Lambourn boy, left his console at St. Paul's to play the organ at the service.

It was a notable day, too, for Martin Routh, but not so happy for him and most distressing to his companions. This was on May 17th, 1892. Five years before he had lost the sight of his right eye at a cricket match on Jubilee Day while playing cricket at one of the Wallops, near Stockbridge (whether Over or Nether Wallop I am unable to remember). A few courses from the end, by some mishap, some part of his rope struck him on the left eye, depriving him of rope-sight. We saw, of course, that something was wrong, as he was ringing solely by sound, but he begged us to keep on to the finish, which we did. His appeal, 'Will somebody find my coat for me?' made us fear the worst, though none of us knew the cause. It was distressing work getting him down the tower steps and finally seating him in the big wagonette for the long homeward drive.

After some time his sight in that one eye was restored, but I fancy that from that day he gave up serious ringing, but certainly not his interest. At all events, I have no knowledge to the contrary. He was active in all that pertained to ringing, especially as evinced in the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and ever delighted when some ringing friend visited him in his house, a few yards from the Rectory.

MANY INTERESTS.

I know of one young man who was never more pleased than to sit at his feet, listen to his stories and experiences, and most reluctantly tear himself away. Several times have I visited him, and always found him the same, cheery, reminiscent and full of hospitality.

Before old age crept on, fortunately he had other interests than ringing—shooting, fishing, gardening, reading and writing—a sure shot, a keen dry-fly fisherman and a gardener who produced such heads of asparagus as I have never seen before.

For his 91st birthday, 'by request of his family,' as a remembrance of it, he was persuaded to print 90 sets of doggerel verses he had written for his own amusement, and 'to keep good stories in memory.' Many of them are 'side splitting.' I should like to quote some of them, but as the book is plainly marked, 'For private circulation

only. All rights reserved. Copyright by Martin Routh, of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law, I must needs refrain.

Owing to travel difficulties I have been unable to pay him a visit for nearly five years, then I saw him for the last time. I had gone over to preach at the restoration of the bells and had little spare time for talk. A few days later he sent me a copy of his verses 'from his old friend the author,' with a recent photo of himself and a delightfully long letter. As this is not copyright, I should like to reproduce certain parts of it exactly as written, two extracts of events in the past, which have to do with the tenor at St. Paul's and the trebles at Tilehurst, though I know well that the stories are well known in both those quarters. Here is what he says:—

(1) 'Apropos of the man who said "I couldn't do it" is this. "Curly" Jones, a huge cook in the Royal Horse Guards, used to ring the tenor at St. Paul's Cathedral, and he is credited in an old number of "The Bell News" as having raised the tenor single-handed on a certain Sunday afternoon. On that day I was up among the bells with another man. I think it might have been F. E. Dawe, but am not at all certain about this. While up there the tenor began to move. It was generally raised by three men with strap ropes for two of them. The bell when about frame high did not get any higher and we on each side kept pulling the wheel as hard as we could at each poise of the bell and the result was successful and the bell was set up.

'When we descended and took our places to ring, nothing was told us, and it was not till a week afterwards that my companion showed me the paragraph in 'Bell News,' and we looked at one another! I often wonder whether my companion let on! I didn't, and if ever I meet "Curly," who, I hope, is alive, I shall not say to him, "You couldn't do it," although, in fact, he didn't on that occasion.

TILEHURST BELLS.

(2) 'I heard that you said (in your sermon) much more, I am sure, than I deserve, but I really do think that I was the cause of the peal being increased to eight bells. My father told me that Mrs. Alexander, then of Calcot Park, was desirous of giving something to the church in memory of the 40 years of happy married life spent with her late husband. I suggested two trebles to the peal and he agreed. I then went to Mrs. Alexander and suggested that no more appropriate gift could be given, as bells are said to rejoice with those who do rejoice and weep with those who weep, and left her with the two trebles in my pocket.'

Under the shadow of the church we leave him, within a few yards of his old home. He saw many changes in his long life. Calcot Park, with its large herd of deer, is now occupied as a golf course and club. Other large houses no longer are inhabited by many a well-known and honoured family. Acres upon acres of lovely slopes and pastures have been covered with a motley array of bricks and mortar. A town rather than an erstwhile village has sprung up, with a population of 11,000, or, with the daughter parish, double that number. A change indeed which Martin Routh lived to see. Tilehurst regrets the loss of her oldest inhabitant. Ringers generally will speak of him as a legendary person. Friends in all stations of life, myself among the number, will cherish the memory of a staunch and true friend. R.I.P.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

MR. R. T. HIBBERT'S TRIBUTE.

A link with the past was severed on Monday, February 15th, when J. M. Routh, of The Manor, Tilehurst, Reading, passed away. His 96th birthday was December 27th, 1942, and up to the end his memory was marvellous.

He was a charming man to spend an hour with. He was a great man in the ringing world in the eighties, being then in chambers in London, practising as a barrister. He was born at the Rectory, Tilehurst, where his father was incumbent for upward of 30 years.

When the bells at Tilehurst were increased to eight in 1884 he, being home most week-ends, taught a young band, the only survivor of which is Mr. H. Goodger, still one of the local band at 74 years of age.

J. M. Routh was Master of the College Youths in 1885, and rang peals with notable men of that time. He always talked of C. F. Winney, J. Rowbotham and F. E. Dawe as the youngsters. For many years he was chairman of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Guild, but it was in the tower that his great personality was most noticeable. A very fine handler and a martinet for good striking, he was a terror to the careless ringer. He called the first peal, Holt's Original, on Tilehurst bells in January, 1886, and had a good yarn to tell about the first attempt a few weeks before.

After ringing two and a half hours the tenor man gave up, and J. M. Routh expressed his opinion of the poor chap in no uncertain manner. Anyhow, the old call change party of that day asked him if he thought he could ring the bell for three hours himself, and, of course, he said he could.

The next time he went in the tower in the early evening he rang the tenor, and to hear his version of the matter was very amusing. He said the treble man kept calling changes until 3½ hours had gone. Then he said, 'I didn't think you'd do it,' and as M.R. said, 'I couldn't set the bell on the plea of dinner time in the Rectory or for any other cause, but I could freely have murdered the conductor,

(Continued on page 109.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

The annual lunch of the Oxford University Society was held on Saturday, February 20th, and once again the City Restaurant produced an excellent meal. Unfortunately several people who had intended to come were prevented at the last minute, but nevertheless 36 people were present.

The guests were Miss Marie R. Cross and Mr. William C. Porter, both of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and the visitors included Mr. F. Haynes, of the Cambridge University Society, the Rev. M. C. C. Melville, and the Misses Joan Budden and Monica J. F. Richardson from Bristol University.

The Oxford University Society was represented by the president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg), the Rev. R. H. Milford, Mr. Gerald Bromley, Lieut. W. Gibbons, the Master, the secretary, the treasurer and over twenty resident members.

After lunch members of the society rang a course of Cambridge Surprise Major, followed by a touch of Stedman Caters on handbells. The ringing was enthusiastically acclaimed. Those taking part were Miss Joan Houldsworth and Messrs. D. Jones, W. F. Moreton, J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese.

The President welcomed the visitors and said how sorry he was that so many had been unable to attend. Mr. H. Miles had had a recent bereavement in his family, and Mr. Wigg expressed the society's sympathy in his sad loss. Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. J. A. Trollope and Mr. E. H. Lewis had all been prevented from coming by a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Council, unfortunately fixed for the same day. Messrs. Bennett and Post, of the Oxford Society, had been prevented from coming, as had also Kenneth Croft, of the C.U.G., who was at the moment attending a battle school. The President said how pleased he was with progress of the Oxford University Society in the last year; at the last annual lunch the exhibition ringing had been a course of Grandsire Caters, followed by one of Bob Royal.

THE IDEAL UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

Mr. F. Haynes, of the Cambridge University Guild, said that the ideal society for a university was one in which there was a nucleus of trained ringers to whom a number of freshmen could be added each year. But university societies always had their ups and downs. Fortune seemed to be smiling on the O.U.S. at the moment, and he congratulated the officials on their achievements. He had never been at a ringing meeting at which such a large proportion of women was present. He did not know whether this was due to the charms of the officials or to keenness on the part of the women, but he thought that in handbell ringing they had a delightful pastime. He thanked the Master for the invitation to the lunch, and gave his best wishes to the society expressing the hope that it would continue to prosper in the future.

Mr. J. E. Spice said that in his room in college there were three annual photographs of the O.U.S.C.R. That of 1940 had been an entirely male cast, that of 1941 had contained five women and twice that number of men, but in last year's the women had outnumbered the men by more than two to one. However, with the present enthusiasm the future of the society seemed secure. At all the society practices two lots of handbells were in action, and, in addition, members held practices in their own colleges, four sets of handbells being lent out for this purpose.

Few peals had been rung lately, largely owing to illness and to the proximity of examinations. In the last six months the best efforts had been peals of Bob Royal, Grandsire Triples and one in seven Minor methods. Most members could take a pair of bells through a course of Bob Major, and the more advanced were ringing methods such as Little Bob and Stedman. The Master said he had written out a pamphlet on the elements of the theory of change ringing and this had caused much mental exertion on the part of members.

HANDBELL RINGING.

At the undergraduate service at St. Mary's on Sunday evenings the society had continued to ring handbells, usually Caters. On November 15th, in spite of the fact that only four resident members of the society had ever rung a tower bell open, ten university people were amongst the forty Oxford ringers who between them had rung in 11 out of the 14 city towers on that memorable morning. The ringing had brought in several recruits. The Dean of New College, Mr. D. R. Roulst, said that as long as he had anything to do with it, the society would always be made welcome in New College.

Miss Monica Richardson, of Bristol University, said that at the moment there was no University Society at Bristol, but she hoped for the official formation of one as soon as its future seemed reasonably secure. Nevertheless, they had started to teach handbells to some university ringers with the help of members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

The Rev. M. C. C. Melville said that those who, because of the ban on tower bell ringing, had then started handbell ringing had tried to learn it on the tower bell system. But those of his pupils at Swindon who had started handbells from scratch went ahead at once and soon became his masters. The handbell technique was entirely different from the tower bell technique, and it was a technique well demonstrated at Oxford. He warned handbell ringers that they would

(Continued on next page.)

PROPOSED UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

THE DRAFT SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Readers of 'The Ringing World' may remember a letter from the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith last August, in which attention was drawn to the drawbacks of ringing peals for more than one association, the specific cases mentioned being the two joint Oxford and Cambridge peals rung during 1942. Before the publication of this letter, we fully appreciated the position, but on one of the occasions, at any rate, were absolutely obliged to do as we did, as no two members of the band belonged to the same territorial association.

We discussed the position, having in mind the desirability of continued co-operation between the two University Societies (certain members of the C.U.G. have during the past year actually invited the O.U.S. to join them on their annual tour), and finally concluded that it might best be resolved by the formation of a joint association, which should in no way affect the present status of O.U.S. and C.U.G., but whose scope should obviously be extended so as to include the newer universities. The main occasions on which members of such a body would meet would be tours, just as in the case of the Clerical Guild.

SATISFACTORY SUPPORT.

We then realised that a joint Universities Association should prove to have a wider range of usefulness than simply the provision of a name for peal reports. The value of the Oxford University Society and the Cambridge University Guild as training grounds for ringers—and especially for those who become school teachers and clergy—is generally recognised. Yet nowadays Oxford and Cambridge comprise no more than a quarter of the university population of the country. If, therefore, change ringing societies could be started and maintained in the newer universities, much good should accrue to the Exercise in the long run, from the ringers they would produce. A combined Universities Association might do much in the way of moral encouragement and financial help towards the formation and continuation of such societies. In particular, where the number of ringers was still too small to found a University Guild, they might be encouraged in their efforts by feeling that they were, nevertheless, part of a larger association, which had their interests at heart.

In order to ensure the success of the scheme, we felt that the organisation should be kept as simple as possible. Few officials should be necessary and no regular meetings could be held, but every effort should be made to organise a tour, every two years at any rate, and annually if possible. It would be inadvisable to settle the constitution finally until after the war, but in view of the present activity at Oxford and Bristol, it seemed desirable to push forward the formation of the association, giving it a provisional constitution. There will be a mass return to the universities after the war, and if the association is already formed, it should have very favourable ground on which to work.

THE NEWER UNIVERSITIES.

Instead of sending an open letter to 'The Ringing World' and inviting comments, we decided to approach university ringers individually. Our main reasons for doing this were that we were sure that more people would then take the trouble to reply, and that we should rapidly gain a more comprehensive idea of the situation than if the points at issue were to become obscured by correspondence arguments in 'The Ringing World.' We, therefore, approached and gained the approval of certain university ringers, and when, finally, Mr. E. H. Lewis promised his full support and the O.U.S. gave its official approval, we felt emboldened to send a circular letter to all the other university ringers we could call to mind.

Obviously we must, quite unintentionally, have omitted many of those concerned—partly through ignorance and partly through lack of addresses—and to them we tender our apologies. Representatives of several universities were then invited to attend the O.U.S. annual lunch and afterwards to discuss the position.

The results of this general appeal were eminently satisfactory, and are dealt with more fully in the report of the foundation meeting of the new association. Here we would like merely to bring to the general notice our summary of the aims and constitution of the new association, as amended by the foundation meeting.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

Purpose and Aims. (1) To provide a name under which joint university peals can be rung and joint tours held.

(2) To do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change ringing societies in universities other than Oxford and Cambridge.

Organisation. (1) To be known as 'The Universities Association of Change Ringers.'

(2) Membership to be open to all ringers who have at any time been full-time members of a university. University colleges affiliated to Durham and London Universities are excluded for the time.

(3) Officers to comprise president and secretary. Both are to be elected for periods of three years, but to be eligible for re-election.

(4) Subscription to be nil at the moment, but a minimum entrance fee of 1s. is to be imposed.

(5) These provisions are liable to revision and amendment as soon as a representative tour can be held after the war.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT (Master, Cambridge University Guild).
JOHN E. SPICE (Master, Oxford University Society).

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank your correspondents from Newcastle, Sheffield and Birmingham, who have sent information about the peals in those towers, and I hope others may follow so good an example.

I hope, too, Mr. Barton will forgive my strictures, but the figures he has furnished seem to confirm my 'lamentably small' suggestion. A great and populous city, with manufactures which must have drawn many 'foreign' ringers to it for a livelihood, able and distinguished men to lead them, and—36 peals in well over 60 years!

In spite of Mr. Rogers' objections, I am glad Mr. Walker and Mr. Wallace gave peals on all numbers, for it gives a more complete survey. I fully share the admiration Mr. Rogers expresses for the hospitality extended to visitors by the men of our 12-bell towers. Such hospitality has come my way over many years and in many places, and by gratitude is great. But I am at cross purposes with him as to the method of building up a 12-bell band, and I am quite sure it would be unsuccessful on the lines he suggests, for reasons too numerous to detail here.

In 'The Ringing World' for September 8th, 1939, is a list of the 59 rings of twelve then in existence, and I found no less than 37 of them were cast, recast or augmented during the time of my own fifty-odd years of ringing.

I think the increase remarkable in, comparatively, so short a time, and it certainly gives plenty of scope for the builders-up of bands to bring all these rings to their full use.

As 'visitor' ringers have been mentioned in this correspondence, may I digress and express the opinion that peals by visiting bands are a somewhat mixed blessing? A good many years ago a tour was made by a company of 'All England' ringers to Scotland and the North of England. There were 14 men, and for some reason I have never fathomed they elected to ring the peals for the Norwich Association, although only three of the 14 were resident members. They rang two peals of Cinques, three of Caters and three of Major, and these peals, with compositions, took up seven whole pages of the association's annual report. The tour didn't do the association a ha'porth of good, and I can well imagine the secretary ardently wishing for a 'National Association,' and thus save him labour and the funds of the association.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Feb. 13th, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, unfortunately was absent through indisposition and his duties were discharged by Mr. A. A. Hughes. The Master was in the chair, and others present were the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards and Messrs. J. Shepherd, G. M. Kilby, E. A. Young, J. E. Lewis Cockey, C. W. Roberts, L. Fox, T. Fox, R. Richardson, H. Hoskins, C. W. Parks, H. G. Miles, E. Hartley, C. M. Meyer, J. F. Smallwood, R. Stannard, W. H. Pasmore, R. F. Deal and J. A. Trollope.

The ratification of the election at Birmingham of Mr. F. V. Nicholls, of Stourbridge, was proposed by Mr. C. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Hoskins and carried.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood, supporting the election, spoke of the excellent way in which Mr. Nicholls had umpired the recent peal. He also referred to the recent decision by the society that the rule referring to umpires for handbell peals should not be altered during the war period. He considered the members had acted very properly.

Mr. Cockey referred to the destruction by enemy action of the Church of St. Clement Danes, and asked whether anything was known as to the possibility of future rebuilding. Mr. E. A. Young, who is chairman of the Parochial Church Council, gave an account of the first-aid repairs which had been and still are being carried out, but stated that nothing could be said as to rebuilding in the future. He stated that the ten bells and the small one used for the clock were bricked up, but that six of them were cracked.

Mr. Hoskins handed over for acceptance eleven ringing books on behalf of Mr. John J. Lamb, of Greenwich, for addition to the library. The Master suitably acknowledged the gift and the hon. secretary was asked to convey to Mr. Lamb the grateful thanks of the members.

Mr. Miles gave notice of the death recently of Charles H. Phipps, of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and the members stood in silence.

The Master welcomed three visiting members—the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, of Kington Magna, Mr. Rupert Richardson, of Surfeet, and Mr. J. F. Smallwood, who is now to take up residence in London. He also welcomed two visitors from Lancashire serving in H.M. Forces.

DEATH OF MR. G. W. FOSTER*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Many of your readers will remember a few weeks ago a letter from Mr. Limpus, of Vancouver, which appeared in your columns, and in which reference was made to Mr. G. W. Foster, who was then in hospital.

Before going to Canada some 40 years ago Mr. Foster lived for a time in Guildford. We, of course, knew him well and rang with him. I, therefore, wrote to him a letter addressed to the care of Mr. Limpus.

I recently had a reply, not from Mr. Foster, but one from Mr. Limpus stating that unfortunately Mr. Foster died on the day my letter arrived, January 8th, 1943. Mr. Limpus' letter tells of the great loss which the ringers of Vancouver have sustained, and describes the funeral, which took place at Haney, some 30 miles from Vancouver, where Mr. Foster lived for 25 years.

The Canadian Police are anxious to get in touch with any relatives of the late Mr. Foster still remaining in England.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

Guildford.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of the Highcliffe Society, Swindon, was held at headquarters on Friday, February 19th, the anniversary of their foundation.

In the course of his report the secretary remarked that four peals had been rung during the year, namely, two of Grandsire Caters, one of Bob Minor and one of Bob Maximus.

The future of the society was discussed, and as two members had left the district, and two more were studying for important school examinations, it was agreed that regular practices were out of the question, but it was resolved that ringing should be arranged whenever possible, and that every effort should be made to hold the annual meeting again next year.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH.*(Continued from page 107.)*

who always claimed that he had called the first peal on the bells. I rang many peals with him, Caters and Royal, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, but he always said the longest peal he ever rung was when he rang Tilehurst tenor behind the first peal.

He was laid to rest on Friday, February 19th, in the family grave under the shadows of the church he loved so well and the Rectory where a great many of his younger years were spent.

The Rector, the Rev. F. G. Sherwood, officiated, assisted by Canon G. F. Coleridge, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and one of his oldest friends. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by H. Goodger 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, R. T. Hibbert 5-6, J. Lewendon 7-8. A great deal could be written of him by an abler pen, but those who met him and enjoyed his friendship will always be proud of that fact.

R. T. HIBBERT.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.*(Continued from previous page.)*

have similar difficulties on tower bells, as many tower bell ringers had had when taking up handbells.

Before drawing the lunch to a close, the President remarked that five universities had been represented, and that members of at least three of these had, since the ban, started from scratch in training handbell bands.

The meeting being adjourned, members and visitors migrated to New College, where some discussed the formation of the Universities Association, whilst others rang the silent bells in New College tower. After an informal tea in the Master's rooms, catered for and prepared by the lady members of the society, three sets of handbells were brought into action, and methods rung included Double Bob, Kent, Stedman and Double Norwich.

In the evening an inaugural peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung for the newly-formed Universities Association by members of Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Birmingham Universities.

On the Sunday at Radley, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons rang 7-8 to a peal of Bob Major, this being his first peal. Lieut. Gibbons was one of the O.U.S. pioneer band that started handbell ringing after the ban, and he was unfortunate in not getting a peal before he left Oxford to join the Army in 1941. He thoroughly deserved his success, the only pity being that circumstances had delayed it so long.

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 99.)

In Wiltshire two examples occur, one being the tower that originally belonged to the church of St. Paul, Malmesbury; the other, the semi-detached tower at Wilton. At Malmesbury Abbey the central and western towers have been destroyed, but in the churchyard is the detached tower with spire of the now removed church of St. Paul. It contains a clock and five bells, the first being an ancient Bristol casting of circa 1500, with an invocation to St. George; the 2nd is by Purdue, 1610; 3rd, originally by A. Rudhall, 1739, was recast 1896 by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol; 4th, originally of 1640, recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1915; and tenor, also recast same time, was originally by W. Cor and dated 1703.

In the two towers of Malmesbury Abbey were nine bells, left at the suppression, estimated to weigh 15,000 lbs. (134 cwt.). Aubrey [North Wilts, p. 254] says that in the central tower 'was a great bell called St. Aldhelm's Bell, which was rung when it did thunder and lighten to send the tempest from the Town into the Country.' In 1539 there were 'Belles remayning in the steples ther IXpoiz by estimation XVmi weight.'

At Wilton the church of St. Edith or St. Mary is built on the Italian style, and is about four miles from Salisbury. It has a semi-detached campanile, this being attached to the church by a corridor. It has a ring of six bells by Mears, 1831, hung in two tiers, 1-3-5 above and others below, but not in good ringing order. They were brought from the old church, and the tenor weighs 8½ cwt.

At Warmsworth, Yorkshire, there is a tower fully half a mile from the church. The church of St. Peter is a modern building in Early English style, standing on the site of an ancient church, and consists of nave and north aisle. The tower, a work of the 12th century, stands just outside the hall entrance, and the Rector writes: 'It contains one bell, a terrible thing which rings for a quarter of an hour before Sunday services.'

The church of All Saints, Wykeham, near Scarborough, erected in 1853, consists of nave, chancel, aisles and south porch. The detached tower is a structure of Decorated period and most probably belonged to an ancient chapel of St. Helen, erected in 1321 by John de Wykeham, and served from the priory. It remained for some time in ruins, but in 1855 was restored and a spire added from the designs of Mr. W. Butterfield, architect, and has a clock and five bells by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., 1900, in an iron frame. The tenor is 9 cwt. When the writer asked the Vicar if a view was obtainable, he replied: 'I have no photo of the church at all, but will try my hand and send you the result. It will not be an easy subject to take and will probably be mainly a picture of our "local" pub.'

One semi-detached tower I omitted from my list in Norfolk is that at Thorpe St. Andrew. Here there is a square tower—all that remains of the ancient church—standing in the same churchyard as the new church, which was erected in 1866. The latter has a square tower at the south-west, with a spire rising 150 feet high (completed 1883) containing a ring of eight bells. This tower and spire is connected to the church by a corridor. The old church was dismantled and disused by faculty,

but many of the old monuments still remain on ruined walls; others having been removed and now in the porch of the new tower.

Norfolk has quite a number of instances where ancient churches have been allowed to go into ruins, and the towers of many of these, being more substantially built, still remain standing. For instance, at Godwick, near Fakenham, where once was an ancient and separate parish, there is now only one farm. The old church has gone entirely to decay, except for the square tower which now is in a ruinous condition.

At Hainford, near Norwich, the tower and vestry of the old church alone remain and are now used as a mortuary chapel. A new church was erected in 1840, but is only a plain structure with a turret containing one bell. A similar instance to the latter is at Hautbois (Great), where the ancient church of St. Theobald—one mile from the village—is now but a ruin. Its round tower still stands and the chancel has been restored for use as a mortuary chapel.

Kirby Bedon, near Norwich, has the round tower and roofless walls of chancel and nave still standing, but the parish is now served by St. Andrew's Church. At Great Melton the old tower of St. Mary's Church still stands in the same churchyard as All Saints' Church.

In Norwich itself, St. Peter Southgate has but a fragment of the tower remaining. The churchyard, however, is still walled round and undecorated. After being in a ruinous state the church was taken down with the exception of the tower in 1887. The bells, brasses, monuments and registers were taken to St. Ethelred's Church close by. There are a number of other similar instances in Norfolk of this kind, but it would be out of place here to describe them.

At Rugeley, Staffs, St. Augustine's Church, erected in 1822, has an embattled west tower with a ring of six bells, and in the belfry the unusual object of an east window (stained glass), evidently from the old church which stood on the opposite side of the road. The tower of the latter still stands, and a portion of its chancel has been restored for use for occasional services. At Shenston, in the same county, the old church, which stood on a hill nearly in the centre of the village, was taken down with the exception of the tower in 1852 and a new church erected in 1853. This also has a tower on the north side of the chancel with a clock and a ring of eight bells.

At Kea in Cornwall the church, built in 1802, was pulled down in 1894, and the present All Hallows' Church raised on its site. It has a west tower surmounted by a copper spire and contains a ring of eight bells hung in July, 1904. The 7th is the tenor of Old Kea, the ruined tower of which still stands in the churchyard of Old Kea some three miles away. At Denbigh, St. Hilary's Church tower stands deserted, the church having gone to ruins. Stanmore, in Middlesex, is another instance where a new church has been erected, and the old left to decay. The bells (6) were removed from the old church, but the tower still stands picturesquely covered with ivy.

At Wallasey, Cheshire, St. Hilary's Church is a fine church with central tower containing six bells (?). This took the place of the old church which was burnt down in 1857 except for its 400 year old tower, which still

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Spark-hill, Birmingham 11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 3.45. Tea in Corn Exchange at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will all who intend coming to tea kindly let me know by Tuesday, March 9th? — W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch. — Meeting at Dudley (D.V.), Saturday, March 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea. Usual evening arrangements.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 4.15. Tea will be provided for those who notify Mr. B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, not later than March 9th. — John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Crendon on Saturday, March 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please let me know by March 10th. — F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District. — A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th. Eight silent bells available from 2 o'clock. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45. All requiring tea must let the Apline Cafe, Dorset Street, Sevenoaks, know by Tuesday morning, March 16th. Everybody welcome. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

ROMFORD SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS. — A handbell practice will be held in the belfry of St. Edward's, Romford, on first and third Saturday of each month, starting at 2.30 p.m., March 6th. All ringers welcome. — E. W. Pye.

SPLICED CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE.

TWO PEALS BY MR. JOSEPH W. PARKER.

5,088	23456	B	M	W	H	Methods	A variation
42356						C C S S C S S	S S S C C C S
63254		—				C S S S C C C	S S S C C C C
26354						C C S C S S S	S S S C C C C
32654						S C S S S C S	S S S C C C C
25346	—					C S C C	S S C C
32456						S S C S C C C	C S C S C C C
62453		—				C S S C S C C	S S S C S C S
35426		—				C C C S C S C	S C S S C S C

Twice repeated.

If one of the fourth leads of Cambridge is rung as Superlative, the number of each method will be equalised as nearly as possible.

The figures are true to Superlative alone, and, so far as I know, are quite new and unique for a three-part 5,088, having the 4th and 6th their extent in sixth place at course-ends.

5,440

23456	B	M	W	H	Methods
42356					C S C C S C S
65324		—	—		C S C C C S C
36524					C S S C C S S
62345	—				S S S C
46325					C S S C S S C
53624		—			S S C C C S C
63425					C S S C S S C
54326		—			C C C S C S S
35426					S S S C C S C
43526					C S S C C S S
25634		—	—		C S S C S C C
25346	—				S S S C
32546					C S C C S S C

Repeated.

If one of the fourth leads of Superlative is rung as Cambridge, the number in each method will be equal.

If, in one part, the fourth course is called H only, with the methods as S S S C C S C; the sixth course-end is brought up, and the number reduced to 5,088, being 2,528 of Cambridge and 2,560 of Superlative.

These peals complete the series in these two methods, that is a one, two, three and five parts.

This two-part has the sixth its extent home at course-ends, and was first rung as a 5,088 of Superlative at Sunderland in 1921.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

stands in the churchyard, dwarfed by the dark bulk of its successor. At Ettington, near Stratford-on-Avon, the church of St. Thomas a Becket was demolished in April, 1913, and only the tower left standing. The four bells it contained are now in the church of Holy Trinity, which was consecrated in 1903.

Ewell, Surrey, still retains its old tower, and so does St. Lawrence, York, and numerous other instances might be quoted.

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'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's*.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, 1943.

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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 AMENDED ORDER.

Ringers generally, and not only ringers but many other people also, will have read with disappointment and regret that a new edition of the order which imposed the ban on the ringing of church bells has been issued. It puts an end (definitely, we fear) to all hopes that there might be some relaxation of the restriction even if its total abolition was out of the question. The chances that we shall be allowed to ring at Easter do not now appear to be very great.

The order has been imposed by competent authority and for the welfare of the country. We, as ringers, must submit. We have neither the opportunity nor the wish to do otherwise; but, though in a sense it is no concern of ours, there are many of us who feel that a mistake has been made. If, in the event of invasion, church bells would be an efficient means of alarm, even if they would be only an additional means of alarm, then the order is fully justified. But that is just what ringers, with their experience to guide them, gravely doubt.

Traditions die hard and one of those which has lingered long among writers and poets is that in the olden times the whole land was roused to action from end to end by the ringing of the alarm on the bells of churches. Macaulay's stirring poem on the Armada voiced and fostered this opinion.

'Right sharp and quick the bells all night rang out from
Bristol town

And ere the day three hundred horse had met on Clifton
down;

The sentinel on Whitehall gate looked forth into the
night

And saw o'erhanging Richmond Hill the streak of
blood-red light.

Then bugle's note and cannon's roar the death-like
silence broke,

And with one start, and with one cry, the royal city
woke.

At once on all her stately gates arose the answering
fires;

At once the wild alarm clashed from all her reeling
spires.'

Subconsciously many people expected that these scenes would be repeated to-day if the enemy attempted an invasion. We know they would not and could not. The means of ringing the bells, even of chiming single bells, quickly enough to act as an efficient warning, hardly exist anywhere; and if they did, the range over which bells can be heard is very limited. Very few people engaged

(Continued on page 114.)

in business indoors would be likely to hear them. The danger seems to be that if bells are relied on to act as warnings, when the crucial time came they would prove a failure, and failures of that sort do not go unpunished in war.

We must believe that the people responsible know what they are doing and have allowed for the chances of this means of warning breaking down in action, but we sincerely hope it will not be put to a test.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH.

REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.

In his account of John Martin Routh, Canon Coleridge mentioned that he was the grand-nephew of the famous Dr. Martin Routh, president of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Martin Joseph Routh was born on September 18th, 1755, and died on December 22nd, 1854. His grand-nephew, John Martin, was then seven years old, and so their combined lives extended for just on 188 years. They included the two longest reigns in English history—George III. and Victoria—both over 60 years long; five other complete reigns—George IV., William IV., Edward VII., George V. and Edward VIII.—and parts of two more reigns—George II. and George VI.

Martin Joseph was a baby when the Seven Years' War began. That war first made Prussia one of the leading powers of Europe, and gave England Canada and India. The two greatest wars this country has ever been engaged in fell within these men's lives; first the war with Napoleon and then the great war with Germany. So did the industrial revolution, which changed England from an agricultural country to the workshop of the world, a position which she could not hope to hold for ever and actually has now lost. It would take a book to tell of all the changes and events that have happened since the first Martin Routh was born.

Many tales are told of Dr. Routh. He had a great reputation as a scholar, but it is said he owed his position as president of Magdalen because the fellows could not agree and fell back on him as a stop-gap. He was not expected to hold the office long, but 63 years later he was still president, for in those days men did not resign lucrative posts. In his 94th year he could still walk six miles, and his death in his 100th year was hastened because he fell off some steps he had climbed to reach a book on the top shelves of his library. 'It was really only a worthless book,' he complained after the accident.

He became Vicar of Tilehurst in 1810 when he was 55 years old, and only then was ordained priest. He had, of course, been in deacon's orders since the time he was elected a Fellow of Magdalen. The only time he could spend at Tilehurst was during the vacations. Then he resided at the Vicarage. For the rest of the year his nephew, John Martin's father, acted as his curate and did the work for him.

The following is the paragraph in 'The Bell News' about the raising of St. Paul's tenor: 'The pulling up of St. Paul's tenor generally occupies four, five or six men (sometimes more in hot weather), but on the last practice night, Tuesday, October 6th, 1885, this feat was accomplished single-handed by Mr. Joseph Jones, a private in the Royal Horse Guards (blue) and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, in the presence of several well-known ringers and friends. The time occupied was a little over three minutes, and the tenor weighs 62 cwt. This is the first time she has been pulled up by one man alone.'

It will be remembered that Mr. R. T. Woodley recently sent us some interesting memories of Joseph Jones.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. C. E. Borrett for his excellent articles on St. Peter Mancroft and the record of all the peals rung on them. It rather tickled my palate when I read that he included me among the noted ringers who have rung peals there. It was the only 12-bell peal I ever rang.

As one of the survivors of the tour in Scotland and the North. I can enlighten him why the band selected the Norwich Diocesan Association. At the first attempt (for Double Norwich at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh) it was found that more members of the band were members of the Norwich Diocesan Association than of any other.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Severalls Hospital, Colchester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION LUNCH.

A very successful and enjoyable gathering of the St. Martin's Guild was held at the Market Hotel, Birmingham, last Saturday, on the occasion of the 55th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration. The chair was taken by Mr. F. B. Yates, supported by the Master (Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith), the hon. secretary (Mr. Thomas H. Reeves) and about eighty members and friends. A report of the speeches will appear next week.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 116, ALMA ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores.

*JOHN V. DAVIS 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
†MISS MARY E. DAVIS 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal and first attempt, aged 12½ years. First peal by the family and rung to mark the 21st wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Davis. Mrs. Davis witnessed the peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ISAAC J. ATTWATER.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Tuesday, March 2, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-two Minutes,

AT 8, CLEMENTS INN PASSAGE, STRAND, W.C.2,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

LEONARD W. BULLOCK 1-2 | JAMES BULLOCK 3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK 5-6

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

Umpire—J. S. Hawkins.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILFRID F. MORETON (St. Edmund Hall) 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3-4 | †DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall) 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. The first peal in the method for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

On Saturday, March 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall) 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
†WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 3-4 | *JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 27). Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand,' and first peal on an 'inside' pair. The first peal of Treble Bob for the society.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four 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 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 105.)

THE LONG PEAL OF TREBLE TEN.

The men who rang the twelve-thousand in 1784 were as follows:—George Gross, James Barnard, Francis Nay, Thomas Reeves, Isaiah Bray, James Partrick, William Court, Abraham Smith, Malachi Channon, and Allen Grant. To record the performance a very fine tablet was erected at St. Leonard's. It consists of a copper panel with an elaborately carved and gilded frame. Another fine frame was erected to commemorate the long lengths by the College Youths. Both are now in the base of the tower which forms the main entrance to the church, and full page illustrations and descriptions of both are given in the 'Survey of London' issued by the London County Council.

On the tablet and in the peal book it is said that George Gross composed and called the peal, but there is no doubt that the composition was the five-part with the thirty course-ends which is given in the 'Clavis,' and is generally considered to have been the production of John Reeves. This probably was one of the many causes of contention between the two men, and no doubt the authors of the 'Clavis' had it in mind, as well as other things, when they wrote that 'there will not be wanting them who may lay claim to some of our figures, and so charge us with plagiarism.'

It is impossible now to judge quite fairly between the two men. The Exercise has accepted Reeves' claim, and no extant peal of Treble Bob is recognised as the work of Gross. William Shipway put Reeves' name to all the disputed compositions, and as he was a contemporary and knew both men, his is weighty testimony; but there are signs that he accepted and copied what was in the 'Clavis' without much questioning. It is not in the least likely that these men could have composed this peal independently of each other, and that adds to the difficulty of the matter.

'The Cumberlands' twelve-thousand still remains the record length for Oxford Treble Bob Royal, and though in other methods it has several times been surpassed both in number of changes and weight of metal, there has scarcely ever been another performance more famous, or one which has more captured the admiration of the Exercise. For more than a century it stood alone among long peals, and in the year 1878 Jasper Snowden could write of it as a 'peal which has never been surpassed, and, I think, considering the weight of the tenor, that it will be a long time before it is again approached, let alone superseded.'

On April 14th, 1914, the Lancashire Association rang at Ashton-under-Lyne Henry Johnson's variation of John Reeves' 13,800, in which the tenor is called In and Fifths in the fifth course of each part and the number of changes increased to 14,000. This peal was in the Kent variation.

The Ashton tenor weighs 27 cwt., and is hung in modern fittings, and although the peal contained two thousand more changes than the one at Shoreditch, it took only nineteen minutes longer to ring, the rate for the one being 22.02 per minute, and for the other 24.82. In one respect history repeated itself, for though the composition was again one of Reeves', the peal was reported as having been composed and conducted by Samuel Wood.

An interesting feature of the famous long length contest between the London societies is that all the peals of Royal (except the 6,400 at West Ham) were rung in the same tower and under similar conditions. When judging a record the Exercise takes into consideration only the number of changes rung, and it is difficult to see what other standard could be adopted, because conditions vary so much. It is easy to compare the weights of tenors, but that by itself does not always convey much. Of two bells, equal in weight, one may be quite easy to ring and the other may tax the skill and strength of the best of ringers.

In 1784 there were in London four tenors of over two tons in weight. Two of them, Southwark and Spitalfields, had several times been turned single-handed in to peals, but the other two, St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Michael's, Cornhill, had so far defied the efforts of the most powerful men. Five other tenors were over thirty hundredweights—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Sepulchre's, St. Giles', Cripplegate, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and St. Lawrence Jewry. All had been rung single-handed to peals, but the go of them differed very much, and it is not likely that any of them except St. Leonard's could have been rung to a ten-thousand. Outside London, Norwich had the only tenor over two tons that could be rung to a peal, and the bell, as we have seen, required two men. It would not now be considered correct to attempt to beat a record with two men to a bell, but in the eighteenth century it had sometimes to be done or the attempt could not be made.

With the 12,000 at Shoreditch the contest came to an end for some years. Neither company gave up the hope of gaining the double honour. The College Youths, we may be sure, talked about trying to ring a longer length at Shoreditch, and William Lyford used to say in after years that his great ambition was to stand the clock round, but when it came to the point not enough men could be found to face the ordeal of nine and a half hours' ringing. Nor could the Cumberlands make an attempt on the twelve-bell record.

(To be continued.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At a meeting of College Youths on Saturday, February 27th, there was a very fair attendance considering that other meetings were being held but business was very short. One new member was elected—Mr. Ernest W. Pye, of Chadwell Heath. Special mention was made of the passing of Mr. J. Martin Routh, who had been a member for 70 years, and was Master of the society 58 years ago. The death of Mr. Wilson, of Blackburn, was also referred to, and the members stood for a few moments as a token of respect.

Expressions of sympathy were extended to Mr. S. E. Flaxman, who is in hospital suffering from a broken leg. The Master welcomed Mr. J. Stuart Archer, who gave an interesting account of a visit to St. Paul's belfry in 1884. Other visiting members were Lieut. G. W. Debenham and Mr. E. Cole, of Gloucester, who brought greetings from Mr. John Austin and Mr. A. R. Macdonald.

Those present were the Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Stuart Archer, E. A. Young, J. Chapman, W. H. Pasmore, H. Hoskins, G. N. Price, F. C. Newman, R. Stannard, F. E. Collins, C. W. Kippin, J. H. Shenherd, J. F. Smallwood, C. W. Roberts, H. G. Miles, R. F. Deal, E. Hartley, R. Spears, F. Cole, and Lieut. G. W. Debenham.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

On Saturday, February 13th, at Henlow Parish Church, Bedfordshire, the wedding took place between Mr. Percival Wilfred Tompkins and Miss Florence Kathleen Hartle. Miss Hartle is a member of the band at Duffield.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—At 88, Grainger Street, on Thursday, February 25th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, 1,216 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Anderson 1-2, Sgt. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 3-4, W. H. Barber (conductor) 5-6, E. Wallace 7-8. Longest length in the method on handbells by ringers of 3-4 and 7-8.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ringers who were present at the 300th anniversary celebration of the College Youths will remember the birthday cake and its maker, Miss Lewis, daughter of the president of the Central Council. She is now Third Officer A. T. Lewis, W.R.N.S., after serving as a Wren, Leading Wren and P.O. Wren. She is the third of Mr. Lewis' children, and junior to her come Third Officer F. B. Lewis, W.R.N.S.; Sub-Lieut. (A) J. H. Lewis, R.N.V.R. (prisoner of war); T-Sub-Lieut. (E) O. T. Lewis, R.N.; and Sub-Lieut. (E) R. T. Lewis, R.N.

Will the person who, at the Birmingham lunch last Saturday, took by mistake a soft blue-grey felt hat, communicate with Mr. G. H. Williams, 173, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham, 32.

We are pleased that Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay, of Bournemouth, has sufficiently recovered from the severe illness contracted before Christmas to conduct a peal on handbells last Saturday.

Up to the end of last year 18 churches in the Diocese of Exeter were entirely destroyed by enemy action, seven others were so badly damaged that they had to be closed, and 81 others were damaged in a greater or lesser degree. Of the 18, ten are in Plymouth and they included a ring of ten and two of eight. Another ring of eight very near Plymouth has also been destroyed.

Mr. J. E. Spice writes that London University is not excluded from the new Universities Association, only the 'University Colleges' at Exeter, Southampton, Leicester, etc., where the students read for external degrees at London and Durham.

John Martin Routh rang the fifth at St. Saviour's, Southwark, to a peal of Stedman Cinques on February 28th, 1885; and on March 4th the fifth at Cornhill to another peal in the same method. Later in the year he rang the eighth at Fulham to Kent Treble Bob Royal.

On March 8th, 1737, the Norwich Scholars rang on the old ten bells at Mancroft 12,603 changes of Grandsire Caters, 'which for the excellency of its ringing, harmonious changes, and the number of them, was certainly superior to anything of the kind ever done in the world.'

On the same date in 1859 the Birmingham men rang at Aston what was then the record length of Stedman Caters, 10,047 changes.

The Leicester men rang the first peal of Leicester Surprise Royal on March 8th, 1924.

On March 9th, 1782, the Cumberlands rang at Hackney what was probably the first peal of Reverse Grandsire Triples, and at Southwark on the same date in 1795 what was probably the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

The College Youths rang 7,008 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark on March 10th, 1784. This was one of the peals in the famous long peal contest with the Cumberlands.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells was rung by the St. James' Society on March 11th, 1854.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first peal of Erith Little Bob Major, at Crayford, on March 11th, 1930, and on the same date in 1939 the Norwich Diocesan Association rang the first peal of Northrepps Major.

On March 12th, 1758, the College Youths rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, at St. Saviour's, Southwark. Joseph Monk turned in the tenor single-handed.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal in the City of London was rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, on March 12th, 1932, conducted by Mr. W. H. Hewett.

Mr. Hewett also conducted the first peal of Yorkshire Royal in Hertfordshire, at All Saints', Hertford, on March 8th, 1930, and in Kent at St. Alphage's, Greenwich, on March 13th, 1937.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM R. SCILLITOE.

The Earls Colne company of ringers have suffered a loss by the death of Mr. William R. Scillitoe, who passed away on February 9th at the age of 68 years.

He was a native of the parish and worked at the Atlas Iron Works for nearly 53 years. He had been connected with St. Andrew's Church as a member of the choir and a ringer nearly all his life. He took part in the victory ringing and on Christmas morning.

Although he had only a few peals to his credit, he attended most regularly for Sunday service ringing and was a good striker. He joined the Essex Association nearly 50 years ago and was made a life member last year.

At the funeral on the 13th inst. the local company was represented by Messrs W. Arnold, F. Claydon, F. Ridgwell, J. French and W. Burst.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

AMENDED ORDER.

An amendment to the Control of Noises Order, 1940, has been announced. In its original form it reserved the use of church bells as warnings in the event of an attempted invasion by air-borne enemy troops. In future they will be used as purely local alarms in the event of any form of attack, whether by air-borne or sea-borne troops. They will not be rung except on the order of the military or the police.

The ringing of bells is a purely local signal that enemy troops are either in the immediate neighbourhood or are approaching. In no circumstances will church bells be rung merely because those in adjoining areas are heard to ring.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The lifting of the ban on Christmas morning induces us to hope that a like freedom may be granted by the authorities for Easter Day.

But might not a representation be made to the proper quarter, in that possibility, pointing out that the time between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Easter Day is in many churches so largely occupied with services that little ringing can be arranged, and that permission for additional ringing, say, between 5 and 6.30 p.m. would be deeply appreciated?

One would like to endorse Mr. Hewett's suggestion that public notice of any concession might be given long enough beforehand so as to assist the making of adequate arrangements.

C. CAREW COX.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

THE LATE SPEAKER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the death of the Speaker of the House of Commons, it may be of interest to know that St. Margaret's bells were rung for his election and re-election as they were rung for all previous Speakers.

The ban has, therefore, caused a break in another old custom.

The bells were rung (8) on the day following his election at 3 o'clock, i.e., when he took his seat in the Commons.

W. H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ATTLEBOROUGH.

A meeting, very successful for the present day, was held at Attleborough on Saturday, February 20th. The six bells, in the grand Norman tower, were available during the afternoon, the clappers having been kindly tied by Mr. Lawrence.

At the service the Rev. H. Llewellyn, Vicar of Cringleford, was the preacher. A very good tea was prepared in the Parish Hall. At the business meeting which followed, it was stated that shortage of materials made it impossible to do much to protect Mancroft bells. It was unanimously agreed that the annual meeting should be held on the Saturday after Easter, May 1st, at Norwich, and that the service should be evensong at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral. The enforced silence of Mancroft bells provides a reason for holding the service in the mother church of the diocese instead of at Mancroft as in the past.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, the preacher, organist, ladies who provided tea, and to Mr. Lawrence for tying the clappers. The meeting was attended by over 26 ringers, from Norwich, Wymondham, Bergh Apton, Mulbarton, Diss and Attleborough.

DEATH OF WILLIAM E. PITMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. William E. Pitman, Mus.Bac., who passed away suddenly in November last at Canterbury. Mr. Pitman was a life member of the Kent County Association and rang about 150 peals. He also called Holt's Original and rang in the non-conducted peal at Tonbridge, Kent, on July 16th, 1930. He was very well known amongst Kent ringers and had often taken over the organ for the service at meetings. Many will remember him by his 'Farewell' when parting, and he will be greatly missed in Kent. He leaves a widow and one son.

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THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

The parish church of the Holy Trinity, Kendal, is one of the very few parish churches in the Diocese of Carlisle whose history reaches back through the centuries to the time of the Norman Conquest, or earlier. It is one of two of what we may call the original parish churches of the county of Westmorland.

There is a peculiar charm about an ancient parish church. It generally occupies a large and prominent place in the outward life of those who live within sight of the tower and within hearing of its sweet toned bells. It lights up memories of days long passed away. There arise unbidden in the mind pictures of the comings and goings of generations of parishioners of whom no record now remains, save on chiselled gravestones, in many cases, mossgrown or indecipherable.

It is, however, not many country towns that possess a church at once so striking and with so many claims upon the affections of its people as Kendal Parish Church, which stands on the fringe of the town near the riverside. It catches the eye at once as something out of the common. There is nothing quite like it in England. Its prototype may be seen, however, in the church of St. John of Jerusalem at Rome.

For many generations the bells of this church have called Kendalians to worship, solemnly tolling for her dead, or gaily bidding joy to young couples on their wedding day. But for several centuries before bells were ringing in the church tower, a church stood here as a witness to the early days of Christianity in this place. The remnant of the shaft of an ancient Anglian Cross, now standing on a window sill in the south aisle, is one of the most precious relics of the church. It probably dates back to the ninth century.

This cross, no doubt, was part of the old Saxon church. How long this church stood we do not know, but it is referred to in the records of the 'Domesday Book,' compiled about the year 1080.

The first Baron of Kendal, Ivo de Talebois, who built and inhabited Kendal Castle, restored the church and, in the year 1087, presented it to the Abbey of St. Mary, York. The district served by this church was very extensive, and Kirkby-Kendal came within the dominions of Malcolm, King of Scotland.

There is ample evidence that a church, consisting of chancel, nave, two aisles and tower, stood on the site in 1201, for in the process of restoration in the year 1829, when much of the plaster was being removed, there was discovered in the first pillar on the south side of the chancel a niche loosely filled with small stones, and this appears to have been the 'piscina' of that early church. The Gothic arch of this niche, rejected from its place at the restoration of 1850, bears the inscription, 'Salutis Nostrae Anno 1201.'

The old church seems to have fallen into considerable decay, for, in the year 1232, there was granted an indulgence for the restoration of the building, 'Miserabili ruina de formata.' Of this ancient church the chancel and the tower have been rebuilt, as will be stated later, but it appears to be fairly certain that the nave, the two inner aisles and the massive west wall remain substantially as they were.

The next stage was the building of what is known as

the 'Parr Chapel' in the south-east corner of the church. This was in the early days of the fourteenth century. It is not known to whom the chapel was dedicated, but that it was built by the Parr family is indicated by the fact that the corbel, from which the first arch springs, bears the arms of Strickland, and Parr, and Brus, while over each of the three most easterly windows of the south facade is carved a small head of a maiden—one of the badges of the Parr family. In the year 1331 John Kempe, a manufacturer from Manders, settled in Kendal, bringing with him Flemish weavers in large numbers. This influx of population led to an extension of the church.

West of the 'Parr Chapel' new chantries were added, and dedicated to St. Mary, St. Anthony, and St. Christopher. Subsequently the dividing screens were removed, and the building extended to the full length of the church, forming what was known as 'The Flemish Aisle.' This was completed about 1350.

Nearly two centuries passed by without further addition to the building, and then Sir Roger Bellingham, in the early part of the sixteenth century, erected 'The Chapel of our Lady,' commonly known as the Bellingham Chapel, at the north-east corner of the church. This chapel has a clerestory and stalactite ceiling with gilded crosses. In it lies a chest tomb on which may be read the inscription, 'Here lyeth Sir Roger Bellingham, Knt., which of his own proper costs and charges builded the Chapel of our Lady within the church of Kendal.' This chapel was complete in itself, with a west wall, but later in the sixteenth century the outer north aisle of the church was built as an extension of the Chapel of our Lady, and the west wall of the chapel was removed. Sir Roger died on July 18th, 1533.

The foregoing completed the church as it now stands, and subsequent history deals only with decay and restoration.

Between 1850 and 1860 a sum of £10,160, raised entirely by private subscription, was expended on restoration and adornment of the church.

For many years the Parr Chapel, enclosed by screens, was used for vestry purposes. In 1927, at the initiation of Archdeacon Lafone, plans were prepared for building new vestries, and subscriptions invited towards the cost, which was estimated at about £3,000. Two-thirds of the amount required was given or promised, but the committee did not feel justified in proceeding immediately. The delay was not prolonged, and in 1932 fresh plans were prepared and the scheme went forward.

In March, 1933, a faculty was granted, and on July 22nd of that year the Bishop of Carlisle laid the foundation stone.

The building was completed in the following year, and the Bishop dedicated the new vestries on May 29th, 1934. Accommodation is provided for a priest's vestry, a churchwardens' vestry, a large choir vestry and cloak-room. Provision was also made for housing a new electric blower for the organ. The plans were prepared by Messrs. J. F. Carwen and Sons, Kendal. The dressed stone of the building came from Darley Dale, whilst the main body of the walls is of Kendal limestone.

All of the work was executed by Messrs. G. F. Martindale, of Kendal.

(To be continued.)

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDATION MEETING.

In order to consider the formation of a 'Universities Association of Change Ringers,' there assembled in the Old Bursary, New College, Oxford, immediately after the O.U.S. annual lunch on Saturday, February 20th, the following university ringers: The Rev. C. E. Wigg, Messrs. J. E. Spice, W. L. B. Leese, W. F. Moreton, D. P. Jones, W. F. Gibbons, G. Bromley and Miss M. Lloyd (Oxford University Society), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Cambridge University Guild), the Rev. M. C. C. Melville (Birmingham), Miss M. R. Cross (Reading) and the Misses M. J. F. Richardson and J. Budden (Bristol). The Rev. C. E. Wigg was unanimously voted into the chair.

The question first raised was whether such a gathering could consider itself comprehensive enough for the formation of a new association. Lieut. Gibbons pointed out that it was doubtful whether any more representative one could be brought together during the war, and Mr. Spice said that as a large number of other university ringers had stated their views in letters to the proposers of the scheme, these might be considered to be present by proxy. Mr. Haynes felt sure that the meeting would be fully justified in discussing the question, and the chairman then asked Mr. Spice to read what replies had been received.

MANY REPLIES.

Replies from the following were then read: Canon Coleridge, the Revs. E. B. James, B. F. Sheppard, E. V. Cox, F. Ll. Edwards, A. C. Blyth, J. P. Pelloe, H. Drake, A. G. G. Thurlow, R. D. St. J. Smith, Messrs. C. McGuinness, M. C. G. Hooton, W. H. J. Hooton, E. M. Atkins, R. G. Cross, C. W. Woolley, R. Leigh and R. O. Street. With the exception of Professor Street, all were fully in favour of the proposals made. Besides these, Messrs. Lewis and Croft, and those present at the meeting, Dr. R. E. Havard, Mr. H. Miles, Major J. H. R. Freeborn, F/O C. T. Brown and Inst.-Lieuts. Scott and Houghton, R.N., had been approached personally and had signified their agreement. Professor Street thought that the energies of ringers should be directed more towards co-operation with the Church and less towards peal ringing, and that it was an unworthy thing to found a society with peal ringing as one of its main objects. Further, he had had considerable experience of non-residential universities, and doubted whether efforts to start change ringing societies there would be attended with much success.

The Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith had made some valuable suggestions. He thought that the formation of the association and election of officers should be done entirely through 'The Ringing World,' as no organisers could know of all the ringers who had passed through a university. The formation should not be effected at the meeting of any one society, and should not finally be made until six months had elapsed, so that all might have an opportunity of expressing their views. Very careful definitions of qualification for membership should be made.

Mr. Spice said he appreciated Mr. Smith's points, but felt, nevertheless, that the most efficient course had been taken. It was true that there must be many more university ringers who had not been approached, but the meeting could surely assume that the proportion of those in favour would be the same as in the case of those who had been consulted, i.e., nearly 100 per cent. He saw no reason for delay in formation, in view of the support which the proposals had received. The O.U.S. lunch had seemed the best opportunity for bringing together a representative body of those interested.

THE ASSOCIATION'S AIMS.

The meeting then discussed the aims of the proposed association. Mr. Haynes sympathised to Prof. Street's views about the recording of peals, but felt it best to bow to established custom. He also had his doubts about the chances of establishing societies in the newer universities, but would like to hear what the representatives of these had to say. Miss Richardson announced that the next fortnight ought to see the recognition of a society at Bristol by the University Union, and said they would feel all the stronger if they had the support of a larger body in their efforts. Another point (made also by the Rev. H. Drake) was that the Universities Association should help to keep interest alive during the inevitable periods of depression.

Miss Cross said that when she was at Reading three other ringers were up. They were too few to form a society, but would have welcomed the chance of belonging to a joint organisation. Mr. Wigg endorsed these views and Mr. Leese called attention to the fact that the association should be very useful in encouraging reunions and co-operation between university ringers generally, as Mr. Atkins had also pointed out. Mr. Leigh, in his letter, had promised to give what assistance he could in training ringers at Manchester and Liverpool Universities. It was then put to the meeting that the association should be considered as formed. This was carried nem. con.

The meeting now proceeded to the election of officers. On the proposition of Mr. Spice, seconded by Mr. Haynes, Mr. E. H. Lewis was elected president, and on the proposition of Miss Cross, seconded by Lieut. Gibbons, Mr. J. E. Spice was elected secretary and treasurer, both these elections being for the duration. The Rev. M. C. C. Melville wondered whether a committee should also be elected, but the meeting thought this unnecessary. It was emphasised, however, that all decisions arrived at that day must be regarded as provisional, and liable to revision as soon as a tour could be held, after the war.

(Continued in next column.)

AN ANCIENT CELTIC BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ernest Morris' recent article in 'The Ringing World' about the discovery of a Celtic bell at Mordon was very interesting, and I have also had the pleasure of reading his article in the 'Apollo.'

In the local museum there is an ancient Celtic bell, which was found some years ago, and some facts about this bell may be interesting to the readers of our paper.

The bell is known as the 'St. Cynon' and belonged to the parish of Eglwys Cummins, near Pendine, on the Tenby coast line. It was known that an ancient bell had been used in the parish and used to precede funerals, but no trace of it was to be seen, and the only evidence of it was from the ancient records of the parish.

For 25 years the late George G. T. Treherne, Esq., who was the first president of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club, had dug and excavated all over the area, and although he made some very interesting discoveries, he never found a trace of the bell. The search was continued by the Rev. J. P. Gordan Williams, M.A., who was then the Vicar of St. Ishmeal's, Pembrokeshire. He also dug and excavated around the parish, and after a ten-year search he found the ancient bell.

This ancient Celtic bell consists of iron plates riveted together and bronzed, and its great age is attested by the fact that one of the edges is broken away. Three rivets at the top show where the handle was fastened, and the bell still retains its clapper.

Mr. Morris, in his articles on detached towers, recently mentioned St. David's Cathedral and its detached tower near the 39 steps, but, strange to say, he omitted to say that these bells of Mears and Stainbank's are one of the few in Wales with inscriptions in Welsh. Mr. Morris was very good with the Welsh inscriptions, but not correct in the date of Saville's bell, which should be 1722. This bell went to Whitechapel to be melted down, and went into the new ring. Saville's clock bell is also dated 1722.

I read with great interest the Editor's review of the 'Bells of Monmouthshire,' but who are the publishers and price of same? I hope that Mr. Morris will continue to give us some more interesting details of bell-lore from his vast store.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Wath-on-Dearne recently and was attended by members from Bolsterstone, Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

After handbell practice in the Church House, the ringers were the guests of the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans, to tea. At the business meeting Mr. Evans presided. The business was soon disposed of and best thanks were extended by the secretary to the Vicar for the use of the room, for a nice tea and for presiding, and to the local company for all the arrangements made.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, March 20th. Further handbell ringing followed.

THE LATE J. MARTIN ROUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not know whether Canon Coleridge, in his interesting article on the late J. M. Routh, in saying that after the unfortunate incident in 1892 he gave up 'serious ringing' meant peal ringing, but nine years afterwards he took part in two peals of Grandsire Triples at Tilehurst. One was on February 6th, 1901, to which 'J. Martin Routh, Esq.' rang the treble and 'William P. Routh, Esq.' the fifth, and in the other on December 14th they rang the seventh and third respectively.

'B.'

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Various titles for the new body were proposed, but none seemed quite satisfactory, and it was finally decided to keep to the original suggestion of 'The Universities Association of Change Ringers.'

Then came the question of qualification for membership. There was some discussion on whether students reading for external degrees at University and Theological Colleges should be eligible. It seemed that it would be hard to know where to draw the line, and it was eventually decided to restrict membership at present to those who had at some time been full-time members of a university proper. It was agreed that some kind of subscription was desirable, as small expenses would be bound to be incurred even at present, and that this might serve as a criterion of membership. Miss Cross thought that those who had gone down could afford more than students, and it was decided to impose a minimum entrance fee of 1s. for the moment.

It was finally decided to give notice to the Central Council that the association would seek affiliation when a Council meeting could again be held.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 3.45. Tea in Corn Exchange at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Dudley (D.V.), Saturday, March 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea. Usual evening arrangements.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th. Eight silent bells available from 2 o'clock. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45. All requiring tea must let the Apline Cafe, Dorset Street, Sevenoaks, know by Tuesday morning, March 16th. Everybody welcome.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 20th. Tower bells and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. until black-out time.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on March 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at Olde Times Cafe and meeting in Parish Hall. Delightful spot on Hemel Hempstead bus route. All welcome, but please notify me for tea.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A meeting of the District Ringers will be held at St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, Bournemouth, on Saturday, March 20th next, at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome. Handbells, tea and fraternal gossip.—Arthur V. Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The next meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (silent apparatus) 3 o'clock. Light refreshments available, approximately 4.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, March 20th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Tea for all who notify me by March 18th. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at St. Peter's, Bramley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells in Schools from 3 o'clock. Tea only for those who send in names to Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warrells Avenue, Bramley, not later than Thursday, the 25th. Business meeting in Schools at 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Dis. Secs.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Second-hand set of ten or twelve handbells in good condition.—A. A. Hughes, Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CLERKENWELL.**

The annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, February 27th, and was attended by a representative gathering totalling about two dozen people.

A warm welcome was extended by the Vicar, the Rev. C. L. Parker, who conducted a shortened evensong with address, the congregation being ably led in the singing by the Rev. P. T. W. Tranter, of Islington, who acted as organist.

The Misses Bailey and Prockson, with other lady helpers, deserve all credit for an excellent war-time tea, which is a most important item towards a successful meeting.

Routine matters were dealt with at the business meeting, including the election of two new ringing members. At the election of officers for the ensuing year it was announced with regret that both Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher were compelled not to seek re-election on account of their departure from the county. Mr. C. T. Coles, as one who had received much assistance by their untiring energies, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for the great amount of good work they had rendered over a period of years, to the benefit of the North and East District, and wished them both happiness and success in their new surroundings. This was seconded by Mr. W. H. Hewett, supported by other speakers, and carried with acclamation. Mrs. Fletcher suitably replied and thanked the meeting for the expression of good wishes.

It was announced that the next meeting will be held at Bishopsgate on Saturday, March 20th, from 2.30 p.m. until black-out time, when tower bells and handbells will be available.

Handbells were put to good use throughout the afternoon and a good variety of methods rung; the formal vote of thanks to the Rev. — Parker and the ladies beforementioned for their parts in ensuring a successful meeting was well merited.

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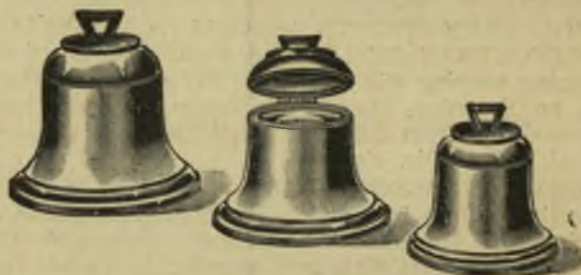
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No. 1,669. Vol. XXXVIII

FRIDAY, MARCH 19th. 1943.

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THE GUILDFORD LIBRARY.

On another page appears a notice from Mr. A. C. Hazelden, which we commend to the attention of our readers. Mr. Hazelden is the librarian of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and the library has reached proportions which enable it to rank with the four or five best and largest collections of books relating to bells and ringing in the country. This has been so notably since it was enriched by the volumes bequeathed to it by the late Mr. John S. Goldsmith.

The library is rich in almost every section. It possesses a goodly number of the older text books on ringing; of the weekly journals, including 'Church Bells,' 'The Bell News,' 'The Bellringer,' 'Campanology,' and 'The Ringing World'; and of the county histories of bells. But naturally and almost necessarily it is not quite complete. Like every other collection of ringing books, it still lacks some volumes, and these Mr. Hazelden is anxious to secure.

Owing to the generosity of its benefactors, the library possesses duplicate copies of some of the county histories, and this offers an excellent opportunity of exchanging them for any surplus copies of the missing books which may be in the hands of any person or association. One book which is mentioned as being especially desired is John L'Estrange's 'Church Bells of Norfolk.'

Such a transaction would be to the benefit of both parties, and we hope arrangements will be made. But perhaps there are not many people who have more than one copy of any of these works. That need not, however, prevent a deal being made. The books which the Guildford Guild is able to spare are equal in value and interest to those it wishes to possess, and it might well be that a man who owns, say, the book on Norfolk bells would rather have the one on Kent bells or whatever it is Mr. Hazelden has to offer. If so, here is the chance. And even if he has no particular preference in the matter, he may be glad of the opportunity of benefiting the Guildford library at the cost of little sacrifice on his own part.

For the man who does anything to enrich such a library as that at Guildford is doing the Exercise a lot of good. Perhaps to many ringers it may seem that these books have little interest except for those comparatively few men who specialise in archæology, but that would be quite wrong. These books have done the Exercise a vast amount of good, only they have done it indirectly. That has always been so in the past, and it certainly is so now. For nearly three years church bells have been silent, and all the things which normally form

(Continued on page 122.)

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the life of the Exercise have temporarily come to an end. Yet there is abundant evidence that interest in our art is still alive, and when the time comes it will speedily revive and become as active as ever. What has kept interest alive is the fact that there are so many more things connected with bells than just practical ringing to engage the ringer's attention. If it were not so, this journal could not have survived during these years of war.

The value of the Guildford library and those like it is in the aid they afford to the fostering of these interests. The books may not at present be generally available, but they have served a purpose, and will again serve a purpose when better times come.

It is because we feel strongly of the value of the Guildford library to the Exercise as a whole that we wish Mr. Hazelden success in his endeavour to make his collection as complete as any that exists.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 49, HIGH STREET

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5378 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

*GORDON C. BRIGGS 1-2	*NORMAN W. FOX 5-6
†G. GORDON GRAHAM 3-4	†PERCY I. JERRIS 7-8

Conducted by H. JOHNSON.

Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal on eight 'in hand.'

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, March 7, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes;

IN THE BRIOY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*GEORGE A. FLEMING... .. 1-2	WILLIAM P. GARRETT 7-8
HOBART E. SMITH 3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN 9-10
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY... .. 5-6	†JAMES W. JENNINGS 11-12

Composed by N. J. PITCROW. Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal of Maximus on handbells. † First attempt for handbell peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, March 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-6
WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 3-4	PATRICIA A. SCADDEN (St. Hilda's) 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE (C.C.C. No. 73).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Thursday, March 11, 1943, in Two Hours,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN V. DAVIS 1-2	M. F. JOHN MARSHALL 3-4
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK 5-6	

Conducted by Mr. F. JOHN MARSHALL.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS. — On Sunday, February 28th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Taylor 1-2, J. H. Crampion 3-4, E. R. Martin 5-6. Rung for the 83rd birthday of Mr. J. R. Taylor, who afterwards rang 1-2 to a course of Bob Minor.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 115.)

RIVALRIES AND QUARRELS.

The rivalry between the three leading London societies was intense. It would be pleasant to think that it was a friendly rivalry in which the utmost efforts to beat the other parties did not interfere with mutual friendship and esteem. But that, it is pretty certain, was not the case, and there was a good deal of jealousy and personal feeling between some of the rivals. No doubt the fact that so many of the College Youths were deserters from the Cumberlands added to the bitterness. An incident recorded by a contemporary newspaper illustrated this feeling.

Less than two months before the long peals at Southwark and Shoreditch a new ring of ten bells cast at Whitechapel was opened at St. John's, Horsleydown. The three leading societies were invited to compete for a prize of ten hats and a dinner, and each attempted a peal.

The ancient Society of College Youths started first, but got out after ringing about four thousand changes. Then the Cumberlands rang 5,399 Grandsire Caters, composed and conducted by George Gross. Then the College Youths rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal conducted by John Povey. The latter had their best band, which was made up of Winstanley Richardson, Joseph Holdsworth, George Scarsbrook, John Povey, Joseph Monk, James Darquitt, James Worster, William Lyford, Edmund Sylvester and Samuel Muggeridge.

Both peals are entered in the respective peal books. Nothing is said about any match, but the prize was awarded to the College Youths. A contemporary newspaper, of which I have an original cutting, though not the name, gives this account of the opening:—

'Anniversary of her Majesty's nativity, a grand opening of the new Peal of ten bells erected at the parish Church of St. John, Horsleydown, took place, when a Society of gentlemen, who are lovers of the art of ringing, in honour of the occasion, gave ten gold laced hats and a dinner to be rung for by different ringers. About ten o'clock a set of **young gentlemen** ascended the steeple in order to gratify a number of impatient hearers (who were by that time assembled) with a specimen of their **unparalleled** abilities in that art, and so proved in the end; for before they had reached 4,000 changes, all those so lately described platoons, divisions, subdivisions, grand divisions, &c., were again repeated with large additions and greater energy than ever, so that they were obliged to quit the steeple through private doors in order to avoid that loud reception which was prepared for them by the auditors, and which was so justly deserved.

'After this the Society of Cumberland Youths ascended the steeple, and amid the acclamations of upwards of 10,000 spectators, rang the first peal compleat, consisting of 5,399 Grandsire Caters, in three hours and 58 minutes, but notwithstanding that they had won the hats by a great majority of changes and fineness of striking, the before mentioned **young gentlemen**, contrary to all order, were admitted to a second trial, with a view, it is supposed, to retrieve their lost honour and transmit to posterity a lasting testimony of their superior abilities and indefatigable perseverance'; but how great was the disappointment when this second attempt proved far inferior to the first and became the object of contempt and ridicule!

'And although they had been worsted by a considerable odds, yet **fortunately** for them, they had chose for their umpire a squinting oyster man, who being so much infatuated with the glory of his post as to loose his best sense, viz., that of thinking and judging right; and who it is believed was b—d for the occasion, gave it in favour of the **select performers** because they rung **College Hornbook**; and the gentlemen who gave the hats confiding in the **superiority** of his judgement, the supposed victors were, contrary to equity and good conscience, crowned with the laurels they had so egregiously lost and admitted to partake of the dinners provided for the occasion.'

This screed has no value as history, but it is good evidence of the feeling between the societies, for it is pretty certain it was inspired by the Cumberlands, who took their defeat badly. The sneer about 'transmitting to posterity' was a sarcastic reference to the College Youths' peal board lately erected in St. Leonard's belfry.

When late at night on March 27th, 1784, the bells of St. Leonard's came into rounds at the conclusion of the twelve-thousand of Treble Ten, the Society of Cumberland Youths stood at the supreme point of its history, and, as the conductor and reputed composer, George Gross had staked out a claim to be not only leader of the Cumberlands, but the foremost ringer of his generation. A fortnight later he called a peal of Treble Bob Major for the society at Walthamstow. Three months later he had broken with his friends, left the company, and started a new society.

What had happened we do not know. Osborn, who in later years was secretary to the Cumberlands and knew some of the men who had rung in the long peal and some of their contemporaries, could only learn that some difference arose between Gross and the others, and neither side would give way. What it was he could not discover. It does not matter very much, for the real causes of disputes of this sort are not usually the same as the ostensible reasons.

All through the history of the Exercise quarrels between ringers were of very frequent occurrence. There was nothing remarkable about them, nor would this one be of any interest except for its results. If we needed an explanation we should perhaps find it in the character and position of George Gross.

Gross evidently was a man without any particular education or knowledge of education, for on one or two occasions his son, George Gross the younger, made his mark in lieu of signing his name. In culture and in social status he stood on a lower level than the leading members of the two societies of College Youths, but as a practical ringer he was inferior to none of them, and he possessed in an eminent degree the gifts necessary to make him the leading man of an eighteenth-century ringing company.

The capacity for making friends was undoubtedly one of those gifts, but others were just as necessary—energy, driving force, and a dictatorial temper—and these could easily turn out to be double-edged weapons. For, though in these old companies one man usually dominated his fellows, the constitution in form and theory was democratic. So long as it suited their purpose, and so long as things moved fairly smoothly, the average members could easily tolerate the strong man's rule, but they were never far from the point where they would resent and re-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

sist what they looked upon as undue and unwarranted exercise of authority.

It may well be that Gross presumed on the prestige the long peal had given him, and so provoked an explosion of feeling, some of which may have been latent for a long time. Possibly he was trying to push his son forward at the expense of older members, and so causing jealousy and ill-feeling. Whatever the cause, he staked his position in the society against getting his own way and lost.

When a man quarrelled with his company the usual thing was to try to join another band, and if he were a first-class ringer he usually had no difficulty in finding a home among new companions. Gross adopted a different course. The other leading companies at the time were the two societies of College Youths, and in neither would he have been particularly comfortable, neither at any rate would have given him the preponderant position his ambition required.

John Reeves was then the chief conductor to the ancient Society of College Youths, and no company was wide enough to hold both Reeves and Gross for long. The junior society would probably not have looked on Gross as socially qualified for admission to their company. Besides, both were far from his home in Shore-ditch.

What really decided Gross' action was that he never intended to break finally with the Society of Cumberland Youths. For the time being he was beaten, but he would gather his friends together, form a new company which should show how great his strength and influence were, and from that vantage point wait the time and opportunity of regaining his old position. He would not even give up the right to use the society's name, and so the new company was called the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths.

George Gross hoped, no doubt, to carry with him a large part of the members, and some of the younger ones did follow him, but of the long peal band only James Barnard joined him.

For the rest he made up his company from the ringers who practised at the steeples in the eastern suburbs, men who had been outside any of the recognised societies, and for the most part were of a lower class than the average Cumberland Youth, and much lower than the College Youths. We need not, however, suppose that they had as yet earned or deserved the unfavourable reputation which the members of the society gained in after years.

(To be continued.)

COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir—Your leading article in your issue of January 29th should be an incentive to ringers to dabble in figures now that tower bell ringing is restricted. Below is a composition of Bob Major with the second 24 consecutive course ends at home, which can be increased to a peal of 5 056 changes by adding eight Q sets at W. If two sets are added at H the peal will not be true.

23456 W B M H

2345 2 — —

2346 2 — —

2453 — — —

24536 — — —

Five times repeated, adding eight Q sets at W. Single half-way and end.

G. F. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

FALSE COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here are the particulars of a further seven peals from the records of the Yorkshire Association which I have found to be false. I would like you to publish them in 'The Ringing World' so that notes can be made by those who own, or have access to, copies of our annual reports which record the performances.

No. 399. 5,024 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by John Thorp and rung at Gargrave on March 5th, 1887. Internal falseness—the 6th lead of the 10th course, treble in 5-6 down, is false with the 3rd lead of the 15th course, treble in 5-6 up.

No. 416. 5,024 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by John Thorp and rung at Saddleworth on April 11th, 1887. Internal falseness—the 6th lead of the 5th course, treble in 5-6 down, is false with the 3rd lead of the 15th course, treble in 5-6 up.

No. 643. 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by W. Sottanstill and rung at Caiverley on May 21st, 1892. This peal is riddled with internal falseness, no fewer than twelve out of the fifteen courses being affected.

No. 796. 5,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by W. Sottanstill and rung at Drighlington on January 5th, 1895. False at the Middle positions in the 9th and 13th courses.

No. 967. 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by W. Sottanstill and rung at Drighlington on January 22nd, 1898. This is the same position as No. 643.

No. 2943. 5,175 Stedman Caters, composed by Charles H. Hattersley and rung at Sheffield on December 26th, 1924. The 13th six of the opening course is false with the 8th six of the 41st course. This is the same composition as No. 1700.

No. 3353. 5,024 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by Charles Severn and rung at Longwood on March 1st, 1930. The 6th, 7th and 8th leads of the 5th course repeat as the 7th, 8th and 9th leads of the 9th course. This is the same composition as No. 3230.

The two peals of Treble Bob by John Thorp, No. 399 and No. 416, are typical examples of what a conductor should not do unless he is absolutely sure of his ground. In their original form both these peals are true 3-part compositions, but in each case the alternative calling has been substituted in one course to cut out 64 changes, with the result that two perfectly sound peals have been rendered false. Hardly fair to either the ringers or the composer!

No. 399 has been rung several times by the association in its true form (5,088 changes), but only once, as mentioned above, in the shortened form that is false.

Nearly 2,000 of the compositions rung by the Yorkshire Association have now been proved and only 37 of them have been found false. As far as can be ascertained at the moment, only three of the false peals have been rung a second time and none more than twice.

WILLIAM BARTON,

Hon. Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS ATTWELL.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Attwell, of Chiddingfold, which occurred on February 26th at the age of 84.

Mr. Attwell learned to ring at the age of 10 at Arberfield, Berkshire, where his father was captain. Sixty years ago he went to Chiddingfold, where he introduced change ringing and soon got together a band that could ring Grandsire Doubles and Minor.

The bells were rehung and increased to eight in 1894, and Mr. Frank Bennett was engaged as instructor. He succeeded so well that the bells were opened with a peal of Grandsire Triples, Mr. Attwell ringing the seventh. This was his first peal.

For 45 years he was captain of the band. Then increasing deafness caused him to resign the office, but he never lost interest.

In 1901 he was instructor to the Haslemere band, and a peal of Minor was rung, conducted by Mr. H. Mullard. In the same year he took part in the first local peal of Grandsire Triples, Holt's Original, conducted by Mr. A. J. Bartlett. In all he rang about 200 peals. Two of his daughters became ringers during the last war, and both assisted in the Victory ringing last November.

At the funeral on March 4th a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. A. C. Hazelden, A. J. Bartlett, A. H. Pulling and M. Smith. Permission could not be obtained to do it in the churchyard. The other ringers present besides the family included Mr. C. E. Smith, Ringing Master of the Guildford Guild, Mr. H. Mullard, Mr. G. Luff and Mr. G. Wootton.

Mr. Attwell never troubled about conducting and was always ready to encourage others. At one time every man in the band of eight had called a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples or Bob Major.

Mr. Attwell had been married 58 years and his wife survives him. He was a life-long choirman.

IPSWICH.—On February 28th, in the belfry of St. Mary-le-Tower, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1,248 changes: G. A. Fleming 1-2 H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley (conductor) 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, J. Jennings (first touch on twelve handbells) 11-12. Afterwards a course of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, in which W. P. Garrett took part.

TREBLE TEN AND TREBLE TWELVE.

As a footnote to our account of the Cumberland Youths it may be interesting to give a list of the peals of Treble Bob Royal and Maximus rung in the eighteenth century. Those marked with a star were record lengths at the time.

- 1741 April 7th.—*5,200 Royal at St. Sepulchre's by the Eastern Scholars.
 May 30th.—5,000 Royal at St. Sepulchre's by the College Youths.
 1758. March 12th.—*5,040 Maximus at Southwark by the College Youths.
 1759. June 5th.—5,040 Royal at St. Magnus' by the College Youths.
 1760 April 12th.—5,040 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 1762. Dec. 1st.—5,040 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 1765. May 22nd.—*6,000 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 1766. Oct. 19th.—6,000 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 Nov. 10th.—*5,136 Maximus at Southwark by the Cumberlands.
 1767. Jan. 17th.—*6,200 Royal at Shoreditch by the London Youths.
 April 6th.—*7,080 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 1771. June 23rd.—5,040 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 1774. Nov. 17th.—5,080 Royal at Cripplegate by the College Youths.
 1776. Oct. 6th.—5,040 Royal at Fulham by the College Youths.
 Nov. 24th.—6,200 Royal at West Ham by the College Youths.
 1777. Jan. 19th.—5,200 Royal at Westminster by the College Youths.
 Jan. 20th.—6,240 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 Feb. 9th.—5,232 Maximus at St. Bride's by the College Youths.
 Feb. 18th.—*10,000 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 March 12th.—5,080 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 April 5th.—8,120 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 April 17th.—*6,000 Maximus at Southwark by the College Youths.
 May 10th.—*10,200 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 May 19th.—*11,080 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 May 22nd.—5,200 Royal at Cripplegate by the London Youths.
 1778 Jan. 1st.—5,040 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 Jan. 5th.—5,320 Royal at Cripplegate by the Cumberlands.
 March 16th.—*6,240 Maximus at Norwich by the Norwich Scholars (Cumberlands).
 March 21st.—6,000 Royal at Cripplegate by the College Youths.
 May 19th.—5,120 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 1781. Dec. 24th.—5,120 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 1782. Oct. 7th.—5,040 Royal at Birmingham.
 Dec. 3rd.—5,040 Royal at St. Mary-le-Bow by the College Youths.
 1783. Oct. 13th.—6,000 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.

1784. Jan. 19th.—5,040 Royal at Horsleydown by the College Youths.
 March 10th.—*7,008 Maximus at Southwark by the College Youths.
 March 27th.—*12,000 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 May 15th.—5,760 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 Oct. 30th.—5,120 Royal at Maidstone by Barham's Band.
 Nov. 15th.—5,040 Royal at Maidstone by the College Youths.
 1785. Jan. 6th.—5,113 (sic) Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields by the ancient Society of College Youths.
 Dec. 27th.—5,040 Royal at St. Dionis Backchurch by the ancient Society of College Youths.
 1786. Oct. 9th.—5,040 Royal at Shoreditch by the Junior Cumberlands.
 1788. March 31st.—5,040 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 Sept. 1st.—5,120 Royal at Magdalen College, Oxford, by the College Youths.
 Dec. 28th.—5,200 Royal at St. Albans by the College Youths.
 1789. Jan. 10th.—5,440 Royal at Spitalfields by the Cumberlands.
 Feb. 2nd.—5,580 Maximus at St. Martin's by the College Youths.
 March 16th.—5,080 Royal at Nottingham by the Sherwood Youths.
 Aug. 2nd.—5,000 Royal at Fulham by the College Youths.
 1790. Jan. 4th.—5,040 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 Jan. 24th.—5,000 Royal at Westminster by the College Youths.
 Feb. 16th.—6,000 Royal at Cambridge.
 1791. March 21st.—5,000 Royal at Leeds, Kent.
 1792. April 16th.—5,040 Royal at Fulham by the College Youths.
 1793. Feb. 16th.—6,280 Royal at Spitalfields by the College Youths.
 April 8th.—6,000 Maximus at Birmingham.
 April 15th.—6,360 Royal at Spitalfields by the Cumberlands.
 1794. Feb. 6th.—5,000 Royal at Horsleydown by the Cumberlands.
 Aug. 15th.—5,160 Royal at Hertford by the College Youths.
 Dec. 13th.—5,200 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 1795. March 9th.—5,232 Maximus at Southwark by the Cumberlands.
 April 9th.—5,160 Royal at St. Magnus' by the College Youths.
 May 14th.—6,000 Royal at Greenwich by the College Youths.
 1797. April 20th.—5,040 Royal at St. Magnus' by the College Youths.
 May 7th.—5,040 Royal at Fulham by the College Youths.
 1798. Feb. 19th.—5,040 Maximus at St. Bride's by the College Youths.
 Oct. 15th.—6,480 Royal at Shoreditch by the College Youths.
 1799. Feb. 2nd.—5,080 Royal at Shoreditch by the Cumberlands.
 April 16th.—5,160 Royal at Spitalfields by the College Youths.
 Oct. 25th.—5,040 Royal at Leeds.
 1800. Jan. 28th.—5,000 Royal at Shrewsbury by the Union Society.
 All except one peal of Maximus and two or three of Royal were in the Oxford variation.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

All Mr. Albert A. Hughes' many friends will join us in congratulating him on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the County of London.

On March 14th, 1727, the Loudon Scholars rang on the new ring of twelve at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields 'six thousand cinqueques'; and on the following day the College Youths rang 6,314 changes, 'being the longest that was rung.'

Mr. George Baker called the first peal of Norfolk Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Brighton, on March 14th, 1896; and Mr. A. R. Pink called the first peal of Berkshire Surprise Major at St. Paul's, Wokingham, on March 14th, 1934.

The Bristol men rang 10,133 Grandsire Caters at Christ Church on March 15th, 1837.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett called 6,720 Bob Major on handbells at Norwich on March 15th, 1894. It was an attempt for the extent with the tenors together, 13,440 changes, brought round half-way on account of cold weather.

The first peal of Pudsey Surprise Major 'was rung' at Bolsover on March 15th, 1924.

On March 16th, 1767, the Debenham band rang 10,080 Bob Major. The peal was called by James Wilson, who rang the tenor, and who, so they say, committed a murder a few hours before they began to ring.

The first peal of Maximus at Norwich (6,240 Oxford Treble Bob) was rung on March 16th, 1778.

Francis E. Dawe was born at East Meon on March 16th, 1862. The Huddersfield band rang the first peal of Violet Treble Bob Major on March 16th, 1865.

The Civil Servants' peal of London Surprise Major was rung at St. George's, Southwark, on March 16th, 1939.

Challis F. Winney was born at Nayland, Suffolk, on March 17th, 1858.

The Cumberlands rang 7,025 Stedman Caters at Poplar on March 17th, 1846, and on the same date in 1888 the first peal of Duffield Maximus was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham.

The first peal of Duffield Royal was rung at Duffield on March 19th, 1888.

The Middlesex County Association rang the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in six methods, at Willesden on March 19th, 1929. The methods were London, Rutland, Bristol, Superlative, Cambridge and Pudsey.

The Birmingham men rang the first peal of Erin Cinques on handbells on March 20th, 1920.

DEATH OF MR F. BELSEY.

CAPTAIN OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL BAND.

The funeral took place on March 9th at St. Mary's, Chatham, of Mr. and Mrs. F. Belsey and their 14-year-old granddaughter, Peggy Harrow, who had died in tragic circumstances during the preceding week.

The service was taken by the Rector, the Rev. P. Nichols, and the Rev. G. P. Phelps, and was attended by the Mayor of Chatham, the surveyor and other public and private mourners. The interment was at Chatham Cemetery.

Mr. Belsey was a native of Tong, near Sittingbourne, Kent, where he started as a ringer. Moving to Gravesend later, he went to Chatham in 1909, and in association with the late Sergt. F. Holden formed a band. He was connected with Rochester Cathedral from 1922, becoming captain there when Mr. W. Haigh left the district.

There were many floral tributes, among them those from the Rochester District of the Kent County Association and the bands at Rochester Cathedral, St. Mary's, Chatham, and Rainham.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. E. Borrett's remark that peals credited to the Norwich Association by a touring party in the North 'didn't do the association a ha'porth of good' puzzled me somewhat.

Surely no peal credited to any association could be said to do that association any good, if by doing good is meant the conferring of some material advantage. Most association secretaries would, I think, have considered Mr. W. Pye's action on that occasion as an honour rather than the cause of additional labour and unnecessary expense, though perhaps as Mr. Borrett himself had just taken over the secretaryship from the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, his concern for the association's finances did him credit!

It was probably the same motive—to do honour to the association—which caused Mr. Pye to ring over 1,000 peals for the Middlesex, in which county neither he nor most of the regular members of his band ever resided. Many of these peals were rung out of the county, but I doubt if Mr. A. T. King raised any complaint, nor, I imagine, has Mr. C. T. Coles done so, even though the finances of the Middlesex Association have never been as sound as doubtless those gentlemen would have desired.

Incidentally, during that tour in 1902, a peal was attempted at York Minster, and had it been successful the Norwich Association would have had to their credit an achievement which no other could claim during the present century. Maybe that would have justified the extra expense.

F. A. BARNETT.

42, Clay Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

The fifty-fifth annual Henry Johnson Commemoration was held at Birmingham on March 6th, when 85 members and friends of the St. Martin's Guild sat down to luncheon at the Market Hotel.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Frank B. Yates, who was accompanied by Mrs. Yates, and was supported by Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith, the Master of the Guild, and Mr. T. H. Reeves, the hon. secretary. Others present were Canon Guy Rogers, the Rector of Birmingham, and Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mr. Albert Walker and Mrs. Walker, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Mr. A. A. Hughes, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Roskell, of St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and Miss Richardson, Mr. D. H. Shepherd, Mr. Stevenson, of Croydon, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. W. A. Clark, the Rev. M. Melville, Mr. James George, Mr. F. W. Perrins, Mr. F. Pervin and Mrs. Pervin, Mr. H. Hoskins, Mr. J. W. Jones, Mr. J. F. Smallwood and Mrs. Smallwood, Sergt. B. Wayman, Mr. F. Skidmore, Mr. Tom Miller, Mr. W. C. Dowding, Mr. D. T. Matkin and Mrs. Matkin, Mr. H. Spencer and Mrs. Spencer, Mr. G. H. Williams, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. H. Withers, Mr. W. Heath, Mr. A. Cain, Mr. F. W. Allaway, Mr. W. L. Whiston, Mr. W. Davies, Mr. R. G. Ingram and Mrs. Ingram, Mr. M. J. Morris, Mr. J. W. Pemberton, Mr. G. F. Swann, Mr. F. Price, Mr. G. E. Fearn and Mrs. Fearn, Mr. F. E. Collins, Mr. H. H. Fearn, Mr. G. Chaplin, Miss E. Foster, Mr. A. Morris and Mrs. Morris, Mr. E. T. Allaway, Mr. O. Pearson, Mr. F. Colclough and Mrs. Colclough, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. D. R. Farr and Mrs. Farr, Mr. W. Farley, Mr. W. Saunders, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. B. C. Ashford, Mr. J. Bass, Mr. W. B. Cartwright, Mr. R. H. Barrett and Mrs. Barrett, Mr. W. E. Box, Mr. J. W. Chapman, Mr. E. Mansell, Mr. R. Mansell, Mr. W. Pocock, Mr. A. Short, Mr. F. W. Richworth and Mrs. Richworth, and Mr. G. T. Mitchison.

Apologies were received from the Lord Bishop of Birmingham, the Provost of Birmingham, Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), the Ven. H. McGowan (Vicar of Aston), and Messrs. W. R. Henton (Solihull), William Short (Clent), S. W. Freemantle (Edgbaston), C. H. Kippin, D. Vincent, of Hale, Cheshire, J. Worth, of Macclesfield, and Cyril F. Johnston, Croydon.

Mr. E. H. Lewis, president of the Central Council, regretted his inability to be present and sent best wishes for the continued success of the St. Martin's Guild.

A greetings telegram from the Master of the College Youths conveying best wishes for a successful gathering was received and read by the secretary.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Mr. W. A. Clarke, proposing the toast of 'Church and State,' said that the subject was a very wide one. In fact, it might well be said that the history of Church and State was the history of England. Originally, through the monasteries, it was the Church that provided such things as schools, libraries and hospitals, but gradually its functions had come to be shared with the State and amicable co-operation by the two, so essential for the welfare of the community, had since been almost unbroken. Ringers should be proud to feel that they and the bells are a link between the two bodies, a fact that was emphasised by the ringing of the bells on 'Victory' Sunday and by the way in which that ringing had been welcomed by the public.

Canon Guy Rogers, Rector of Birmingham, replied to the toast—a task which he regarded both as a pleasure and a responsibility. At the present moment relations in this country between 'Church and State were, to use a doctor's expression, 'quite comfortable.' How different were the circumstances on the Continent! He was, indeed, proud to be able to say that there almost the only voice yet raised against Nazi tyranny and oppression had been that of the Churches. England was fortunate to possess to-day two such men as the present Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Although some might think the latter would do well to speak less frequently, he had made it evident that the Church was moving with the times and was more concerned with, and alive to, political and social problems than ever before.

Turning to the ringers, the Rector said that the happy relations between himself and them had always been a joy to him. He, too, had been greatly impressed by the way in which both on November 15th and on Christmas Day the message of the bells had been received by crowds of listeners. In conclusion, he congratulated the Guild on the day's gathering, which in itself was a witness to the strength of our traditions. We were all looking forward to the return of peace, but, however long the delay, our fellowship and comradeship remained.

'CONTINUED PROSPERITY.'

An excellent course of Stedman Cinques was rung by Messrs. F. E. Pervin, F. W. Perrins, A. Walker, J. F. Smallwood, F. E. Haynes and G. E. Fearn.

The toast, 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild,' was proposed by Mr. Councillor Paddon Smith. 'I would call your attention,' said Mr. Smith, 'to the wording of the toast. It was "continued prosperity." We know that we have been prosperous, but we hope that such prosperity will continue.' The St. Martin's Guild had many records of all sorts. The longest true peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung (11,111 changes) was rung in St. Martin's tower. The Guild had also the unique record of having rung more twelve-bell peals in

towers away from their own than any other Guild. They were proud of the Sunday ringing. The good striking of church bells on Sundays was the best service ringers can give.

It was customary at that gathering to refer to the losses that had been sustained by death. The speaker referred to the passing of John S. Goldsmith, who was a fine ringer and the editor and proprietor of 'The Ringing World.' In the capacity of editor he was almost indispensable.

Another loss was that of their old friend, John Jaggar. He had been in his time a very capable ringer, both on tower bells and handbells, and was a most lovable man. He had passed the allotted span, and the speaker felt they should not grieve too much over the passing of one who had led a full and useful life.

Francis E. Dawe had also turned 80 years of age. His ambition (which he did not fully achieve) was to ring a peal in every cathedral tower. He did much useful work for the Exercise.

Despite the difficulties of war time, they had been successful in carrying on. It was really difficult when no tower bells can be rung, as handbells do not quite fill their place. It is a matter for congratulation that practically all the bells in Birmingham were rung on the two occasions when ringing was permitted.

MR. REEVES' GOOD WORK.

Mr. Smith referred to Mr. T. H. Reeves and congratulated him upon the success of his efforts to-day. They would have a great difficulty in replacing Tom Reeves.

Mr. Reeves, responding, remarked that he agreed with the wording of the toast—continued prosperity—which implied prosperity in the past, and that had been the happy position of the Guild for many years.

He thanked the members for their constant support.

He would like to think that all in the room were also ardent supporters of 'The Ringing World.' Since the ban on ringing had been imposed it had been a very difficult job to carry on such a paper, but he thought all who read the paper would admit that it had been even more interesting than before. He had hoped that some scheme would have been put before them regarding the future of the paper ere now, but he understood this was having the careful attention of the special committee of the Central Council and would be made public very soon.

As regards the ban, he thought this subject had been debated long enough, and as we couldn't do anything about it, we ought now to wait patiently until the authorities thought fit to remove it.

With reference to the records of peals rung in 12-bell towers now appearing in 'The Ringing World,' he thought the particulars given of St. Martin's tower showed that the Guild was very much alive, for in the first 130 years of the Guild's existence 51 peals were rung there, in the next 12 years 25 were rung, and since then in 38 years 184 had been rung.

The Guild's relations with the clergy of the diocese were most friendly, which he thought was all to the good, for in the days of reconstruction after the war the clergy should be able to assist in finding the proper type of recruit required in many towers as a result of the war and the passage of time.

THE MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of 'The Memory of the late Henry Johnson,' said he thought he could claim some connection with Henry Johnson, for in his early days he, in company with the other members of the family, used to attend Aston Parish Church Sunday by Sunday when Henry Johnson would be taking part in the ringing for morning and evening services.

For many years this toast had always been proposed by eminent ringers who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh and could, therefore, speak with personal knowledge of him. He, however, could not do so, nor did he think he could add anything to what had already been said of him. He would, therefore, ask them to stand and drink in silence to the memory of that grand old man, Henry Johnson, ringer, composer and English gentleman.

Those present who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh were asked to stand, and they numbered six.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed the toast of the visitors, which was replied to by the Monsignor Roskell, of St. Chad's Cathedral, and Mr. C. T. Coles.

Mr. W. C. Dowding proposed the toast of 'The Chairman.'

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

There was little business to transact at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday, but that nowadays is no great matter. The important thing is to keep interest in our art alive and to give ringers an opportunity of keeping in touch with each other. That is what the College Youths are doing.

Mr. E. A. Young reported that he had heard from the late F. E. Dawe's executor, and arrangements were made to take over any books and manuscripts which might be of value.

Those present were the Master, Treasurer and Secretary, and Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, R. F. Deal, J. F. Smallwood, J. A. Trollope, H. Hoskins, E. A. Young, R. Stannard, C. H. Kippin, H. N. Pilstow, E. W. Pye, C. W. Roberts, J. G. A. Prior, H. G. Miles, E. Hartley and E. Jennings, Pilot Officer J. S. Mason and Corpl. Len Fox.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 93.)

In the next extract from Haweis' book he describes the casting of a bell. As in most of his writing, he often hovers on the borderline between fact and fancy.

Will the reader now have patience to go back a century or two and assist at the founding of some of these bells? It is no light matter, but a subject of thought and toil and wakeful nights, and often ruinous expense.

Let us enter the town of Mechlin in the year 1638. We may linger by the clear and rapid river Senne. The old wooden bridge which has since been replaced by a stone one, unites two banks full of the most picturesque elements. To this day the elaborately carved facades of the old houses close on the water are of an incomparable richness of design. The peculiar ascent of steps leading up to the angle of the roof, in a style of architecture which the Flemish borrowed from the Spaniards, is still everywhere to be met with. Several houses bear dates from 1605 and upwards, and are still in habitable repair.

The river line is gracefully broken by trees and gardens which doubtless in the earlier times were still more numerous within the precincts of the rough city wall, and afforded fruits, vegetables, and scanty pasturage in time of siege. The noblest of square florid Gothic towers, the tower of the cathedral church dedicated to St. Rumbolt, and finished up to three hundred and forty-eight feet, guides us to what is now called the Grande Place, where stands still, just as it stood then, the Halles, with a turret of 1340, and the Hotel de Ville of the fifteenth century.

But our business is with an obscure hut-like building in the neighbourhood of the cathedral: it is the workshop and furnaces adjoining the abode of Peter van den Gheyn, the most renowned bell-founder of the seventeenth century, born in 1605. In company with his associate Deklerk, arrangements are being made for the founding of a big bell. Let us suppose it to be for the celebrated 'Salvator' for the cathedral tower hard by.

Before the cast was made there was no doubt great controversy between the mighty smiths, Deklerk and Van den Gheyn; plans had to be drawn out on parchment, measurements and calculations made, little proportions weighed by a fine instinct, and the defects and merits of ever so many bells canvassed. The ordinary measurements which now hold good for a large bell are, roughly, one-fifteenth of the diameter in thickness and twelve times the thickness in height.

We may now repair to the outhouses divided into two principal compartments. The first is occupied by the furnaces, in whose centre is the vast cauldron for the fusion of the metal and the second is a kind of shallow well, where the bell would have to be modelled in clay. Let us watch the men at their work.

The object to be first attained is a hollow mould of the exact size and shape of the intended bell, into which the liquid metal will then be poured through a tube from the adjacent furnaces, and this mould is constructed in the following simple but ingenious manner. Suppose the bell is to be six feet high, a brick column of about that height is built something in the shape of a bell, round which clay has to be moulded until the shape pro-

duced is exactly the shape of the outside of a bell. Upon the smooth surface of this solid bell-shaped mass can now be laid figures, decorations and inscriptions in wax. A large quantity of the most delicately prepared clay is then produced; the model is slightly washed with some kind of oil to prevent the fine clay from sticking to it, and three or four coats of the fine clay in an almost liquid state are daubed carefully all over the model; next a coating of common clay is added to strengthen the mould to the thickness of some inches; and thus the model stands with its great bell shaped cover closely fitting over it.

A fire is now lighted underneath. The brickwork in the interior is heated through, then the clay, then the wax ornaments and oils, which steam out in vapour through two holes at the top, leaving their impressions on the insides of the cover.

When everything is baked thoroughly hard, the cover is raised bodily into the air by a rope, and held suspended some feet exactly above the model. In the interior of the cover thus raised will, of course, be found the exact impression in the hollow of the outside of the bell.

The model of clay and masonry is then broken up and its place taken by another perfectly smooth model, only smaller and exactly the size of the inside of the bell. On this the great cover now descends, and is stopped in time to leave a hollow space between the new model and itself. This is effected simply by the bottom rim of the new model forming a base at the proper distance upon which the rim of the clay cover may rest in its descent. The hollow space between the clay cover and the second clay mould is now the exact shape of the required bell, and only waits to be filled with metal.

So far all has been comparatively easy, but the critical moment has now arrived. The furnaces have long been smoking; the brickwork containing the cauldron is almost glowing with red heat; a vast draught passage underneath the floor keeps the fire rapid; from time to time it leaps up with a hundred angry tongues, or, rising higher, sweeps in one sheet of flame over the furnace embedded cauldron. Then the cunning artificer brings forth his heaps of choice metal — large cakes of red coruscated copper from Drontheim, called 'Rosette,' owing to a certain rare pink bloom that seems to lie all over it like the purple on a plum; then a quantity of tin, so highly refined that it shines and glistens like pure silver; these are thrown into the cauldron, and melted down together.

Kings and nobles have stood besides these famous cauldrons, and looked with reverence on the making of these old bells; nay they have brought gold and silver and, pronouncing the holy name of some saint or apostle which the bell was hereafter to bear, they have flung in precious metals, rings, bracelets, and even bullion.

For a moment or two before the pipe which is to convey the metal to the mould is opened, the smith stands and stirs the molten mass to see if all is melted. Then he casts in certain proportions of zinc and other metals which belong to the secrets of his trade; he knows how much depends on these little refinements which he has acquired by experience, and which perhaps he could not impart even if he would—so true is it that in every art that which constitutes success is a matter of instinct and not a rule or even a science.

(Continued on page 131.)

THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

BY EDWIN JENNINGS.

(Continued from page 117.)

THE PARISH.

Records in the Domesday Book indicate that at the time of the Norman Conquest there were only two churches in this neighbourhood, viz., Kirkby Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale. The ancient parish of Kendal was coterminous with the present rural deanery of Kendal, and in many cases, as new parishes were formed, the advowson was placed in the hands of the Vicar of Kendal, who, by right of his vicarage, is now the patron of twelve benefices. Until 1541, the parish was within the diocese of York. In that year, along with the whole archdeaconry of Richmond, it passed into the diocese of Chester. In 1856 it was transferred to the diocese of Carlisle.

FEATURES OF THE CHURCH.

The church has no transepts, but two aisles on each side of the nave and chancel, with the four rows of pillars running the whole length of the church, give it at once an imposing and most unusual appearance. There are few churches like it, and the view from either the north-west corner or the south-west corner gives a vista of pillars and pointed arches which is most impressive. It is 140ft. long and 103ft. wide, and it is not without interest to compare this great width with Coventry Cathedral (120ft.), Manchester Cathedral (112ft.), Yarmouth Parish Church (100ft.), and York Minster (106ft.). The tower is engaged, and stands upon four arches, those on the north and south sides being 24ft. from the floor to the keystone of the arch, that on the east 33ft., and that on the west 35ft.

THE CHAPELS.

There are four chapels within the church at the east end of the four aisles.

(1) The 'Parr Chapel,' at the south-east corner, was built in the fourteenth century. It is not known to whom it was dedicated. In this chapel is a large tombstone of black marble, on one end of which are the arms of Thomas Parr, quartered with Roos. These arms bear strong evidence that the tomb is that of Sir William Parr, grandfather of Queen Katherine Parr, the sixth and last wife of King Henry VIII.

For many years this chapel acted for vestry purposes, but in 1934 new screens were erected, enclosing the whole chapel, and the chapel was furnished with altar, priest's desk and chairs, the architects for the work being Messrs. J. F. Curwen and Son. The altar was designed by the late Mr. F. E. Howard, of Oxford. The reredos of carved wood, coloured, contains much beautiful work. In the five panels are represented the Annunciation, the Holy Nativity, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Breaking of Bread at Emmaus. Between the panels are figures of the four evangelists. The connection of the church with St. Mary's Abbey, York, which maintained here a chantry, known as 'St. Mary's Chantry,' suggests that it is suitable that this chapel should be called 'St. Mary's Chapel.' The screening and furnishing of the chapel were the gift of Mr. Noble in memory of her husband and children.

(2) The 'Strickland Chapel.' It appears that this chapel was dedicated to St. Catherine. In the window

are the arms of the Strickland family, of Sizergth Castle, near Kendal, though the date at which that family first maintained a chantry here cannot be accurately traced. Within the chapel is a tomb marked 'W.S.' (indicating Walter Strickland) and bearing the date 1656. On the tomb is the recumbent figure of a boy, carved in alabaster, beneath a canopy of black marble on four pillars. This Walter was the son of Sir Thomas Strickland, and died at the age of nine years. There is an urn within the chapel which contains other monuments of the family.

(3) The Chambre Chapel. On the north side of the chancel, and dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket. It is now entirely occupied by the console of the organ.

(4) The Bellingham Chapel. This has been outlined before, and the only item of further interest is that the tombs were restored by members of the Bellingham family in 1836.

Unfortunately this most beautiful feature of the church is now entirely occupied by the organ.

THE CHANCEL.

The chancel was wholly restored by the masters and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1850. It consists of four bays, and is enclosed on the north and south sides by oak screens erected in 1906 from designs by Mr. Hicks, of Newcastle. The Caen stone dado at the east end was erected by Mr. T. A. Argles in 1857.

On the floor of the sanctuary is a brass tablet, let into a large tombstone, to the memory of 'Mr. Ralph Tirer, late Vicar of Kendal,' who died on the 4th June, 1627. This tablet bears the following inscription:—

'Hereunder lyeth the body of Mr. Ralph Tirer, late Vicar of Kendall, Batchelor of Divinity, who died on the 4th day of June, Anno: Dm: 1627.

London bredd me, Westminster fedd me,
Cambridge sped me, my sister wed me,
Study taught me, Living sought me,
Learning brought me, Kendall caught me,
Labour pressed me, sickness distressed me,
Death oppressed me, and grave possessed me,
God first gave me, Christ did save me,
Earth did crave me, and heaven would have me.'

(To be continued.)

TWELVE BELL TOWERS.

CIRENCESTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a list of the peals, as far as I can ascertain, which have been rung at the Parish Church, Cirencester. Unfortunately, a record has not been kept, and I have compiled the list from old peal boards and from the Gloucester and Bristol reports.

As a peal of twelve, the bells date from 1722, and now that St. Bride's, London, have been destroyed by enemy action, we possess the oldest peal of twelve in the country. The weight of the tenor is 29 cwt. in D. In 1895 a thirteenth bell was added, presented by the Cirencester Society in London. By the addition of this bell a ring of eight can be made with the ninth as tenor in the key of G, and another with the eleventh as tenor in E minor. This latter peal makes a grand ring for half-muffled ringing, and one of the peals of Grandsire Triples was rung on this peal.

Our list is not a very formidable one, considering the age of the bells, and most of the peals have been rung since the formation of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. I hope this will be of interest to ringers.

F. J. LEWIS.

LIST OF PEALS.

Grandsire Cinques 5. This includes the first peal on twelve bells rung outside London. It was rung by the Society of College Youths on January 7th, 1767, conducted by William Underwood. Grandsire Caters 12, Triples 7; Stedman Cinques 3, one each conducted by Gabriel Lindoff, J. E. Groves and W. Pye; Stedman Triples 1, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson; Plain Bob Maximus 1, Kent Treble Bob Maximus 1, both conducted by John Austin.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 96.)

What makes mutually exclusive natural courses possible in most methods is the presence of a fixed whole hunt and half hunt. In the B Blocks of Stedman Triples there are no such things, but a safeguard is provided by the pairs of bells dodging behind. Since the same two bells remain in 6-7 throughout the block, it is obvious that no falseness can occur between two blocks in which the bells in 6-7 are different.

Out of seven bells there are twenty-one pairs of bells to be selected. If we write down twenty-one even rows, all of which have a different pair of bells in 6-7; and from each of these rows we prick a B Block, we shall have twenty-one mutually exclusive blocks.

In Stedman Triples (as in all pure Triples methods), unless a single is made, all the handstroke rows are odd and all the backstroke rows are even. Therefore, in any B Block, if, when the dodging bells strike AB, the row is even, then when they strike BA the row will be odd. No falseness can occur between such a block and another in which the rows when the two bells strike AB are odd, and those when they strike BA are even.

We can therefore write out another twenty-one even rows in which the pairs of bells dodging in 6-7 are the same as in the first group of twenty-one, but are in all cases reversed. If from each of these twenty-one rows we prick a B Block we shall have twenty-one more blocks, all of which are not only mutually exclusive with each other, but also with the first twenty-one.

To put it briefly. If we write down forty-two even rows in which the same two bells are never twice in the same order in 6-7; and if from each of these rows we prick a B Block, we shall have forty-two mutually exclusive blocks.

The particular order in which the front five bells come in any one of these rows is immaterial, provided the 7-bell row is even. Of the sixty even rows with any pair of bells in 6-7, one will do as well as another.

Forty-two B Blocks will give us 2,520 rows, or half the total number. To get the other 2,520 rows we take each of our forty-two rows in turn and transpose it by 1325476. Why we do this we saw in our last article. We then prick a B Block from each of the rows we produce, and the forty-two blocks, together with the original group of forty-two, will contain the whole 5,040 rows, no more and no less.

We have now the material for composing our peal set down in eighty-four mutually exclusive blocks; and what we have to do is to join up these blocks into one round block. In essentials it is the same problem as the composition of an extent of Bob Major; but there are one or two peculiarities and difficulties to contend with.

In the first place all our blocks are based on even natural course ends. Each contains an equal proportion of odd and even rows, but for purposes of composition they all must be reckoned as even blocks. Now the Law of the Q Sets forbids an even number of complete blocks of the same nature to be joined together by bobs. We shall therefore have to use singles. But when we use singles we get blocks in which (although the proportion of odd and even rows is the same) the

natural course ends are odd. For the purposes of composition we reckon these B Blocks as odd or out of course.

We cannot do as we do when we are composing Bob Major with the tenors together, treat the sixty in-course natural courses as mutually exclusive in all circumstances. They fall into groups of four which have the following definite relationship.

1234567 and 1325476 are the same, the first being even and the second odd. If one is used the other must not be used.

Similarly 1325467 and 1234567 are the same, the first even, the second odd.

The second pair is complementary to the first. If one of the first pair is used then one of the second pair (it does not matter which) must also be used.

To join our eighty-four B Blocks together we use omits. For purposes of composition the bobs are a part of the method, and the omits are the bobs.

The use of these omits is subject to the same laws as the use of bobs in a method like Bob Major or Double Norwich, and the compositions of those methods would apply directly to B Block peals of Stedman Triples if it were not for two peculiarities.

In the first place the two dodging bells are always concerned in the bob, one of them being replaced by one of the five bells from the front. We have therefore no exact equivalents of the Wrong, Middle and Home of the other methods.

In the second place there is no fixed Whole Hunt, and as a result, no set of rows definitely marked out as the natural course-ends of the method. If we set down our eighty-four B Blocks at random, we shall almost inevitably find, sooner or later, that a change we need to complete a Q Set is in the interior of a Six and so cannot be used. The chief problem which confronts us is so to arrange our eighty-four B Blocks that we can use the requisite number of Q Sets. When we have done that, the task of joining them up into one round block is a quite simple one.

There is another peculiarity which is no help in producing a true peal, but which does in some slight degree break up the intolerably long stretches of dodging. Suppose we want to join together the three B Blocks 1234567, 6234571 and 7234516, we can do it in two ways. We can make an omit at the second Six-end and complete the Q Set, or we can make an omit at the ninth Six-end and complete the Q Set. In both cases the same bells are concerned in the bobs, and for the purpose of composing a peal, either will serve our ends.

Not only so, but we can use both and get the same result; and in the same way every Q Set in the peal may be duplicated.

TALK ON RINGING AT LIVERPOOL

On Saturday, February 20th, a number of university members of the Student Christian Movement attended a meeting in the lower vestry at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, with several members of the Lancashire Association, to listen to a talk on bellringing by Mr. P. W. Cave.

Mr. Cave dealt very fully with his subject and, with the aid of a model, explained the mechanism of a bell, and the lines on which a beginner should proceed to learn. By means of a blackboard he demonstrated change ringing. Handbells were also used and several of the members essayed to ring them.

Mr. Cave was thanked for his excellent talk and hopes were expressed that university members of the S.C.M. would become recruits to the Exercise.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th. Eight silent bells available from 2 o'clock. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45. Everybody welcome.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 20th. Tower bells and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. until black-out time.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on March 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at Olde Times Cafe and meeting in Parish Hall. Delightful spot on Hemel Hempstead bus route.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in the lower vestry. Service at 4.30. Meeting 5.30. You will be heartily welcomed.—G. R. Newton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual general meeting will be held at The Barons, Church Street, Reigate, on Saturday, March 27th, at 4 p.m. Tea provided for those who advise me not later than March 20th.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—

The quarterly meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at St. Peter's, Bramley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells in Schools from 3 o'clock. Tea only for those who send in names to Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warrells Avenue, Bramley, not later than Thursday, the 25th. Business meeting in Schools at 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Dis. Secs.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 3rd. Short service in church at 4.15. Tea in the schoolroom at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please notify regarding tea not later than March 31st, to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

ROMFORD.—The Saturday handbell practices are discontinued until further notice.—Ernest W. Pye.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Essex Association.—On and after March 27th the address of Mr. Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec. of the North-Eastern Division, will be 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

DEATH.

PARKER.—On March 15th, at 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Susan, dearly-loved wife of James Parker, aged 80.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Second-hand set of ten or twelve handbells in good condition.—A. A. Hughes, Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

SITUATION VACANT.

GARDENER WANTED, good wages, eight bells, house or rooms.—Rector, Ufford, Suffolk.

BOOKS WANTED.

The library of the Guildford Diocesan Guild has duplicates of some books, including copies of rare county histories. We are without copies of important books, notably 'Church Bells of Norfolk,' by L'Estrange. Will those having surplus books which they are willing to exchange please write A. C. Hazelden, 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

HUGH REGINALD HAWES.

(Continued from page 128.)

He knows, too, that almost everything depends upon the moment chosen for filling the mould. Standing in the intense heat, and calling loudly for a still more raging fire, he stirs the metal once more. At a given signal the pipe is opened and with a long smothered rush the molten fluid fills the mould to the brim. Nothing now remains but to let the metal cool, and then break up the clay and brickwork, and extract the bell which is then finished, for better for worse.

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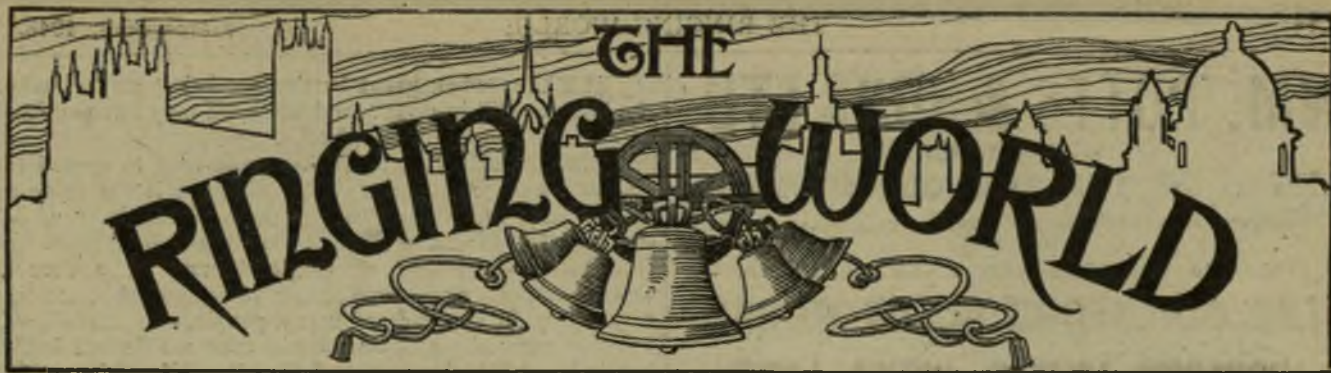
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BELLS AT EASTER.

Recently, at a meeting of the Middlesex County Association, the question of ringing on Easter Day was discussed. There was then a general hope and expectation that some such concession would be made as was made at Christmas, and the points raised related to any improvements which might be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

One of these was that the time allowed for ringing should be altered from nine o'clock till twelve to ten o'clock till one. That would give an opportunity for the bells to be rung after the principal service as well as before, and obviate the necessity of ceasing the bells just at the moment when it was most important they should be fully ringing. Mr. Carew Cox, in a letter to us, made a very similar suggestion. He proposed that ringing should be allowed in the evening as well as in the morning, when, as he pointed out, the many Easter services very much restrict the time during which at most churches the bells can be rung.

There were at the Middlesex Association meeting three or four men whose names carry weight in the Exercise, and they asked that 'The Ringing World' should bring this matter before ringers and try to find out what the general feeling is. To this request we, of course, readily and willingly assented, for 'The Ringing World' has no other object than to serve the interests of ringers, and we shall be glad to receive any letters expressing opinions on the matter.

It would, however, be foolish to lose sight of the fact that during the last two or three weeks events have happened which seem to make it very doubtful whether there will be any lifting of the ban at Easter.

The most significant of them is perhaps the publication of the amended Order. We find ourselves rather at a loss to understand why that Order was issued. Was it a sign that no value is now placed on the use of bells as a general warning, but at the same time there is a feeling that in special and local circumstances they might be useful? Or was it to forestall any attempts to get a complete removal of the ban? We do not know, and it is idle to try to guess, for in any case the result is the same.

There is another fact to take into mind, and when we consider it perhaps most of us will begin to question whether any bell ringing at Easter, or at any other time, is advisable. We are on the threshold of great events. Before long, perhaps before these lines are read, certainly before Easter, the war will blaze up into a fury throughout all the regions where British armies are actively engaged. Few of us would care to take part in any ring-

(Continued on page 134.)

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ing at a time when great battles are being waged, when the issue is still in doubt, and when we may have suffered serious, if temporary, set-backs.

It may be said that the bells would ring to spread the Easter message, and the Easter message is the same no matter how much the heathen rage. That is true, but the bells of England cannot be dissociated from the feelings of the people of England, and at a time of anxiety, stress, and strain, their voices would sound like a mockery in the ears of many people.

What view the authorities will take we do not know, but it is well to be prepared for all eventualities. If it is decided that the bells shall ring at Easter we should be ready. The captains and leaders of bands should not wait until permission is actually given, but should get into touch with their men, and ask them to hold themselves in readiness, so that if the call does come they will not be wanting.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14 1943 in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF M. C. D. A. DREWS, ESQ., ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

*MRS. C. D. ANDREWS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal. Also the conductor's 500th peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN E. SPICE ... 1-2	MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6
*SGT. K. ARTHUR, R.A.F. ... 3-4	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 7-8

Composed by S. R. A. P. HAYWOOD (C.C.C. No. 36).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5840 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* 100th peal together. A birthday peal for Mr. Thomas W. Chapman, of Worcester.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN ST. MARGARET'S VICARAGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor size 15 in C.

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4	JOSIAH MORRIS ... 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Specially rung to celebrate the birth of a son to the Vicar (the Rev. E. N. Ducker) and Mrs. Ducker on March 16th.

BLACKPOOL.—On March 18th, in the belfry of St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,264 changes: W. K. Bovill (first quarter-peal on handbells) 1-2, H. Chant, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4. A. Hague 5-6, B. Hall (first quarter-peal of Major on handbells) 7-8.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 124.)

JOHN FRAZIER AND THOMAS BLAKEMORE.

George Gross' place in the Society of Cumberland Youths was taken by John Frazier. Frazier had been an active ringer for many years, and, though he did not reach the first rank, he holds a definite position in the records of the London Exercise. As far back as the year 1756 he called a peal for the London Youths. He then joined the Cumberlands, and for a few years was one of their regular band. After 1759, his name drops out of



CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

the records for twelve years, during which we may suppose he was ringing with some lesser company. He seems to have been typical of a number of men who were ambitious of calling peals but could only get into the important bands as conductors when for some reason or other their leading men had left them.

In education and social standing he probably was of a lower class than many of the other prominent ringers, for once, when he had to sign his name in the Cumberlands' records, he made his mark. He was in the band of Cumberland Youths who rang the first peal on Kensington bells in 1773, and next year he called a peal of Grandsire Triples there with the London Youths.

In 1779 Frazier was with the ancient Society of College Youths, and on March 7th he conducted 5,156 changes of Grandsire Caters at Westminster with a band most of whom rang in no other recorded peal either before or after. Two years later he was calling peals for the 'old' Society of London Youths, which was distinct from the company mentioned above, and which for a year or two became an active peal-ringing band. When George Gross quarrelled with the Cumberlands, Frazier and most of the band went over to that society, and the London Youths lapsed once more into obscurity.

The first peal by the Cumberlands with Frazier in George Gross' old position was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Mary Matfelon, on January 10th, 1785, and it was followed a week later by another in the same method at St. Nicholas', Deptford. In addition to Frazier, Abraham Izzard, James Purser and Francis Nay rang in both peals; William Waterlow, Anthony Cavalier, Samuel Fosh and Thomas Reeves rang in the first peal; and Allen Grant, William Stephens, William Court and Robert Mann rang in the second.

Grant went to the ancient Society of College Youths to help make up the band, which was practising for the first peal of Stedman Caters, and the rest of these men with Malachi Channon, John Jackson and William West, constituted the peal ringers of the Cumberland Youths for the next few years.

Stephens and Mann were both good heavy-bell ringers, and on March 6th, 1785, they rang the tenor at Stepney to a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. It took the two of them to turn in the bell, for it weighed 49 cwt., and no single man was ever able to ring it to a peal.

Nine months later, on December 3rd, the Cumberlands achieved 6,400 changes of Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Spitalfields, with Stephens at the seventh, and Mann, single-handed, at the tenor. As the bell weighed 44 cwt., the performance ranks among the great heavy-bell feats of all time.

John Frazier was now the beadle to the Society of Cumberland Youths, and during the two years he held the office the company rang a dozen peals, of which he called eight. All except one were Treble Bob Major. Statements in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book seem to show that the truth of two of them was challenged. It may have been ordinary jealousy, but a possible explanation is that Frazier was calling his own compositions (we know he was a composer), and that he was unaware of the discovery made about the time of the liability of the method to internal falseness which does not show at the lead-ends. George Gross evidently knew something about the work Reeves had done. Apart from this, the truth of most of the peals of Treble Bob Major rung then is gravely suspect.

Meanwhile events were taking place among the College Youths which had important and lasting results in the Exercise at large.

Ever since the year 1757 the Society of College Youths had been split into two branches. The older branch, which was generally known as the ancient Society of College Youths, had for the most part lived a quiet and uneventful life, but soon after the year 1780 it quickened into great activity, and for a short time was one of the leading peal-ringing bands of the country.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The most influential man among them was William Jones, the principal author of the 'Clavis,' which he was then getting ready for the press. His two collaborators, John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore, with Christopher Wells, were the conductors, and other prominent members were Allen Grant, Richard Wilson, Robert Pye Donkin and John Anderson. This band took no part in the long peal contest, but they had some good performances to their credit, including the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major ever rung.

In 1785 the company paid a very famous visit to Norwich. It was rumoured that they intended to make an attempt at Mancroft on the Maximus record, and we learn, with some surprise, that this was strongly resented by the local men. The visitors did not ring a peal, but they did get to know of Stedman Cinques, and after their return home they began to practise for the first peal of Stedman Caters. This was the beginning of the method's popularity among ringers.

The attempt led to a quarrel between Reeves and Blakemore, and when the peal was rung at Horsleydown, in 1787, the latter was not in the band. Further disagreement arose because some of the band wished to unite with the other Society of College Youths, so that a peal of Stedman Cinques could be rung at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. There were men in both companies who objected to this, because they knew that in one band there would not be room enough for all, and they did not wish to be squeezed out. This feeling reached a climax during a joint visit to Birmingham, when Samuel Muggerridge set his bell because he would not ring a peal with Reeves and other members of the ancient society.

The upshot was a general quarrel which ended in the final dissolution of the ancient society, most of whose members joined the other College Youths. Some went to the Cumberlands, and some gave up ringing altogether.

The first to go was Thomas Blakemore. He joined the Cumberlands on June 25th, 1787, and on the same day called for them a peal of Grandsire Caters at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where two trebles had just been added to the ring of eight.

Like so many more of these men, Blakemore had begun his ringing career as a Cumberland Youth. He joined the society on January 28th, 1775, but he did not get into the peal band for some time. In April, 1777, he and Thomas Smith and Robert Mann paid a visit to Norwich, where they took part in a peal of Bob Major, Smith calling the bobs. During that year Blakemore assisted in three other Cumberlands' peals, all of them Bob Major.

Early next year, on February 4th, William Jones joined the Cumberlands, no doubt to further the interests of the book he was preparing to write. He made Blakemore's acquaintance and enlisted his help, for Blakemore was a Piccadilly bookseller, and his trade experience would be useful. The two then went to the London Youths to join Reeves and Christopher Wells, and soon after all of them joined the ancient Society of College Youths.

Blakemore did not stay long with the Cumberlands after the peal at Spitalfields. The reunited Society of College Youths were anxious to practise Stedman Cinques, and they welcomed Blakemore's experience in

the method. He joined the company at St. Martin's, and for the rest of his ringing career he was the principal man among the College Youths.

The break-up of the ancient branch had left John Reeves without a band. He, too, went to the Cumberlands, and on July 14th, 1787, was elected a member. They were looking for a first-class conductor and welcomed him with open arms. He had not been a member for a month when John Frazier resigned the office of beadle and Reeves was appointed in his stead. Allen Grant and John Anderson also joined the Cumberlands, and so did William Irons, the last Master of the ancient Society of College Youths. He had retained the company's property when it broke up, and at his death he left it to the Cumberlands. Among it was the peal book of the Society of Eastern Scholars, which is now in the British Museum. The rest has been lost. Irons became Master of the Cumberlands in 1790.

John Reeves' first peal with the Cumberlands was one of Grandsire Caters at Horsleydown, in February, 1787, five months before he was formally elected a member. Soon after he took office, they began to practise Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and on January 7th, 1788, they rang a peal at Bethnal Green. Reeves conducted from the treble, and the other ropes were taken by William Stephens, William West, Anthony Cavalier, Malachi Channon, Francis Nay, Abraham Izzard, and James Purser. George Gross and the Junior Cumberlands had rung one, also at Bethnal Green, in 1786, which they claimed as 'the first ever rang in that method,' but the Norwich Scholars had already scored two or three peals of it. Gross' peal was in the year after Jones and Reeves had been to Norwich, whence they brought back Norwich Court Bob as well as Stedman Caters and Cinques. No doubt Reeves intended to call a peal in both methods, as he eventually did, but here was a chance for his rival to forestall him.

Gross' peal is duly booked in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book, but it seems certain it was false either in composition or execution, for Reeves' peal is claimed as the first true one 'ever rang in London in that method.' Anthony Cavalier rang in both, and William Shipway, who stood in the earlier one, does not include it in the brief summary he gives of his more important performances.

Now that the method was known in London, and two bands had rung peals of it, we should have thought that its great merits would have been recognised, and it would have become popular among the metropolitan ringers. But it was not so. The practice of it seems to have been entirely dropped, and it was not until more than fifty years later that the next peal (also by the Cumberlands) was achieved in London.

One reason for this perhaps was that the attention of the leading ringers was mainly taken up by Stedman, and especially Stedman Caters and Cinques. The ancient Society of College Youths had just rung the first peal of Caters, the reconstructed Society of College Youths were practising Cinques at St. Martin's, and the Cumberlands were ringing the method at Shoreditch.

(To be continued.)

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.—On March 3rd, in 18 minutes, at 109 Sharmans Cross Road, 720 Bob Minor: Arthur D. Cook 1-2, George E. Fearn 3-4, Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 5-6. Longest length for ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, to whom credit is due for the progress they have made in a few practices.

LECTURE ON RINGING.

A goodly number of parishioners and friends assembled in Christ Church Schoolroom, Ashton-under-Lyne, on February 25th, to hear the Rev. F. F. Rigby, president of the Lancashire Association, deliver a most interesting lecture on bellringing.

The chairman, Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft, introduced the lecturer as a practical ringer, he having made his acquaintance many years ago, before his entry into the ministry.

Mr. F. F. Rigby, with blackboard illustrations, explained how the science of permutations was applied to bellringing. Beginning with two figures, he showed how great a number could be obtained with twelve figures. He also described the working of a tower bell with a model lent by the chairman.

The Manchester City Police ringers, Supt. F. R. Williams, P.C. R. Benson, P.C. Mulliner, ex-P.C. J. Carter, P.C. G. Pye, P.C. F. Yates and P.C. W. Pye (leader) demonstrated how permutations can be rung on handbells beginning with two bells and increasing the number to twelve. Plain Bob and Grandsire were the methods adopted as examples.

After the lecture questions were invited, and it was obvious that a keen interest had been shown throughout the proceedings.

Mr. J. Buckley (churchwarden) moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, the Manchester City Police ringers and the chairman, which was received with loud acclamation.

Mr. Walne kindly provided refreshments to the visiting ringers.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.**

The North and East District of the Middlesex Association once again enjoyed the use of both tower bells and handbells at a ringing meeting held on Saturday last at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Mr. J. E. Davis had the tower open at 2.30 p.m. and the bells were made available until black-out time. There was no business meeting held, so that enabled a continuous performance.

The company included a larger number of welcome visitors than is usual, amongst whom were the following: R. Heazel (Brentwood), F. B. Lufkin (Prittlewell), H. Miles (Kensington), J. Stich (Brentwood), J. F. Smallwood (Worcester), N. Somerhouse (Dartford) and C. Wander (Donington, Lincs). The attendance of these gentlemen more than compensated for the non-attendance of those for whom the meeting was directly arranged.

A free choice of methods was rung on both tower bells and handbells. On the former a course of London Surprise was attempted, but not accomplished.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

5,024 BY A. J. PITMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I send figures of an interesting composition of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, which is, I think, the first to give over 1,000 changes in each method.

A. J. PITMAN.

23456	M	B	W	H	(X Cambridge or Superlative)
35264	2	—	2	—	L B X B L
34562	—	—	—	—	C S B B B L
46325	—	—	—	—	C S S S
24365	—	—	—	—	L C L
25463	—	—	—	—	C S B B B L
42563	—	—	—	—	C S C C L
26435	—	—	—	—	C S S S
32465	—	—	—	—	L X L
26354	—	—	—	—	C S S S
52364	—	—	—	—	L C L
54263	—	—	—	—	C S B B B L
53462	—	—	—	—	C S B B B L
36524	—	—	—	—	C S S S
23564	—	—	—	—	L X L
36245	—	—	—	—	C S S S
43265	—	—	—	—	L C L
45362	—	—	—	—	C S B B B L
45623	—	—	—	—	C S B B B B
45236	—	—	—	—	B B B B S C
53246	—	—	—	—	L B B B S C
23645	—	—	—	—	L C L
34256	—	—	—	—	S S S C
24653	—	—	—	—	L X L
24536	—	—	—	—	S S S C
54326	—	—	—	—	L B B B S C
42356	—	—	—	—	L B B B S C
32654	—	—	—	—	L C L
25346	—	—	—	—	S S S C
35642	—	—	—	—	L X L
35426	—	—	—	—	S S S C
43526	—	—	—	—	L C C S C
32546	—	—	—	—	L B B B S C
52643	—	—	—	—	L C L
52436	—	—	—	—	S S S C
23456	—	—	—	—	L B B B S C

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. A. C. Limpus, 208, Union Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, would be grateful if some ringing friend in England could send him a copy of 'The Ringing World,' No. 1,608, for January 16th, 1942.

Sixty years ago last Saturday the College Youths rang 5,134 Stedman Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark. It was rung to commemorate the 21st birthday of the late F. E. Dawe, who rang the eleventh and conducted.

On March 21st, 1923, to mark the 800th anniversary of the church, a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on the pre-reformation ring of five at St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield. It was the only five-bell peal ever rung in the City of London. Mr. C. T. Coles conducted.

The Cumberland Youths rang 7,104 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 22nd, 1802. It was the final peal in the famous long peal contest, and still remains the record for the method.

Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Brighton, on March 22nd, 1901.

On the same date in 1913 the Middlesex Association rang the record peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells, 6,063 changes. William Pye conducted.

On March 23rd, 1727, the College Youths 'rung at St. Olave's in Southwark 5,040 College Tripples, the first that ever was rung and the first true peal that was rung in that steeple.'

On March 23rd, 1783, the College Youths rang at Fulham 5,220 changes of Plain Bob Caters, or 'Old Doubles Caters,' as the peal board calls it.

Bob Caters has always been considered as somewhat of an illegitimate method, and a yet inferior variation is Canterbury Pleasure Caters. One peal of it, however, has been rung—on March 23rd, 1895, at Chesterfield.

The Birmingham men rang 9,020 Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's on March 23rd, 1887; and 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells at Aston on March 23rd, 1898.

On March 23rd, 1935, a band whose average age was 22 rang a peal of Spliced London, Cambridge, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major. Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner composed and conducted the peal.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Maximus at Southwark on March 24th, 1740. On the same date in 1784 the junior branch rang the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, and two days later the ancient and rival branch beat it with 6,048 changes at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

Lancashire men rang 9,600 Grandsire Major at Hyde on March 24th, 1856.

At St. Michael's, Cornhill, on March 24th, 1900, William Pye called the first 12-bell peal for the Middlesex Association, one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus. It led to a somewhat acrimonious correspondence in 'The Bell News,' but a fair amount of that about other notable peals was going on at the time.

The Cumberlands rang their 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on March 27th, 1784, and on the same date in 1826 the Wakefield men rang the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHURCH BELLS.

We have already called attention to the fact that the Prime Minister evidently attaches great importance to the value of church bells as expressions of the country's feelings. In almost every one of his important speeches Mr. Churchill has referred to them, and in his broadcast last Sunday he said: 'The day of Hitler's downfall will be a bright one for our country and for all mankind. The bells will clash their peals of victory and hope, and we will march forward together encouraged, invigorated and still, I trust, generally united upon our further journey.'

The comment of a leading American newspaper was that 'through Churchill's speech rang the peal of victory bells.'

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—No, Mr. Barnett! Even the first peal on the 12 at York would not, in my opinion, have justified calling it a Norwich Diocesan performance. And I may say the late Rev. Earle Bulwer had also strong ideas about the moral aspect of these 'foreign' peals.

His fire was roused by the first peals of Cambridge and London Major being rung for the Norwich Association out of the diocese and by a non-resident band. He held they were a nuisance and a bugbear to those interested in the ringing progress of a society, as they made year to year comparisons valueless.

It is not for me to judge the affairs of the Middlesex Association nor the motives of the late William Pye in scoring peals for that body, but I would point out the Greater London area is not on all fours with the provinces. And to say those peals were probably rung to do honour to the association is, I think, stretching credulity to its limit!

To return to York. I am much prouder of the fact that in 1765 the Norwich men tramped the 200 odd miles to York and rang 1,600 of Bob Royal on the new bells at the Minster.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

An address delivered to the Johnson Society of London on March 20th by the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

One day when Dr. Johnson and James Boswell were talking together, Johnson referred to a collection of Scottish antiquities the other had begun, and bade him go on with it. 'Make a large book,' he said, 'a folio.' 'But,' asked Boswell, not unnaturally, 'of what use will it be, sir?' And he got the characteristic reply, 'Never mind the use. Do it.'

In much that spirit, some years ago, I set myself the task of writing a history of the London bellringers of the 17th and 18th centuries. I made a large book—some six or seven thousand pages of manuscript—one which, if it had been published in Johnson's time—would have been a folio. Sometimes I could not help wondering what use it would be, but I did it. It led me into several bypaths of 18th century history, and I often thought what a pity it was that neither Samuel Pepys nor Samuel Johnson had been interested in ringing. If they had, my job would have been far easier and far more interesting.

There were two famous diarists, Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearn, who did write about the art. They told us quite a lot, but both of them were Oxford men, and in the 18th century the centre of the ringing world was here in London, and not only in London, but in that famous street which runs from Ludgate to Charing Cross, with St. Bride's at one end, St. Martin's at the other, and St. Dunstan's in the middle.

FAVOURITE TAVERNS.

This, of course, was the centre of Johnson's London life, and I think it is much more than probable that he and the ringers did come into contact. They had a lot in common with him. They were sociable, clubbable, convivial persons. They did not spend all their time in belfries, but loved to meet in the tavern where they could gather round the table, and spend a few hours in talking and social intercourse.

Johnson's favourite tavern was The Mitre. The ringers used The Barn in St. Martin's Lane, and The Barley Mow in Salisbury Court. The Barn disappeared many years ago when Trafalgar Square was laid out, but The Barley Mow still exists, or rather I should say the ghost of The Barley Mow still haunts a corner of the great new Press Association building. Only some misguided persons have within the last few years altered the name to the Cogers' Hall.

That was a piece of sham antiquarianism, for the house was The Barley Mow before the Cogers met there, and it was used by older and more important clubs than ever the Cogers were.

For instance, there was the society of which our chairman, Mr. Alexander Young, and I are both members—the Society of College Youths. We were an important body for nearly a hundred years before there were any Cogers, and I was going to say that now nearly two hundred years after the Cogers have been forgotten, we are still alive and as active as ever we were, only, curiously enough, your secretary, Mr. Savage, has just mentioned that he is a member of the Cogers Club.

In the 17th century we numbered many distinguished men among our members. In the 18th century we were not so aristocratic, but we were still persons of respectability and standing, tradesmen and the like, and since, of course, they used other taverns than The Barn and The Barley Mow, I feel sure that the members did sometimes come in contact with Dr. Johnson and his circle.

LINKS WITH JOHNSON.

I am afraid, however, that I have no evidence of any direct contact, but I can tell you of one or two persons who formed links between Johnson and his friends and the Society of College Youths.

The first was a man named William Woty. In ordinary life he was a solicitor's clerk. He had ambitions to be both a ringer and a poet, but I am afraid he was not much of a success as either. Still he has managed to secure a place in the Dictionary of National Biography, and that at any rate is some sign of fame or notoriety and a distinction which has not fallen to the lot of many.

Woty was a minor poet who published some verse, and, though he never belonged to Johnson's circle, it is certain that he would have liked to have done so, and he hovered somewhere on the outskirts. I do not think he is mentioned in Roswell, but he did know some of the circle and got them to subscribe to one of his books. Boswell was one, and Reynolds, and Garrick and Goldsmith. I am not quite sure of the others, for I have not had an opportunity of checking the reference, but I think Johnson's name does not appear.

Woty's principal work was a poem he called 'The Scrubs of Parnassus.' I do not know what it was about, for I have not read it, though I have glanced at the book. The poem which interested me was one he called 'Campanologia,' which is a panegyric on the Society of College Youths. Woty was a member, but he never did anything to get his name into our records.

He had mastered the trick of writing blank verse, and his effusion, though it is not poetry, is quite good stately rhetoric. A copy of the work was elaborately bound and placed in the King's library. It is now at Bloomsbury.

In Fleet Street, near Johnson's Court, was the shop of Christopher Pinchbeck. He was a celebrated clockmaker and an inventor of different ingenious devices. His father, also Christopher, had introduced the imitation gold alloy and given his name as a new word to the English language. The younger Christopher in his way was quite

as important a person as Dr. Johnson and quite able to pass the time of day on equal terms. He was a College Youth and was Master of the society in the year 1752.

I do not remember whether Dr. Johnson smoked or took snuff. Perhaps you will be able to tell me. But if he did, he most certainly would have visited the shop of John Hardham further along Fleet Street and not far from what is now Ludgate Circus.

To the general public Hardham was quite as well known as Johnson himself, indeed probably more so. He was the most famous tobacconist London has ever had. His shop was a popular rendezvous where people of fashion would drop in to meet one another and have a talk. The man himself was universally respected and even loved for his goodness of heart and generosity. People made him their confidant, and it was said that he was entrusted with the payment of the pensions to several 'unfortunate' ladies who had fallen out of favour with their 'protectors' and were on the retired list. Sometimes when the pensions were stopped at the source Hardham continued the payment out of his own pocket.

He must have been a very successful business man, for when he died he left over £22,000, not a bad fortune for an eighteenth century London shopkeeper. He certainly was a first-class tobacconist and gave value for money. A century after his death his name was still kept over his shop, and even in my own time Hardham's No. 37 snuff was still being advertised and sold.

We may be sure it was good snuff, but it owed its great popularity in very large measure to a piece of most unblushing puffing. David Garrick was very friendly with Hardham and took an opportunity of doing him a good turn. When he was acting a part that was suitable, he would pull out his snuff box and offer a pinch to his companion. 'I can recommend it,' he would say. 'It is Hardham's No. 37.' It took and Hardham's 37 snuff became quite the rage of the day.

A FRIEND OF GARRICK.

John Hardham was not only a very successful tradesman. He was a bellringer and a skilful one. He took part in some of the most famous peals rung by the College Youths, especially at St. Bride's, and he held the office of Master of the society in 1747 after he had been an active member for 23 years.

Bellringing was not his only interest. Acting and the theatre took up a lot of his attention; he adorned the parlour behind his shop with the portraits of leading actors, and, as a contemporary says, he was 'seldom without embryo Richards and Hotspurs strutting and bellowing in his sitting room.'

As I have said, he was very friendly with Garrick, which brings him very near to the Johnson circle. Garrick made him 'numberer' at Drury Lane Theatre, no doubt in order to give him an opportunity of seeing all the plays. His job was to place himself in a post of vantage at the top of the theatre and count the number of people in the pit, so that a check could be kept on the men in the box office.

Hardham had an ambition to be a playwright and actually wrote a play which he called 'The Fortune Teller or The World Unmasked.' No doubt he offered it to Garrick, but Garrick knew what was a good play just as much as he knew what was good snuff. He was quite willing to advertise Hardham's snuff, but he would have nothing to do with Hardham's play. And indeed it was sorry stuff, mere rant and bombast. So Hardham had it printed, a not unusual fate for plays not deemed worthy of the stage.

When Hardham died he left his fortune to his native town of Chichester, which still receives the interest on the capital.

He was not much of a link between the ringers and Johnson himself, but he is a most interesting link between the Society of College Youths and Johnson's companions and contemporaries.

ST. CLEMENT'S BELLS.

I said that the life of the ringing world centred in Fleet Street and the Churches of St. Bride's, St. Martin's and St. Dunstan's. Perhaps you wonder why I did not mention St. Clement's. St. Clement's bells, which now lie forlorn and broken at the bottom of the steeple, were already cast in Johnson's time, at least eight of them were, and he must have heard them many times, chiming and tolling on Sundays, and ringing on weekdays. But for some reason I cannot tell the belfry was not one of those the College Youths regularly practised at. First St. Bride's and then St. Martin's was their headquarters. Those two churches had twelve bells each, while St. Clement's had only eight. St. Martin's fortunately are still safe and still the same bells as Johnson heard. St. Bride's survived until recently and perished in the air raid that burnt out the church and its noble steeple.

The eight bells at St. Dunstan's and church, which then stood half across what is now the roadway, were improved away more than a century ago.

In Dr. Johnson's time, though ringers were already very much a class apart, the general public knew a good deal more about bells and took a more general interest in them than they have done since. It would have been just as natural for him to know something about ringing as it would now for an ordinary man to know something about golf or cricket. There was, too, a good tradition of bells in his native city of Lichfield. The famous Bishop Hackett, who restored the Cathedral and rebuilt the spires after the Civil War, was a member of the Society of College Youths in his London days. He never lost his love for bells, and the last thing he was able to do was to provide the Cathedral with a heavy ring of bells. There was

(Continued on next page.)

WHY WE RING BELLS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On February 19th you published a letter of the Rev. S. B. Friston, from 'The Barnsley Chronicle,' and you referred to it in your leading article. He spoke of the Book of Common Prayer as the law of the land; and you said it was the schedule to an Act of Parliament. These statements are both incorrect. Neither of you can be blamed for making them, as most people think that this is so. But ringers and clergymen should be acquainted with the exact position in which we are with reference to the law.

The Prayer Book which we use is not, and never was, law. It was not a schedule to an Act of Parliament. But it was annexed, that is, tied with string (which string perished, so that for many years this 'annexed copy' was lost), to the last Act of Uniformity. This annexing did not make it a schedule, nor a law, and the action taken in Parliament, when a misprint was discovered, was so done as to make it quite clear that no authority of Parliament was ever given to this book.

What then is this Act of Uniformity? Now I do not want anyone to take my mere word for it. Let any of your readers go to the nearest church, and he will find on the priest's stall a more or less expensive and large copy of the Prayer Book. Prefixed to this are copies of the Acts of Uniformity. From their position anyone would think that these instruments authorised the book to which they are prefixed. Most people do this and pass on to something else. But if anyone will take the trouble to read them carefully he will be surprised to find that there is not a single word so authorising these books. These are solely penal Acts, fixing the penalties to be inflicted on those people who do not use them. To-day we should call them Nonconformists or Roman Catholics. But here we find such strange names as 'recusants.' Also the punishments 'without bail or mainprise' are such as could not now be inflicted. This alone would make the Acts out of date and useless. But as a matter of fact these penalties on Nonconformists have long been repealed, and the Acts are, therefore, useless.

This was recognised in 1928. In the Prayer Book Bill of the previous year these Acts were religiously copied, but someone evidently saw the absurdity of it, and in the next Bill they were quietly left out. These two Bills have been the only attempt to make us pray by Act of Parliament; both were rejected, and it is certain no further attempt will ever be made.

Does that mean that we are free to do as we like? Certainly not. We are bound by something stronger than an Act—through which a coach and horses might be driven. Before any clergyman can be instituted or licensed to any place where he can exercise his authority, he has to make a solemn promise to the Bishop to use 'the said book.' By this promise we priests are bound, and ringers are bound to help the parson to carry out the provisions of this book, one of which is that of ringing a bell a convenient time before each service.

What you say besides is excellent, but it must be remembered that Governments in war time can do many things which custom or law would otherwise prevent.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE H. COOMBS.

The death is announced of Mr. George Henry Coombs, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, which took place on March 7th just three weeks before he reached his 100th birthday.

Mr. Coombs did not learn to ring until he was 43 years old. That was in 1886 when the bells of All Saints', Ryde, were installed. The instructor to the band was William Hewitt, who had rung with William Shipway, and was a contemporary and companion of Cox, Holey and Cooter. Mr. Coombs rang in six peals, all Grandsire Triples, and was a regular and keen attendant at the Sunday service ringing and weekly practices until the outbreak of the war. He probably was the oldest living ringer.

Until a few days before the end, when a chill compelled him to take to bed, Mr. Coombs enjoyed the best of health for one of such advanced years.

By profession he was a horticulturist. In bygone years he was in the front rank of exhibitors at Island shows and won many awards for chrysanthemums. For over 77 years he had lived in the same house. He was the oldest member of the Court Astræa of Foresters and Shepherds.

His wife died 23 years ago and he leaves five daughters, two living in New Zealand, and one son.

The funeral was on Thursday, the service in the Parish Church being conducted by Canon Moxon, assisted by the Rev. F. H. Rolph. The mourners were Mr. C. Coombs (son), Mrs. Lewis (daughter), Mrs. C. Coombs (daughter-in-law), Miss N. Lewis (granddaughter), Mr. G. Lewis (grandson), Mr. H. G. Coombs, of Bembridge (nephew), Mrs. G. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Brett and Mrs. Smith. Miss A. Coombs (daughter) was prevented from attending by indisposition. The ringers present were Major C. W. Vincent and Messrs. A. Brading, A. Jackson, T. W. Kemp, P. Long, C. Mundell, B. J. Snow and A. R. Ward (Ryde), and Messrs. W. Scott, sen., and W. Upton (Newport).

His colleagues had hoped to ring handbells over the graveside, but war conditions made this impossible. The large collection of flowers included wreaths from the ringers of All Saints'.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT SPALDING.

At the annual meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th, ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Long Sutton and Algharkirk.

The service was conducted by the Rev. J. W. Parker, Vicar of Gosberton, Clough.

In the absence of the Rev. E. C. Gee, president of the branch, owing to illness, Mr. Parker was elected chairman of the business meeting.

The balance sheet for 1942 showed a credit balance of £56 in the general account and £17 in the Belfry Repairs Fund.

The Rev. E. C. Gee was unanimously re-elected president and the other officers as follows: Hon. treasurer, Mr. R. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. W. A. Richardson; hon. auditors, Messrs. J. T. Brown and R. Richardson; Ringing Master, Mr. J. G. Ames; committee, the captain of each tower in the branch; branch representative on Guild Committee, Mr. J. T. Brown.

Mr. Bertram Holmes, of Pinchbeck, was elected an honorary member.

Meetings for the coming year were arranged as follows: Long Sutton in June, Surfleet in September, and Deeping St. Nicholas in November.

On the proposition of Mr. R. Richardson, the secretary was instructed to send a letter to the Rev. E. C. Gee expressing sympathy in his illness and sincere wishes for his speedy recovery.

JOINT MEETING AT DUDLEY.

Forty-three members of the Dudley and District Guild and the Worcestershire and Districts Association (Northern Branch) gathered at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th, on the occasion of the former's annual meeting.

Service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon of Dudley, Dr. A. P. Sheppard, who welcomed the members to Dudley and expressed his appreciation of the Guild officer's efforts to keep things going, and at the goodly attendance in spite of the present lack of ringing facilities.

Tea followed in the School Hall, and at the subsequent business meeting the Archdeacon took the chair. The balance sheet was adopted, the chairman congratulating the Guild's officers upon being able to produce an increased credit balance in spite of adverse circumstances. All the officers were re-elected for the coming year. Votes of thanks to those who had helped to make the event a success were passed.

Handbell ringing followed, together with tune-playing intervals.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the three-part 5,088 of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Major, published in your issue dated March 5th, Mr. A. Nunneley Wood informs me that the figures of the peal were composed by the late H. Dains.

They were published in 'The Bell News' of January 2nd, 1886, and also in the Midland Counties Association report, 1909, being peal No. 1,638, rung as Superlative Major. Only the splicing of the two methods into the figures can be said to be arranged by me.

Sunderland.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NEW BRANCH SECRETARY.

The annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, held at St. Paul's, Daybrook, on February 13th, only drew a small attendance.

No silent ringing was attempted, but good use was made of the handbells in the vestry. Grandsire Triples and Caters, Plain Bob Major and Royal and Stedman Triples were rung.

Mr. F. Bradley took the chair for the meeting which followed. One new member was elected. Mr. F. A. Salter asked the meeting to relieve him of the secretaryship, as he found that hours of war work after his long illness did not leave him time to carry on the office efficiently. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., was unanimously elected in his place.

A vote of thanks to the retiring secretary for past services and to the Vicar of Daybrook for his kindness in placing the tower and vestry at the disposal of the association concluded the business.

JOHNSON AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

founded a ringing society made up of some of the leading men of the city, who called themselves the Loyal Youths. I fancy they had long disappeared before Samuel was born, but the Cathedral had a fine set of ten bells, most of which are still in the tower.

Dr. Johnson in a very real sense was a typical Englishman of all the ages, but in an equally real sense he was a typical man of the 18th century. So, too, the Society of College Youths, though it dates from the 17th century and is still alive and flourishing, is in many ways a typical 18th century body, and it forms a most interesting link with the days when Johnson lived and the men who were his contemporaries.

THE USE OF SINGLES

IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 130.)

When we are composing Stedman Triples from B Blocks we first arrange the 5,040 rows in 84 mutually exclusive blocks in which the changes, necessary to give us the required Q Sets come at Six-ends. How to do that, and in the best way for the plan on which he is working, the composer will find out by experiment, and it does not fall within the scope of our present discussion.

One or two obvious thoughts, however, occur. We shall find it convenient to group our B Blocks according to the pairs of bells dodging behind, instead of, as usual, by natural course-ends. And we can first select our Q Sets, and then arrange the B Blocks to suit them.

For instance, suppose we wish to join together three blocks which have 6-7, 7-1, and 1-6 dodging behind. We take the block 1234567 and find a Six-end where the treble makes fifth's place at the bob. This bob we omit, which gives us the row 4352617 instead of 4352176. The complementary row is 4352761. All three are handstroke rows.

We can now prick from each of 4352617 and 4352761 a full B Block, starting with either a quick Six or a slow Six as the case may be.

When we have got these two blocks, the two others, which are complementary to them, are fixed and unalterable; so we shall still have to exercise care to avoid having inside a Six a row we need at a Six-end.

Subject to these conditions, the job of joining up the 84 B Blocks is similar to that of joining up the 120 natural courses of Bob Major. We start with the block 1234567, and we add the others to it, two at a time, by plaining Q Sets.

However we do it, so long as we use omits only the result will always be to join together an odd number of blocks, and as the extent is an even number we must use singles. When we have got as far as we can by means of omits, we take what is left, reverse it so as to produce the out-of-course form, and splice it in with two singles. The use of singles in peals of Stedman Triples formed of B Blocks is essentially to add the final link, not to alter the succession of the nature of the rows, though it does do it.

We are now in a position to answer the question which was debated some months ago: Is it possible to produce a peal of Stedman Triples in two exactly similar parts with only two singles?

We know, of course, that it is possible, because it has been done; so we will alter the wording of the question somewhat and enquire, What are the conditions generally necessary in a seven-bell method to produce an extent in two exactly similar parts and only two singles?

First, in any pure Triples method the 5,040 rows must be capable of being grouped into a number of similar

mutually exclusive blocks. They may be P Blocks (natural plain courses), B Blocks (bobbed courses) or other blocks produced by a combination of plain and bobbed leads.

Secondly, the foundation blocks must be capable of being reversed so as to produce out-of-course variations, and the direct and reverse variations must contain exactly the same rows.

Thirdly, the presence of a Q Set is necessary, consisting of bobs (or omits) and singles, which will join together an even number of in-course blocks and an even number of out-of-course blocks.

In Grandsire Triples and the other methods in the same group, the P Block cannot be reversed.

In Grandsire and Union Triples, but not in the others, the B Block can be reversed, but no Q Set formed of bobs and singles can be had.

In Plain Bob and kindred methods both B Block and P Block can be reversed, and the necessary Q Set can be used. Since the lead-ends are alternately of opposite nature, extents can be had without the aid of the combined Q Set.

In Stedman Triples the P Blocks are not mutually exclusive, and on the twin-bob plan no combined Q Set is possible.

In Stedman Triples on the B Block plan the blocks are mutually exclusive, they can be reversed, and the necessary Q Set is available. Therefore a peal in two exactly similar parts and with two singles only is quite possible.

Here is the combined Q Set which must be used, alongside the corresponding Q Set in Bob Major. The actual rows, of course, need not be these. Both backstroke and handstroke rows are given.

2314567	2436587
S 3241567	B 4235678
2314576	4326587
O 3241756	S 4325678
2314765	4236587
S 3241765	B 2435678
2314756	2346587
O 3241576	S 2345678

THE LONG PEAL AT DEBENHAM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The legend about the 10,080 of Bob Major at Debenham used to be that a murder was committed at Bury St. Edmunds and James Wilson stood his trial for the same, but was acquitted on the grounds that he could not have been at Bury (24 miles distant) and got here by the time the peal was started. The legend went on to say that he actually did the murder, but possessed a very fast horse which did the journey in record time.

Fast horse, cool rider, possibly the composition was an easy one, although the peal board makes no mention of the composer's name. This board was restored a few years ago by a ringer who wished to remain anonymous.

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THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

(Continued from page 129.)

The floors and walls of the church are adorned (or otherwise) by many monuments. Reference has already been made to these in connection with the three ancient families of Parr, Strickland and Bellingham. There are memorials of nine former vicars of the parish. A black marble monument to the memory of the portrait painter, George Romney, will be found on the south wall near the south-west entrance.

Suspended near the Bellingham Chapel is an ancient helmet. Cornelius Nicholson remarks, in reference to this, 'Sir Roger Bellingham was a knight banneret, and was certainly interred here. We conclude that this helmet either belonged to him or was suspended in memory of his having received that most honourable distinction, usually conferred by the King on the field of battle.' Nicholson adds as a footnote, 'This helmet, commonly called "the Rebel's cap," forms the theme of a popular narrative.'

In the civil wars there resided in Kendal one Colonel Briggs, a leading magistrate and an active commander in the Cromwellian army. At that time also Robert Philipson, surnamed from his bold and licentious character 'Robin the Devil,' inhabited Belle Isle, on Lake Windermere. Colonel Briggs besieged Belle Isle for seven or eight days until the siege of Carlisle being raised, Mr. Huddleston Philipson, of Crook, hastened from Carlisle and relieved his brother Robert. The next day, being Sunday, Robin, with a small troop of horse, rode to Kendal to make reprisals. He rode into the church in search of Briggs. In passing out, his head struck against the portal and his helmet fell to the ground and was retained. Robin was assaulted and unhorsed, but made a safe retreat. The legend is preserved in a ballad of the times, entitled 'Dick and the Devil.' It is celebrated also in Scott's poem, 'Rokeby.'

THE TOWER AND BELLS.

The tower is 24ft. wide and 80ft. high, the lower part in large measure the tower of the thirteenth century church. In 1661 it was restored and raised to its present height.

It is worth noting that one of the massive pillars at the west end of the nave is of hewn limestone, while the rest are interlarded with red sandstone. It is not unlikely that this red sandstone formed part of the Roman remains at Watnook a mile away, and from thence was brought to the church when the part of the church was rebuilt. The first clock was erected in 1850, a gift by Christopher Gardner. The present clock and chimes were erected in 1891 in memory of Alderman G. F. Braithwaite, six times mayor of the ancient borough of Kendal.

The oldest bell in the tower is a pre-Reformation and undated, and this bell formerly hung in a turret attached to the Bellingham Chapel, and was placed in the tower in 1804.

There is no accurate information of the first introduction of bells into the church tower or when they first summoned worshippers to the church. There may have been one or more bells so far back as the thirteenth century, but the earliest mention of the bells is in 1576 in an

extract from general orders and by-laws, when it was ordered and constituted by the aldermen, burgesses and 24 assistants, that as well as every one of the 24 assistants as the twelve principal burgesses of this burgh now and from henceforth shall provide and have a plain cloth gown of black or of some other sad colour, a round black cap on his head, and shall be ready to accompany the alderman or his deputy before or at the time of ringing of the 'third peal,' to the church, both to morning and evening prayers.

In 1537 the Grammar School boys were summoned to school by a little bell which hung in a turret on the north side of the church. This bell is now known as the 'Sanctus bell,' and is now in the tower of the church.

From the M.S.S. of the Corporation of Kendal, dated 1584, it was ordered that butchers should close their shops and cease to offer flesh for sale after the ending of the 'third peal of bells' ringing to morning and evening prayer on Sundays and holy days under a penalty to forfeit 12d.

In 1657 there were five bells in the peal, and in 1698 the tenor was recast and a treble added by Mr. Christopher Hodson.

On May 7th, 1773, a vestry meeting was called, and it was decided to have a new peal of eight, the fourth and fifth bells of the old peal to be the tenors of the new peal.

The work was undertaken by Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of London, and the frame was made by Mr. Samuel Turner, of Whitechapel, London.

In 1816 the fifth of this peal was cracked, and this was recast and two trebles added to make a peal of ten.

In 1894 these were retuned and rehung, a new frame provided, and again in 1938 they were rehung in the most modern fittings, both times by Messrs. J. Taylor, of Loughborough.

Of the inscriptions, those on the ninth and tenor bells are in Latin, both these bells dated 1631.

In addition to the inscriptions on these two bells, there appears on the waist of both a small shield $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square of the royal coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth. It has E.R. at the top, and on the garter round the centre the motto, 'Honi soit qui mal y pense,' and on the bottom, 'Dieu et mon droit.' The unicorn on the shield has wings on its back, not horns. From this it is known that they are Oldfield's bells. These arms appear on the third bell at Eaton, near Lancaster, 1617, and at Barton-on-Humber, 1598. Founder R.O.

In 1788 a list of rules were agreed on by the ringers and were painted on the walls in the same year. In 1833 they were painted on canvas by Billy Stubbs, a noted sign painter. This in due course rotted and fell to pieces. To the late Mr. Thomas Jennings is due the credit of having made a careful copy of the lines in 1860.

(To be continued.)

RAISING AND CEASING.—Raising and ceasing in peal when properly executed is undoubtedly very pleasant and melodious, but the adepts in the art in this City of London very seldom choosing to put themselves to the pains of it, is now chiefly practised by the country gentlemen.—'The Clavis.'

GOOD STRIKING.

Keep time:—how sour sweet music is
When time is broke, and no proportion kept!

—Shakespeare.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—

Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—

Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in the lower vestry. Service at 4.30. Meeting 5.30. You will be heartily welcomed.—G. R. Newton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—

The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—

Southern District.—The annual general meeting will be held at The Barons, Church Street, Reigate, on Saturday, March 27th, at 4 p.m.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—

Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at St. Peter's, Bramley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells in Schools from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in Schools at 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Dis. Secs.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF

BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 3rd. Short service in church at 4.15. Tea in the school-room at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please notify regarding tea not later than March 31st, to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—

A meeting will be held at Draycott on Saturday, April 3rd, at 3.30 p.m., handbells available. Light refreshments to all who notify Mr. A. Hough, Ard-Na-Chree, Draycott, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than March 29th.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—

South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th. Room available from 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. sharp. Short service St. Andrew's 4 p.m. Tea, at about 1s. each, followed by annual business meeting at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than April 7th.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—

Annual meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Alloa, on Saturday, April 10th. Bells (8) silent, available from 2.30 p.m. Ser-

vice 4 p.m. Tea; at 5 p.m., in Townhead Tea Rooms, Alloa, followed by meeting. All ringers cordially welcomed. Names for tea to manageress or to me.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Hon. Sec., 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at St. Margaret's Convent, London Road, East Grinstead. Good train and bus service. Names for tea to Mr. G. Lambert, Moat Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SO-

CIELTY.—Commencing April 6th, regular weekly practice will be held on the tower bells (10), with the apparatus, each Tuesday at 7.30 p.m., instead of 1st and 3rd Saturdays. An equally cordial invitation extended to 'spliced' or 'stoney' ringers.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Second-hand set of ten or twelve handbells in good condition.—A. A. Hughes, Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

BOOKS WANTED.

The library of the Guildford Diocesan Guild has duplicates of some books, including copies of rare county histories. We are without copies of important books, notably 'Church Bells of Norfolk,' by L'Estrange. Will those having surplus books which they are willing to exchange please write A. C. Hazelden, 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reference to the above by Mr. John Ogden recently is very interesting, and I should like to add that from my experience the public appreciate very much the sound of bells.

Apart from my connection with church bells at Dover, I was hon. instructor to the Gordon Boys' Orphanage handbell ringers from 1912 to the time of their evacuation to Wales. With their pipe band and handbells they have performed in all the seaside resorts of Kent, year after year, and have been admired by holiday-makers from all parts of the country. Their handbells were always a leading feature of garden parties, concerts, etc., and just previous to the war they performed in London, Oxford and Hastings.

Their last big show was on Saturday, July 15th, 1939, when they combined with the boys of the Duke of York's Royal Military School in a grand display in aid of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover, when nearly two thousand paid for admission to the Pencester Gardens, including the Mayor and members of the Council and many naval and military officers stationed in the town. When the eight Gordon Boys, dressed in their Highland costume, marched to the centre, each carrying a pair of handbells, they were received with great applause. The music of the bells was listened to with wrapt attention. Their playing of the 'Londonderry Air,' 'Annie Laurie,' 'Last Rose of Summer' and 'Bells of St. Mary' went without a hitch, and how the large audience clapped showed that bell music is appreciated.

In the background there is the training of these boys, and anyone who has had knowledge of boys' bands knows full well that it is no easy task to keep a band up to first-class standard. I used to have eight boys performing and four in reserve. In one month I lost four of my best trained boys, who left the Home for the Army and Navy. But the effort is worth while because the people love the bells.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

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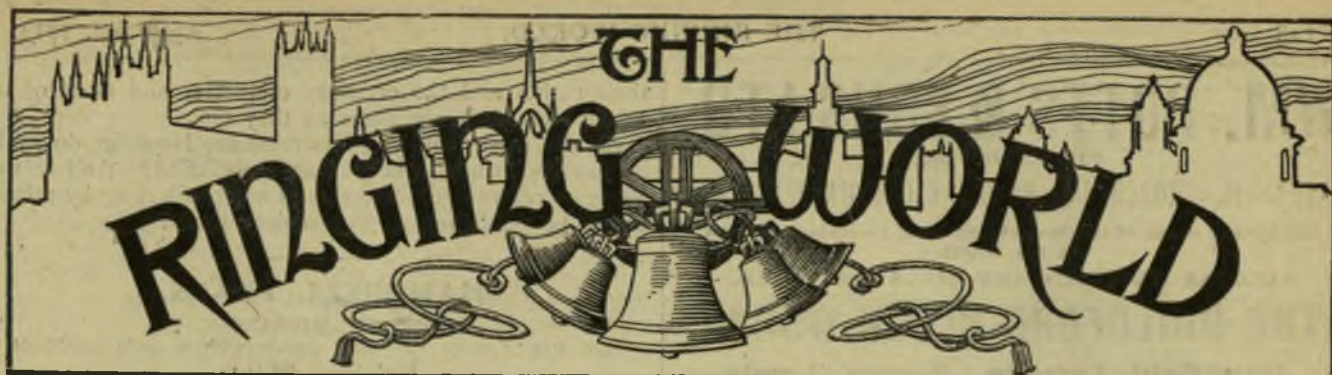
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DEBATABLE QUESTIONS.

It is one of the blessings of this life and a great help to progress that there are two sides to nearly every question, so that it is quite possible for two or more men, equal in ability, in experience, and in integrity, to hold completely divergent and antagonistic views on any given subject; and it is even possible for the same man to think one thing one day and quite the opposite the next, without laying himself open to the charge of dishonesty.

Many people think that is all wrong. The truth is the truth, they say, and one or other of two opposite views must be wrong. So they try to get all people to think alike, whence come fascism, communism and the rest. But it would be a dull world where all did think alike, and not necessarily a more truthful world.

Arguments and controversies between competent people are not only very useful and instructive; they are very entertaining. That is why we like to receive letters from correspondents on debatable points. They add very much to the interest of this journal, and we are sure their authors get a good deal of pleasure out of writing them.

A typical example is in the letters written about a band who toured Scotland and the North of England forty years ago. They rang eight peals and published them under the title of the Norwich Diocesan Association, which, says, Mr. Borrett, was put to the expense and bother of printing them in its report without receiving in return a ha'porth of good. No, says, Mr. Barnett, the band did it to honour the association.

Well, there we have a most fruitful field for a discussion on ringing tours and peal ringing generally. What good do they do? Some people think peal ringing does no good at all. Others think it is the one thing which keeps a high standard in the Exercise. And there is a lot to be said for both views. It does not follow, of course, that men should not ring peals or go on ringing tours, because they cannot show that any 'good' results from them. There are a lot of things we do, because we like doing them, apart from any results, and they are worth doing.

The men who went on the northern tour forty years ago may have conferred an honour on the Norwich Diocesan Association, but that was hardly their object. They were out for a holiday, and (as Mr. Keeble, who was in the band, explains) made a convenience of the Norwich Diocesan Association. They were quite within

(Continued on page 146.)

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their rights and the ordinary etiquette, and most of us would have done the same as they did.

All the same, the question remains, How far do peals by outside members benefit an association? And in the interests of true records, should not peals rung by mixed bands be published as non-society peals?

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS	... 1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER	... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS	... 3-4	JOHN THOMAS	... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

The conductor's 150th handbell peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ALFRED BALLARD	... 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	... 5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE	... 3-4	FRANCIS KIRK	... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR	... 1-2	WILFRID F. MORETON	... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	... 3-4	*PETER J. SMALL	... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT (C.C.C. No. 118.)

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 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 FRED. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

Specially rung as a wedding compliment to Corp'l. Robert W. R. Percy, R.A.O.C., and Miss Betty Rayfield, W.L.A., both ringers attached to Christ Church belfry, Eastbourne, and who were married this day.

BELLS AT EASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ban on bellringing is still in force, why, I, for one, cannot say.

In my opinion, bells should be allowed to be rung during daylight and it should be a punishable offence to ring after dark. With regard to Easter Sunday, if the ban for that day is lifted, we should be allowed to ring for evening service as well as matins, because some churches have five services in the forenoon.

There have been several tests of the sirens, but no test by the military or police at bellringing. I cannot imagine, for the life of me, why on earth the authorities did not give instructions for the bells to be rung.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 136.)

WILLIAM SHIPWAY.

The reunited Society of College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on October 6th, 1788. Six weeks earlier, on August 23rd, the Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch had scored their first peal of Stedman Caters, the second by any band. John Reeves conducted from the treble, William Stephens rang the ninth, James Purser the eighth, John Frazier the second, and the band was strengthened by three men—William Shipway, Anthony Cavalier, and the younger George Gross—who had come over from the Junior Cumberlands.

That society had just gone through one of the crises which were so common among these old companies, and as the result of a quarrel had been left by some of its best and most reputable members, of whom the most important, apart from George Gross and his son, was William Shipway, who now became a leading man in the Society of Cumberland Youths.

William Shipway was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760, and so at the time of which we are speaking was nearly twenty-eight years old. He had been apprenticed to a Mr. Handcock, a cabinet maker, who was also the sexton of Bath Abbey. Through assisting his master, the young man gained access to the Steeple, and made the acquaintance of the ringers. Change ringing attracted him and fascinated him at once.

The Abbey ringers were a good average band, above the average, indeed, for the West of England; and with them Shipway progressed so far as to be able to ring Treble Bob Royal. But he was anxious to go further and, seeing no prospects of advancing in Bath, he decided to go to London, where he might hope to meet the leading ringers of the day and, incidentally, find employment at his trade.

He arrived in London on July 29th, 1785, and at once sought out George Gross and the Junior Cumberlands. We can easily see why he chose them. The College Youths were far out of his reach. They had no room for any unknown stranger who might chance to come up to London from the country. A recruit to their society had first to make good his standing, both as a practical ringer and socially. Even among the Cumberlands there was no vacancy in the inner circle. But the Junior Cumberlands were a new company, and the prestige of their leader would naturally attract the ambitious novice from the provinces.

Two months after his arrival in London, Shipway rang his first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and six weeks later he stood in a peal of Grandsire Cinques which George Gross called at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The latter was never much of a heavy bell ringer, but on this occasion he rang the eleventh. Two men were needed for the tenor.

William Shipway lived in Northampton Court, Clerkenwell. At the time there were only six bells at St. James', and it would appear that he did much of his ringing at St. Mary's, Islington, where there was a scrofe band. For he failed to get into any very intimate or friendly relations with George Gross. I imagine that the younger man, keen to push himself forward, and

already with ambitions to be a composer, though as yet knowing very little about the matter, tried to question the other, and was met with the same answer that a man told me was given him by Henry Haley, 'Find out for yourself, as I had to.' It would have been quite in accordance with the spirit of the time. Shipway remotely refers to it in his book, and so to the end he was ignorant of what Gross had really done in composition.

This may be the reason why during four years he took part in only three or four peals with the Junior Cumberlands. The most interesting of them was the Double Norwich Court Bob Major, to which I have already referred. In the year 1787 the Junior Cumberlands rang John Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major in the Kent Variation, at St. Mary's, Matfelon. The performance is not entered in the peal book, but there is no doubt it was rung, for Shipway states that he took part in it himself; and the peal book, after the first few entries, is by no means a reliable authority. Whether George Gross was one of the band is doubtful, though it is difficult to see who else could have called it. Shipway, in his historical references, nearly always gives the names of the conductors of peals; but he does not do so in this instance, nor does he mention the exact date.

What is certain is that the society was being torn by quarrels and dissensions. Shipway rang no more peals with them. Anthony Cavalier stood in a five thousand which the younger Gross called, at Hackney on November 18th, and soon afterwards followed Shipway to the 'old' Cumberlands. It may be that the better-class members were beginning to be disgusted with the conduct of the more disreputable; it may be that the younger members had begun to revolt against the autocracy of George Gross and his son; it may have been only one of the trivial and sordid quarrels which were so common among the ringers. The upshot was a general break-up of the company and, though the Society of Junior Cumberlands still continued to exist, it dropped out of notice and rang no more peals until, after some years, a new generation had revived its fortunes.

George Gross was once again without a band. No doubt he had long been watching for an opportunity to return to the senior Cumberland Youths, and it is pretty certain that he now made an attempt. His son, the younger George, who had been closely associated with his father in the junior society, did join the others, and took part in the peal of Stedman Caters at Shoreditch. But Gross had delayed for too long. John Reeves had got the post he coveted, and so long as his rival was beadle, he would not join the Cumberlands. For four years his name is absent from any of the records, but we need not suppose he had temporarily given up ringing. There was a considerable number of men, unattached to any particular company, from whom he could pick a band of a sort; and it is not unlikely that he scored with them peals which are now forgotten.

One non-society peal he did ring in about this time. On one St. George's Day, eleven men named George met at St. George's-in-the-Borough, and, eight of them having been selected, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was started for. After ringing some changes, one of the ropes broke, and as on inspection some of the others were found to be rotten, the band went to St. Olave's.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

where the peal was duly accomplished. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, and his son the second. The rest came from different companies.

The younger Gross did not stay long with the Cumberlands. Soon after the peal at Shoreditch he rejoined his father.

The Cumberlands' peal of Stedman Caters was the composition of John Reeves. The figures have not survived, which is rather a pity, for evidently it was an improvement on the peals in the 'Clavis.'

A finely written board was erected in the belfry to commemorate the performance. In later years it was removed to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where it now is. It has been thoroughly restored. Perhaps this is the origin of the legend I referred to in an earlier chapter of the portrait of himself presented to the society by the Duke of Cumberland having been transferred from St. Leonard's to St. Martin's.

John Reeves was an accomplished ringer, but as a leader he was not the equal of George Gross, and notwithstanding the number of excellent ringers they possessed, the Cumberlands, while he was beadle, rang only a few peals. He called 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in March, 1788, the opening peal at Edmonton in the following May, and the first peal of Royal at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in January, 1789. The Edmonton peal, which he composed, was 5,280 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in fourteen courses. The figures are not given in the 'Clavis.'

After these peals and the Double Norwich and Stedman Caters, Reeves dropped out of the Cumberlands' peal band, and in 1790, or soon after, he vacated the office of beadle. It seems to have been his fate—his fault or his misfortune—never to remain on good terms with any one company for very long. Perhaps the fact that William Jones joined the Cumberlands had something to do with his retirement; for the three authors of the 'Clavis,' who had worked together for so long, in the end quarrelled and each went his own way.

Jones called a peal of Bob Major at Edmonton on May 18th, 1789, with Shipway and Stephens in the band, but Reeves did not ring. Reeves conducted when the society went to Sevenoaks in 1791, but Jones was not in the band. And three months later, when Jones called another peal of Bob Major at Clerkenwell, Reeves did not take part.

This was the first peal on the bells. The church had only just been rebuilt in its present form, and, indeed, it was not consecrated until nearly a year after. William Gibson, John Darby, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, Edward Bartell, William Stephens and Thomas Morris made up the band.

After this peal, William Jones went back to the College Youths of his own district in the western suburbs, and continued to ring an occasional peal with them for several years more.

Meanwhile James Devine, who appears to have headed the revolt against George Gross in the Junior Cumberlands' company, had joined the senior society, and for them he called three peals—Grandsire Triples at Islington in 1789, and Bob Major at Hackney, and Grandsire Caters at West Ham in 1790. After these, except for a

peal of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes' in 1793, his name disappears.

Shipway's first peal as conductor was at Islington on December 11th, 1791. The method was Treble Bob Major, and the composition he called was Reeves' 5,280 in fourteen courses, for he himself to the end of his life did very little composition in Treble Bob with the tenors together. Probably he thought that the elder man had so thoroughly explored the subject that there was little scope left for him.

William Richardson came to the Cumberlands from the junior society, and made his mark, instead of signing his name, when he joined on November 28th, 1789. He rang in one or two peals, and on February 12th, 1792, called 5,201 changes of Grandsire Caters at Horsleydown. Shipway, Gibson, Stephens and Bartell took part, and the ringer of the fourth was George Harris, who had been one of William Jones' band in the ancient Society of College Youths, and had distinguished himself by turning Southwark tenor in to 6,048 changes of Double Bob Maximus.

Grandsire on even numbers of bells was never so popular in London as it was for long in Birmingham and the Midlands, but it was occasionally practised. On October 11th, 1773, the Cumberlands rang at St. George's, Southwark, 5,071 changes of Cumberland eight-in, which can hardly have been anything else than Grandsire Major, and the first peal in the method. George Gross conducted.

Eighteen months later, on April 26th, 1775, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, John Reeves called for the London Youths 5,151 changes of Grandsire Eight-in. Reeves, we know from the 'Clavis,' had a high opinion of Grandsire on even numbers, and especially of Grandsire Maximus. On May 7th, 1792, he induced the Cumberlands to ring a peal of it at St. Saviour's, Southwark. He conducted from the treble, and the others in the band were Edward Bartell, William Gibson, William Richardson, John Darby, John Frazier, Thomas Reeves, William Shipway, Abraham Smith, Malachi Channon, William Stephens and Thomas Morris.

After this performance, Reeves severed his connection with the Cumberlands. He was now just turned fifty years old, and had nearly thirty more years to live, during which he rang two more peals.

(To be continued.)

BOURNEMOUTH MEETING.

Bournemouth and district ringers held a very successful meeting at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, on Mar. 20th, when some 20 members of the neighbouring branches of the Salisbury and Winchester and Portsmouth Guilds met during the afternoon and kept the handbells going. The company included some non-ringing friends, and all shared the excellent tea provided and served by the ladies, under the leadership of Miss Child, of the St. John's, Surrey Road, band.

The Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, Mr. George Williams, was present, and the secretary of Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Guild, the Rev. C. A. Phillips, distributed the Guild reports for 1941-1942.

Eight peals rung by the Bournemouth handbell band were recorded for the Salisbury Guild and published in the report. Several ringers were prevented from attending the meeting, among them being Mr. George Preston, of Christchurch, and Messrs. Eli Waters, W. E. Cheater and P. J. Small, all of whom sent good wishes to the gathering.

During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on the handbells. Plain courses of Grandsire Caters were successfully brought round, but Stedman Caters proved elusive. Miss Mary E. Davis was proposed a member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on March 27th. Handbells were rung both before and after the meeting, and the Rector kindly gave facilities for the making of tea. The Rector, who regretted not being able to stay for the meeting, cordially welcomed the members and invited them to come again whenever opportunity occurred.

Mr. J. Ridyrd occupied the chair and was supported by the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. Leslie Evans.

The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. E. Wilson, of Blackburn. The secretary had written to Mr. Tom Wilson, the ringing secretary of the association, sympathising with him on the death of his father, and Mr. Wilson had replied thanking the members.

Apologies were received from Messrs. T. R. Butler and W. R. Birchall. It was agreed that the next meeting be held at Sefton on April 17th if suitable arrangements can be made. If not, the Rev. D. P. Roberts' invitation to St. Catherine's Church, Edge Hill, will be accepted.

The towers represented were Sefton, St. Luke's, Liverpool, Oxtou, Wallasey, Southport, Waverton and St. Nicholas', Liverpool.

The Rev. D. P. Roberts proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves, for permission to hold the meeting, for the use of the vestry, crockery, etc., and this further evidence of his kindness.

DEATH OF HAGBOURNE RINGER.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

News has been received of the death of Tony Allen, of York Farm, West Hagbourne, who was serving abroad as a despatch rider in the R.A.S.C., and met with an accident which resulted in his death on March 10th. He was 28 years old and had been a member of the Hagbourne band and the Oxford Diocesan Guild for ten years. He had been unfortunate in not getting a peal to his credit, but was a good method ringer and was keen and regular at practice and at Sunday service ringing.

A memorial service was held at Hagbourne Church on Sunday, March 21st, at which a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, and on Monday a 504 each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples was rung at the Fleur de Lys on the handbells.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LATTER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Latter, which occurred at Tunbridge Wells on March 24th.

Mr. Latter, who was 77 years of age, had been verger at St. Peter's Church for many years and a member of the band of ringers for still longer. He had been hon. secretary of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association for over 40 years.

The funeral service at St. Peter's on March 27th was conducted by the Vicar, who paid tribute to Mr. Latter's services. The ringers present were Mr. T. Saunders (East Peckham), Mr. A. Battin (Tunbridge Wells) and Mr. T. E. Sone (Paddock Wood).

DEATH OF MR. W. WILDE.

The death is announced of Mr. W. Wilde, a member of the band at St. John's, Blackpool, at the age of 78.

Mr. Wilde went to Blackpool from Denton upwards of 30 years ago, and for a few years was a member of the band at Holy Trinity, South Shore. He later joined the band at St. John's. He left Blackpool following the death of his wife and on account of his own ill-health. His death took place at Denton on March 21st, and he was interred there on March 24th. He will be greatly missed in the Fylde Branch, where his droll humour was always a source of merriment. His tales concerning his early days were always welcomed.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT A. TRUEMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert A. Trueman, of Blunsdon, Wilts, at the early age of 19 years, after a short illness.

Mr. Trueman started ringing about five years ago. He joined the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association in June, 1938, and soon became an efficient ringer. He was also a member of the choir at Blunsdon and will be greatly missed.

The funeral took place on March 17th, a company of the 1244th Squadron A.T.C., of which he was a member, forming a guard of honour. Messrs. Vincent and Ball represented the local ringers, and Mr. W. B. Kynaston, secretary of the Swindon Branch, was also present. Mr. W. H. Trueman, chairman of the branch, is Mr. Trueman's uncle and was with the family mourners.

BUSHEY.—At 50, Rudolph Road, on Thursday, March 25th, 1,276 Bristol Surprise Major: *E. Jennings 1-2, *E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. * First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis has had good news. His son, Sub-Lieut. J. H. Lewis, R.N.V.R., who has been a prisoner of war in Italy, has been exchanged and is now on his way home.

We made a mistake when we said that William Pye called the record peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells. His brother, George R. Pye, conducted, and to him we offer apologies.

On March 28th, 1750, the Cumberland Youths rang at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. '5,040 New Double Trebles (being the first ever done in that method) and in 3 hours and 30 minutes 'twas perform'd.' George Partrick called the bobs.

At St. Mary's, Battersca, on March 28th, 1885, John Martin Routh called Holt's Original, his first attempt to conduct a peal. Challis Winney, F. E. Dawe and E. F. Strange were in the band.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on handbells was rung at Romford on March 28th, 1902, by William, George and Ernest Pye and William Keeble.

Mr. Ernest Turner called a peal of Surprise Major, in seven spliced methods, on March 28th, 1936, at St. Mary's, Staines. The methods were London, Bristol, Cambridge, Superlative, Rutland, Ealing and Wembley.

One of the earliest peals of Grandsire Triples was rung at Wye, Kent, on March 29th, 1736, by nine men 'being the first set that ever rang it in the county, without the assistance of Londoners or others.'

On March 29th, 1762, the ancient Society of College Youths rang 10,080 changes of Grandsire Caters at All Saints', Fulham. It was the first single-handed ten-thousand on ten bells ever rung.

The College Youths rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on March 29th, 1802. Charles Barber, of Kensington, conducted.

The Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Double Bob Royal on handbells on March 29th, 1922.

The first ten-thousand ever accomplished was rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, on April 1st, 1727. The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major, and there is little doubt that the composition was true.

On April 1st, 1755, the Cumberland Youths rang at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel, a peal of Cumberland Pleasure, 'being the first that was rung in that method.' The figures are lost, and it is uncertain whether it was Triples or Major.

The first peal on the present bells at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, and in the present steeple, was rung on April 1st, 1834. Thomas Tolladay conducted.

The first peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Maximus was rung at Chelmsford Cathedral on April 1st, 1929.

The first peal of Napsbury Surprise Major was rung at Bushey on April 1st, 1939.

On April 3rd, 1899, William Pye conducted 15,072 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Erith. This beat the 13,440 by the Cumberlands at Romford in April, 1894, but it stood as the second for less than two months. On May 22nd, 1899, James W. Washbrook conducted a 17,024 at Kidlington. This latter was subjected to much criticism and led to a heated controversy in the pages of 'The Bell News.'

INSURANCE OF BELLRINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is an abstract from a letter which I have received from a church officer:—

'Mr. B— has been talking to me with regard to the position of the bellringers here being insured against accidents. I confess I am not clear on the subject. So far as I know, I believe the fact of the ringers not being paid servants absolves the cathedral authorities of any liability. There is no doubt, however, that there is a certain danger incurred by the ringers, but they could hardly be expected to insure themselves at their own expense. I would feel obliged if you could enlighten me on the subject and let me know what arrangements exist at other churches.'

This is a problem which never occurred to me and I am personally unable to answer. I shall be glad to have the views of your readers on the matter and shall be grateful to hear if bellringers are insured by church authorities at all.

FRED E. DUKES, Hon. Secretary,
Irish Association of Change Ringers.

1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin.

PHANTOM BELLS.

Oft in the forest far one hears
A passing sound of distant bells;
Nor legend old nor human wit
Can tell us whence the music swells.
From the Lost Chord 'tis thought that soft
Faint ringing cometh on the wind;
Once many pilgrims trod the path,
But no one now the way can find.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Possibly some of the wording of my previous letter was rather loose, but I certainly did not intend to imply that Mr. William Pye rang many of his peals to do honour to the Middlesex Association, but that he credited them to the association for that reason, a very different thing.

To return to Mr. Pye's 1902 tour, let us suppose that if he had known the views of the Rev. Earle Bulwer, presumably shared by Mr. Borrett, that if he published the peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association they would be regarded, like the two Mr. Borrett mentions, as 'a nuisance and a bugbear to those interested in the ringing progress of a society,' he would have credited them to the Yorkshire Association, in whose territory they were mostly rung.

In the band on that tour there was only one Yorkshireman; of the other members three were from Essex, two from Dublin, one each from Rugby, Birmingham, Norfolk, Suffolk, Manchester and Greenwich, so that the peals would have been almost as 'foreign' to the Yorkshire Association as they were to the Norwich Diocesan. Would they not, therefore, have fallen under the same condemnation and made the Yorkshire Association's comparisons equally valueless, or, in fact, those of any other society for which they might have been rung?

Mr. Borrett's view would seem to be that unless a peal is attempted with all the band resident members of the association within whose area the attempt is being made, it should not be credited to any association at all (except perhaps the Cumberlands or College Youths, which are, of course, different) or—heaven forbid—some nebulous 'National Association.' Certainly he does not say that, but it seems a logical conclusion from the second paragraph of his letter. If not, what?

I may be a long way out, but I do not see that it matters a scrap for what association any peal is rung, nor whether it is within or without its boundaries, because peal ringing is not a true guide to the progress of a society. In the ten years or so before the war both the Hertfordshire and Sussex County Associations would from their peal ringing records have been judged very progressive, largely because of the efforts on the one hand of Mr. Harold Cashmore and his band from the Watford area, and on the other of Mr. Oliver Sippets and his band at Crawley. But if either of these bands, while maintaining their enthusiasm and proficiency, had for any reason done little or no peal ringing, the story would have been very different. No, the only good guides are, I believe, strong resident membership, frequent and well-attended meetings, and the majority of towers in the county or diocese in union with the association. With all these, any society could regard peal ringing as of minor importance.

One last point, I quite agree that 'the Greater London area is not on all fours with the provinces.' But by no means all Mr. Pye's Middlesex peals were rung in the Greater London area. For example, at least four were at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, which is not exactly part of what 'The Bell News' used to call 'The Metropolis' to distinguish it from the wilder parts, 'The Provinces.'

E. A. BARNETT.

42, Clay Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts.

THE BEST WAY.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles Borrett has made out a good case and it is not easy to answer him. But every year in peace time tours are arranged and visiting bands ring peals for associations which they join for that purpose. The associations do not object, or if they do, they do not say so. Perhaps the best way would be for the visitors to ask the associations first if they have any objections, and to give them time to find out what the ordinary members really think.

'A VISITOR.'

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Dear Sir,—It would be far better if the conductors of touring parties, when they decide to ring a peal for a certain guild or association, and find that some of the band have to be proposed members of that guild or association, should collect the subscriptions before they start for the peal to be forwarded to the right authority.

Nine times out of ten, if the attempt fails, so do the proposed members' subscriptions. I know of several parties touring this way, when the attempt has failed the subscriptions have not been paid. At the last attempt at the Cathedral here the conductor decided to ring it for the Devonshire Guild. Some of the band were proposed members before starting. The attempt failed, and so did the proposed members.

This is where touring parties don't do guilds or associations a ha'porth of good.

W. H. HOWE, Hon. Secretary.

Exeter Branch, Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, March 14th, at Severalls Hospital, by kind permission of Dr. Duncan, medical superintendent, 1,296 Bob Major in 44 minutes: G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, E. P. Duffield 3-4, W. Keeble (conductor) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Keeble and to Messrs. F. L. Bumpstead, V. Kerridge and G. M. Rashbrook, members of St. Peter's company.

A RINGING TOUR

OF FORTY YEARS AGO.

References have recently been made in our columns to a ringing tour which took place in Scotland and the North of England 40 years ago.

The company met at Edinburgh on Saturday, April 13th, 1902, and rang the first peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at St. Cuthbert's. The band was William Pye (Chadwell Heath), William Keeble (Stratford), Isaac G. Shade (Greenwich), Ernest Pye (Chadwell Heath), Gabriel Lindoff (Dublin), James George (Rugby), Charles Jackson (Hull) and William H. Barber (Birmingham). Mr. Barber conducted.

The company decided to ring the peals under the name of the Norwich Diocesan Association, although not one lived in the diocese, and only Lindoff could claim a birth qualification.

On the following Monday they rang a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Mary's Cathedral, with William Pye as conductor. The band was made up by Charles Mee from Sproughton, and Robert Murphy from Dublin.

Later in the same day they rang another peal of Stedman Caters at Newcastle Cathedral. Gabriel Lindoff stood out and a local man, Robert Richards, rang the tenor.

On Tuesday the same men who rang at St. Mary's, Edinburgh, rang a third peal of Stedman Caters at North Shields.

Some lost peals followed, but on the Thursday Stedman Cinques was scored at Halifax, the first peal ever rung on the twelve. For this James Motts, of Ipswich, and Harry Chapman, of Manchester, joined the party.

On the Friday, New Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at St. Michael's, Headingley, and Stedman Cinques at Sheffield. Mr. Fredk. R. Borrett, of Pulham, Norfolk, rang in these.

The last peal was Superlative Surprise Major at Washingborough, Lincolnshire, on Saturday, September 20th. Peals had been attempted and lost at Glasgow Cathedral, Leeds Parish Church, East Retford, Darlington, Newcastle, and York Minster on the old ring of twelve.

At the time it was probably the most ambitious ringing tour ever undertaken. A few years later the band would have attempted Cambridge Royal and Maximus, but they were then unknown.

VISITORS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The letters from Mr. Borrett and Mr. Barnett are a proof of the need of a National Association.

If we had a National Association Mr. Borrett would not have to complain that outside bands use his association for their peals. Everybody would pay his fair share towards the printing of peal reports. The peals of each district would be kept together and a special section could be kept for visiting bands.

Another thing, it would be possible to arrange ringing tours on a national basis so that anyone who wanted to could have a chance of taking part, instead of their being run by cliques for their own amusement.

CHARLES GREEN.

RINGING TERMS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Wallowing as I do in ignorance of most things etymological and in particular of what may have been discovered before of the origin of ringing terms, I have found myself thinking along the following lines. We have caters and cinques, so what can have become of the aces, deuces and tierces? Besides it is so easy to go on. For numbers above 11 there are sizes, sets, weets, newves and deeces. 'Sextuples' is terrible!

Were all these terms the original ones used by the sporting and hard drinking fraternity in the dim past when Norman French was the language and which would make ringing, no doubt of call changes, considerably older than 1,600 odd?

When scientific parsons like Duckworth came along they may have thought the terms wanted purifying and have purposely removed everything smacking of cards or dice. If Duckworth had got on to nine and eleven bell ringing he might have purified them too!

By the way, everything to do with the in and out of course of changes might quite conceivably have arisen in the tower when calling call-changes, where the conductor would always be changing the bells in couples and often wondering how quickly he could get the bells round. Even this can be associated with a game, as the chance of a solution in the fifteen puzzle is said to depend on whether the number of moves required is odd or even.

'BELLITIS.'

THE AMENDED ORDER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The amended order on noises may turn out to be a good thing for us. If the war lasts a long time the shortage of metals will become acute and people will begin to suggest that church bells should be taken for salvage. A complete answer will be that the military authorities need them for warnings.

E. T.

THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

(Continued from page 142.)

The first peal on the bells was rung on Friday, August 12th, 1796, by the local band. The method, Grandsire Triples, Holt's ten-part, was rung by the following in three hours and twenty minutes: James Wilson treble, Nicholas Wilson 2, Edward Nicholson 3, Robert Harrison 4, William Salisbury 5, William Simpson 6, Gerrard Hutch 7, John Jennings tenor. Conducted by Nicholas Wilson.

The writer, while living in Kendal, collected several notes regarding the foregoing ringers and the ringers who took part in all the other peals rung to 1884, these now being in the possession of the Kendal ringers.

The same band also repeated this performance on Monday, April 12th, 1802, in three hours and twenty-three minutes.

On Monday, February 22nd, 1819, Shipways 5,147 of Grandsire Caters was rung in three hours and twenty-nine minutes by the following: Joshua Atkins treble, Nicholas Wilson 2, Robert Braithwaite 3, Thomas Preston 4, Thomas Best 5, Robert Dennison 6, Thomas Scott 7, Thomas Atkins 8, James Tyson 9, Jonathan Chorley tenor. Conducted by Thomas Scott.

Thomas Scott was a fish hook maker by trade, and was a nephew of John Jennings, who rang the tenor to the first peal. He had an only son, George, who died in the prime of life, and during his lifetime he collected a large collection of books and early files of the local newspapers. These were purchased by Alderman Fisher and presented to the Kendal Literary and Scientific Society, and afterwards placed in the borough library. Among these early newspapers were the first files of the Kendal newspapers. John Jennings was for 46 years chief sexton at the church.

In 1857, Mr. George Jennings called Holt's original, and several peals were rung on the bells between this date and 1884, all Grandsire Triples by the local band.

In 1894, the bells were rehung, and in 1898 Mr. Brown-Walker, of Kendal, called his own composition of Grandsire Caters on Tuesday, February 22nd, 1898, viz., 5,220 changes, by Richard Dennison treble, G. Wilfred Graham 2, Jacob Baxter 3, William Tyson 4, Richard Everson 5, Thomas Haslam 6, William Atkinson 7, Brown Walker 8, John Braithwaite 9, James Salmon tenor.

Brown-Walker also called Holt's Original in 1904, and from 1796 to 1904 eleven peals were rung, nine of Grandsire Triples and two of Grandsire Caters, all rung by the local band.

In February, 1909, Mr. W. Robinson, of Ambleside, with a band mixed of Ambleside and Kendal ringers, called the first peal of Bob Major on the bells.

In October, 1925, Mr. William Keeble called the first

(Continued in next column.)

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Irish Association held its annual meeting in Dublin this year on St. Patrick's Day. Twenty members were present, representing Bray, Dublin (St. Patrick's, Christ Church, St. George's and St. Paul's), Kilkenny and Waterford.

The president, the Very Rev. E. H. Lewis-Crosby, Dean of Christ Church, took the chair, and the Rev. Canon Campbell opened the proceedings with prayer.

Apologies were read from Mr. W. Pratt, hon. secretary, Northern Branch, Arklow Guild, St. Mary's and Mount St. Alphonsus Societies, Limerick.

The report and statement of accounts were taken as read. The report referred to the following points: Two tower bell peals and one handbell peal were rung for the association during 1942. The Attendance Shield was won by Waterford Society with 100 per cent. Three members had passed away, Col. G. M. Grogan, D.S.O., Arklow, J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and J. Johnson, Christ Church. Statements of accounts show balances in hand.

Thirteen new practising members were elected at the meeting.

The place for the next annual meeting was left to the committee for decision on account of the uncertainty of transport. In the event of an improvement Waterford is to receive first preference.

The Chairman in his remarks dealt with the most interesting subject of bells, their history and their uses. He concluded his remarks saying that his interest in the association will not diminish, although his year of office is now at an end.

The Attendance Shield was then presented to Mrs. J. Baldwin, who travelled up from Waterford specially, with her sister-in-law, Miss M. Baldwin.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, Canon of St. Patrick's and Rector of St. George's, Dublin; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson, Bray; hon. secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, 1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin; Ringing Master, Mr. Robert S. F. Murphy, Dublin.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed permanent memorial to the late Gabriel Lindoff, as a result of which the following were appointed to act on a sub-committee to carry through the project: The president, Messrs. R. S. F. Murphy, M. Hogan, J. B. Tough, J. A. Atkinson, W. E. Lynch, D. Kennedy and the hon. secretary.

A tribute to Gabriel Lindoff was paid by Mr. Michael Hogan. Mr. Hogan was one of the last persons to visit Mr. Lindoff and was responsible for his transfer to hospital. A memorial fund is to be opened for the purpose of defraying the cost of a memorial, and subscriptions will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary.

Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing president and to the Dean of St. Patrick's for so kindly placing the room at the disposal of the meeting.

The bells of St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals were made good use of by the members after the meeting, when touches of Stedman and Grandsire were rung.

There was no Striking Cup Competition, nor was there any luncheon.

THE CHURCH & BELLS OF KENDAL

(Continued from previous column.)

peal of Royal on the bells, 5,040 Kent Treble Bob Royal in three hours and thirty-three minutes.

The writer called peals of Grandsire Triples in 1927, and during the same year Mr. W. E. Wilson, of Blackburn, called the only peal of Stedman Triples rung in the county.

In 1931 Mr. William Pye called one of his own compositions of Cambridge Royal, being the first peal of Cambridge in the county. The writer had the privilege of taking part in this peal.

In 1933, Mr. Frank Bennett called Middleton's peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and the last peal rung on the bells was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major in August, 1936, conducted by William Sharples, of Brindle, Lancashire.

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HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.**A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.**

(Continued from page 131.)

Haweis' remarks on bell tuning are interesting, for they quite fairly represent the general views before the investigations which followed Canon Simpson's book.

A good bell, when struck, yields one note so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is. This note is called the consonant, and when it is distinctly heard, the bell is said to be 'true.'

Any bell of moderate size (little bells are too small to be experimented upon) may be tested in the following manner: Tap the bell just on the curve of the top, and it will yield a note one octave above the consonant. Tap the bell about one quarter's distance from the top, and it should yield a note which is the 'quint' or fifth of the octave. Tap it two quarters and a half lower, and it will yield a 'tierce,' or third of the octave. Tap it strongly above the rim, where the clapper strikes, and the quint, the tierce, and the octave, will now sound simultaneously, yielding the consonant or keynote of the bell.

If the tierce is too sharp, the bell's note (i.e., the consonant) wavers between a tone and a half-tone above it; if the tierce is flat the note wavers between a tone and a half-tone below it. In either case the bell is said to be 'false.' A sharp tierce can be flattened by filing away the inside of the bell just where the tierce is struck, but if the bell when cast is found to have a flat tierce, there is no remedy. The consonant or keynote of the bell can be slightly sharpened by cutting away the inner rim of the bell, or flattened by filing it a little higher up inside just above the rim.

The greatest makers do not appear to be exempt from failure. In proportion to the size is the difficulty of casting a true bell and one that will not crack; and the admirers of the great Westminster bell, which is cracked, may console themselves with the reflection that many a bell, by the finest Belgian makers, has cracked before our Big Ben. The Salvator bell at Mechlin, renowned as was its maker, Peter van den Gheyn, cracked in 1696—i.e., only fifty-eight years after it was made.

On the summit of Mechlin tower we fell in with the man who helped to break up the old Salvator, and, although he admitted that it has now issued from Severin van Aerschodt's establishment, cast for the third time, as fine as ever, he shook his head gravely when he spoke of the grand old bell which had hung and rung so well for two hundred years.

When a bell is recast, the fact will usually be found recorded on it by some such inscription as that on the St. Maria bell at Cologne Cathedral—*Fusa anno MCCCCXVIII—refusa per Ionnem Bourlet MDCLXXXIII*. The name of Bourlet is still to be found in the neighbourhood of Cologne.

The names that most frequently occur in Belgium are those of the Van den Gheyns, Dumery and Hemony. We have come across many others of which we can learn nothing. 'Claude & Joseph Plumere nous ont fait,' and underneath, regardless of grammar, 'me dissonam refundit, 1664.' 'Claes Noorden Johan Albert de Grave me fecerunt Amstetodamia, 1714.'

The above were copied in the belfry of St. Peter's at Louvain. The name of Bartholomeus Goethale, 1680, is

found in St. Stephen's belfry at Ghent, and that of Andrew Steilert, 1563, at Mechlin. Other obscure names occur here and there in the numberless belfries of this land of bells, but the carillon of Bruges (which, by the way, is a facsimile of the Antwerp carillon, and consists of forty bells and one large Bourdon, or Clocke de Triumphe) bears the name of Dumery.

Sixteen bells at Sottighen, several at Ghent, and many other places, bear the same name.

Perhaps, however, the most prolific of all the founders was Petrus Hemony. He was a good musician, and only took to bell founding late in life. His small bells are exceedingly fine, but his larger bells are seldom true. It is to be regretted that the same charge may be brought against several of Dumery's bells in the celebrated carillon at Bruges.

'Petrus Hemony me fecit,' 1658 to 1668 is the motto most familiar to the bell seeker in Belgium. The magnificent Mechlin chimés and most of the Antwerp bells are by him.

Besides the forty bells which form the carillon of Antwerp, there are five ancient bells of special interest in that tower. These five are rung from the same loft at an elevation of 274ft. The oldest is called Horrida. It is the ancient tocsin, and dates from 1316. It is a queer, long-shaped bell, and out of consideration for its age and infirmities has of late been left unring.

Next comes the Curfew, which hangs somewhat apart, and is rung every day at five, twelve and eight o'clock.

The third is the St. Maria bell, which is said to weigh 4½ tons. It rang for the first time when Carl the Bold entered Antwerp in 1402, and is still in excellent condition.

The fourth is St. Antoine.

The last, but greatest and best beloved of all, is the Carolus. It was given by Charles V., takes sixteen men to swing it, and is said to weigh 7½ tons. It is actually composed of copper, silver and gold, and is estimated at £20,000. The clapper, from always striking in the same place, has much worn the two sides, although now it is rung only about twice a year. The Antwerpians are fonder of this than of all the other bells; yet, it must be confessed, notwithstanding the incomparable richness of its tone, it is not a true bell.

I had some considerable difficulty during the greater part of a day spent in the Antwerp belfry in gaining access to this monarch amongst bells, for it is guarded with some jealousy by the good Anversois.

After some trouble, I got into the loft below it where the rope hangs with its sixteen ends for the ringers; but I seemed as far as ever from the bell. It appears that the loft where Carolus and its four companions hang is seldom visited, and then only by special order. At length I found a man who for a consideration procured the keys and led the way to the closed door.

In another moment I stood beside the Carolus. It was not without emotion that I walked all round it, and then, climbing up on the huge segment of the wheel that swings it, endeavoured in vain to read either the inscription or the date, so thickly lay the green rust of ages about the long thin letters. Creeping underneath its brazen dome, I found myself close to the enormous clapper, and was seized with an irrepressible desire to hear the sound of the mighty bell.

(Continued on page 155.)

LEANING TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

In various parts of the world there are examples of towers that deviate from the perpendicular. Here is England the best known are Chesterfield Parish Church, Ermington, in Devon, Surfleet, in Lincolnshire, and the Temple Church, Bristol.

These curious specimens of architecture afford, perhaps, the most striking and remarkable examples in existence of that most important principle of the laws of gravity—'that a body will be supported—or it will stand—provided that its line of direction falls within its base,' in other words, provided it keeps its balance. It has been found by experiment that most lofty buildings of any antiquity are slightly inclined from the perpendicular. The Monument, near London Bridge, is one of many instances. The leaning towers of Bologna and Pisa in Italy, and at Caerphilly (Glam), Bridgnorth (Salop) and Corfe Castle (Dorset) in our country are the most remarkable.

Bologna, city of Italy, is noted for its churches and its leaning towers. Asinelli—built A.D. 1109—is 320ft. high and 4ft. out of plumb, and Torre Garisendi is unfinished, being 160ft. high and inclining 9ft. out of the perpendicular. The masonry and woodwork incline from the horizon which corroborates the opinion of Montfaucon, the antiquary, who says 'its inclination is caused by the slipping of the earth, some went to ruin when it slipped, as the ground on the inclined side was not so firm, which may be said of other towers that lean; that for the bells at St. Mary Zibenica at Venice leans, and at Ravenna, and between Ferrara and Venice and in other places numerous instances might be found.'

The most remarkable leaning tower in Great Britain is that of Caerphilly Castle, in Glamorganshire, and for its height leans more from the perpendicular than any other in the world. It is between 70 and 80ft. high and 11ft. out of the perpendicular. The castle, of which the tower forms a part, was built about 1220, the one previously on this spot having been razed to the ground by the Welsh in an attempt to free themselves from the yoke of the Norman conquerors. It is inferior in extent only to Windsor Castle, and must have been a magnificent building, its various portions and fortifications covering nearly 11 acres.

The leaning towers at Bridgnorth and Corfe Castle are both much inferior to that of Caerphilly. They were placed in their present positions through explosions in the civil wars.

The Torre Nueva (or New Tower), Saragossa, was erected in 1594, and its present use is as a belfry. It leans rather fearfully towards the church, which stands on the side of the street. It is rather lofty, the ascent being by 250 steps.

China has a leaning tower. Near Soochow, some fifty miles from Shanghai, is the leaning pagoda. Of exquisite beauty, it is now in a sad state of repair. It

stands on an artificial mound known as the 'Hill of the Tiger,' and it commemorates the burial place of Ho-lu-Wang, who founded the city of Soochow in A.D. 484.

At Aksum, the sacred city of the Ethiopians, are a number of carved and ornamental stelae or stone pillars of lofty dimensions. They vary from 50 to 100ft. in height, and many incline from the perpendicular. Each has an altar at its foot, and are probably tombstones erected in the fourth century by the Semitic conquerors of Abyssinia.

The famous leaning tower of Pisa, begun in 1174 by Bannano, and completed in 1350, is 179ft. high, and leans more than 16ft. out of the perpendicular. The walls at its base are 16ft. thick, at the top about half as much, and it is constructed throughout of marble. The eighth story contains the bells, and is much smaller in diameter than the rest of the tower. The Pisans suggest that the deviation is part of the original design, but it is manifestly due to the sinking of the ground, from which the Cathedral has also greatly suffered. It stands about 40 yards to the eastward of the cathedral, and is approached by a descent of half a dozen steps into a marble moat or trench, then a couple of steps up into the doorway, and the end of a short passage through the thickness of the wall emerges into the immense tube or well of marble, broken only at rare intervals by the apertures, one at each story that opens on to the staircase, which is built in the thickness of the walls. Daylight can be seen through what appears to be a small iron grating at the top, which, when seen at its own level, is really about 12ft. in diameter.

Two ropes more than an inch thick hang down the whole depth of about 150ft., and, of course, hanging perpendicularly, serve to emphasise the terrible tumbling-over look of the building.

The bells hang in lofty arches, on gudgeons let into the walls, and they are chimed or swung by means of long levers secured to the stocks. The campanaro, or ringer, has to mount nearly 300 steps when the service of the cathedral demands that either of the other five bells without ropes should be rung. There are six arches in the circumference of the wall, and in five of them hang the large bells, the sixth giving entrance: the two smaller bells hang in smaller embrasures and higher than the large ones. The 7th or largest bell is credited with the weight of six tons, and it is said in the guide books to be hung on the high side of the tower so that its weight shall not overhang, but it is really hung at about right angles to the inclination of the tower, for the embrasure in which it hangs is just about as wide as its diameter. Being hung perpendicularly, one side of the lip of the bell is clear of the wall by about six inches, while of the wall on the opposite side some six inches of marble has been cut away to give clearance to the lip. So in a less degree has the wall been cut out on one side to give the 6th bell a clear swing.

(To be continued.)

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

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 3rd. Short service in church at 4.15. Tea in the school-room at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th. Room available from 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. sharp. Short service St. Andrew's 4 p.m. Tea, at about 1s. each, followed by annual business meeting at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than April 7th.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at St. Margaret's Convent, London Road, East Grinstead. Good train and bus service. Names for tea to Mr. G. Lambert, Moat Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next ringing meeting will be held at Croft on Saturday, April 10th. Bells ready 5.30. Short prayers 6.45. Meeting 7 p.m. in Club Room at Heathcote Arms, where handbells and light refreshments will be available. Late trains to Hinckley and Leicester.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. G. E. Feirn is now Cleatham, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincs.

GOOD STRIKING.

When bells ring round and in their order be
They do denote how neighbours should agree.
But if they clam the harsh sound spoils the sport.
—'The Tintinnalogia.'

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.—16 HANDBELLS, G18 to E6, with F sharp and 2 C sharp, giving peals of 12 and 10, and three peals of eight, in good condition. What offers?—Rev. Prebendary Cox, Tedburn St. Mary Rectory, Exeter.

FOR SALE.—Set of nine HANDBELLS, Taylor's, tenor size 11, in G. Good condition. £3.—Box 10, 'The Ringing World,' Lower Pyrford Road, Woking.

EWELL, SURREY.

A well-attended meeting of old and new ringers of Ewell Parish Church was held on Sunday, March 7th, after evensong. The Rev. C. G. Holland was in the chair. Mrs. Holland and Mr. A. F. Stanford and Mr. H. M. Muggeridge (churchwardens) were also present.

Mr. Charles Read, who has been the captain of the band for many years, regretfully tendered his resignation on grounds of ill-health. He was appointed honorary adviser to the band. Mr. Beams was elected captain, Mr. Hadley deputy leader and Mrs. L. Beams secretary.

Mr. E. Groves mentioned the close connection of the Beams family with St. Mary's Church. The new leader's father, grandfather and uncles had all been ringers there.

A tribute was paid by the Vicar to Mr. Hadley for his untiring efforts in teaching the beginners, of which nine were admitted to the company as probationers. Miss Harrington also deserved praise for her enthusiasm and the hard work she had put into the job of arousing the interest of likely people in change ringing. For nearly two years after the ban was imposed ringing at Ewell had been at a standstill. Last May a fresh start was made in the Vicarage, where instruction in handbell ringing was given by Mr. Hadley to some choirboys. Shortly afterwards some of the tower-bell clappers were removed and practice was continued on the ropes.

The presence that afternoon of 23 people interested in the art proved that this hard work had not been in vain. They had now started regular handbell ringing for Sunday service once a month.

Miss Harrington said that the rule guaranteeing the ringers a sum of not less than £20 yearly, to be collected by two offertories and a subscription book at Christmas, was definitely bad, and Mr. Read proposed that it should be omitted for the present.

The Vicar said that the ringers' subscriptions to the associations to which they belonged might be paid by the church, and this will be considered at the next Church Council meeting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SEVENOAKS.

A meeting of the Kent County Association was held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th, and was attended by 20 members.

Eight silent bells were kept going during the afternoon, and service was at 4 p.m., after which tea was served in the Aplini Cafe, followed by the business meeting, Mr. A. Battin taking the chair. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at East Peckham in June and to try and get a by-meeting at Hawkhurst. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, the organist and Mr. H. Ford for making all the arrangements. Handbells were made good use of before and after the meeting.

HUGH REGINALD HAWES.

(Continued from page 153.)

But, alas! where were the sixteen men? It might take that number to move the bell; but it immediately struck me that much less was required to swing the clapper as it hung. Seizing it with all my might, I found with joy that it began to move, and I swung it backwards and forwards until it began to near the sides. At last, with a bang like that of the most appalling but melodious thunder, the clapper struck one side and rushed back; once, and twice and thrice the blow was repeated. Deaf to the entreaties of my guide, who was outside the bell, and did not care to come in at the risk of being stunned by the vibrations, not to say smashed by the clapper, I felt it was a chance that comes but once in a lifetime, and so I rang the Carolus until I was out of breath, and emerged at last, quite deaf, but triumphant.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

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THE DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

The debate in the House of Lords last week was revealing, but in some respects it deepened the mystery which from the beginning has surrounded the order imposing the ban on the ringing of church bells.

One thing at least is quite clear. There is no one who is prepared on his own authority and knowledge to defend the use of church bells as an efficient and essential means of warning in the event of an attempted invasion; but there is no one who is able and willing to take the responsibility of saying that it is useless and unnecessary and must be abandoned. Those men who have the last word on the matter have inherited the order from their predecessors, and they are content to take it as it stands, on the grounds that no efficient substitute can be thought of.

Lord Geddes revealed how the idea actually came into being. He was at a meeting in May, 1940, with General Ironside, the Chief of the General Imperial Staff, and other prominent men. We must remember the circumstances. The collapse of the French army had suddenly made an attempted invasion of this island, not only possible, but extremely probable, for the first time for over a hundred years. Everything had to be done to meet an impending crisis. Someone asked what could be used as a public warning and the suggestion was made to use the church bells until something better could be found. It was a natural and proper suggestion, and we are not surprised that it was at once adopted, not only for Kent and Sussex, as at first proposed, but for the whole country.

So far everything was quite as it should have been; but then mistakes were made, and not the least of them was that no general steps were taken to make quite sure that the bells could be rung and, if rung, would be an efficient warning. The men at the top, naturally, had other things to do, and had to leave that to subordinates; but, it is pretty certain, it never occurred to any of them that there would be any difficulty in the matter. If bells can be rung regularly twice every Sunday, and whenever anybody wants them for a wedding, surely they can be rung when they are needed at a time of national emergency. So no doubt they thought, if they thought at all about it. All they had to do was to pass the order on if the necessity arose. It was only those people who have to do with church bells in the ordinary way—parsons and ringers—who wondered how it could be done. They were not consulted, and for the most part received not even vague instructions. We

(Continued on page 158.)

ringers know quite well that the arranging of any special ringing is usually not a question of a few minutes, or even a few hours. It takes days, as we found out last November.

But in modern warfare events move with extraordinary rapidity, and no warning which cannot be used practically instantaneously is of any use. Everyone can see the folly of trying to use church bells as warnings against air raids, and in the case of the invasion by air borne troops the time factor would not be less urgent.

Bells chimed by an Ellacombe apparatus or tolled singly could, of course, be put into use far more easily and quickly than rung bells; but the sound is too feeble and limited in range to serve the purpose. It is the fully rung bell that people expect to be used and that cannot be done.

Even otherwise well instructed persons do not appear to realise this. The Archbishop of York suggested that bells could be clashed and clanged as a warning. It is easy enough to clash and clang bells when you have a band of ringers at the ropes. How it could be done at two or three minutes' notice by the first man who could reach the belfry is beyond our knowledge.

Lord Mottistone was doing a public service when he insisted that the present order would be a danger, and not a help, in the event of an attempted invasion. He speaks with the authority of a man who has been Secretary of State for War, and it is to be hoped he will press the point. The men in authority should be asked clearly and definitely, Do you now rely on warnings by church bells as an essential and necessary part of the precautions against an attempted invasion? and if so, have you made quite sure that they could be used and, if used, would be effectual? The 'Daily Telegraph' touched the root of the question when it said that the matter has not been given proper consideration and the authorities should think again.

All this is quite apart from the question whether, on the whole, it would be advisable to resume general ringing until the end of the war.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, March 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

At THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOP STREET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

FRANK E. PERVIN	1-2	ALBERT WALKER	7-8
*JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN	9-10
WILFRED WILLIAMS	5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN	11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Stedman in hand, first peal of Stedman Cinques.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Satu day, April 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five 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.

WILLIAM G. YOUNG	1-2	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY ...	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* 50th peal. Mr. H. R. Bennett, captain of St. John's, Surrey Road, band, listened to the peal.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

THE CASE OF RECORD PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be glad if you will grant me space for a final word on this matter.

In your current editorial you, sir, admirably sum up the situation when you say the touring party on this occasion made a convenience of the Norwich Association. And your last suggestion, that these very mixed bands should ring non-society peals is equally pertinent.

Ordinary peals rung for this or that society by a 'foreign invasion' are bad enough, but when record lengths are done it becomes farcical. For instance, the London Surprise record by the St. Martin's Guild at King's Norton, or the then record Stedman Caters for the Midland Counties at Loughborough. Can either society pat itself on the back for these performances?

Mr. Barnett, in the fourth paragraph of his last letter, allows his logic to run away with him. I hope no other reader was so foolish as to think I advocated 'all resident' peals, for it has nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

I was glad to see the letter from Mr. W. H. Howe. All of us who are, or have been, secretaries will agree with all he says, and most of us could tell similar stories of the 'sportmanship' of some ringers who have availed themselves of belfry 'elections.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. BASTABLE.

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild has lost one of its oldest members by the death at Swanage on March 31st of Mr. Walter J. Bastable at the age of 80 years.

Mr. Bastable had been connected with Swanage Parish Church for most of his life. He was one of the original members of the band formed in 1888 when the bells were increased from four to eight, and was captain for many years until 1910. For eight years he was vergier and parish clerk. When these duties and his health permitted, he was never absent from ringing, and was very regular at district and Diocesan Guild meetings. Though his health had not been very good in recent years, he took part in the victory ringing and on Christmas Day.

He rang three peals in Swanage tower, the first in 1893. His ringing knowledge was considerable and valuable. He conducted many quarter-peals and took part in others. His death is a real loss to the Salisbury Guild and especially to the Swanage tower.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the College Youths on March 27th, Mr. J. F. Smallwood raised the question of peal boards in the London belfries, and an interesting discussion took place as to what had been destroyed, what was left, and what records there are of the writing on old and new boards. Mr. E. A. Young gave an account of the meeting on the previous Saturday of the Johnson Society of London, at which the Editor of 'The Ringing World' spoke of the Society of College Youths in the eighteenth century. Mr. E. H. Lewis informed the company that his son, who had been a prisoner of war in Italy, is now on his way home.

The Master presided, supported by the hon. secretary and the treasurer. The members present were J. A. Trollope, G. M. Kilby, A. W. Russell, E. A. Young, C. M. Meyer, J. H. Shepherd, E. W. Pye, R. Stannard, J. F. Smallwood, J. Bullock, H. Hoskins, E. H. Lewis and W. Munday.

The visitors were Staff-Sergt. Wilfrid G. Wilson, of Ealing, and Pte. Wander, of Donnington.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A GIFT OF HANDBELLS.

The March meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, and members were present from Bushey, Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Felkirk, St. Marie's, Sheffield, and Wath. The hon. president, Canon W. E. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, Barnsley, presided at the business meeting.

The chief item of interest was 108 handbells which had been stored at the King George Hotel, Barnsley, and had been without an owner for well over 30 years. The secretary had been instructed to see what could be done to insure the safe keeping of these bells, and, after consultation with Mr. Farr, the building manager of the Barnsley Brewery Co., they were handed to him for the society.

This came as a surprise to the ringers, and much time was spent in sorting the bells, which, with the exception of one, were found to be in good condition. Changes were rung on a good number, including the largest six and the smallest eight.

The bells are now kept at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, the society's headquarters, where it is hoped they will be made good use of. The secretary was warmly thanked for securing such a valuable asset.

After the business meeting tea was served in the dining room and was followed by handbell practice. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Monk Bretton on April 17th.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 148.)

GEORGE GROSS RETURNS.

George Gross at last got the opportunity he had been waiting for so long. He rejoined the Society of Cumberland Youths, and on September 29th, 1792, he was reinstated in his old office of beadle. Henceforth, until his death in 1803, he was the leading man in the company.

On Saturday, February 16th, 1793, the College Youths rang 6,280 changes of Treble Bob Royal on the heavy ring at Christ Church, Spitalfields. It was the longest peal on the ten bells, though, seven years before, the



ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.

Cumberlands had rung 6,400 changes of Major there, a performance which took twenty minutes longer than the more recent one. Two of the ringers of the district stood in, James Purser, who had rung so many peals with the Cumberlands, and Edward Bartell, who afterwards had charge of the bells and belfry.

The performance was in the nature of a challenge to the Cumberlands, which they promptly accepted. Two months later, in the same steeple, they rang 6,360 changes, 'being the most that can be done in eleven courses.' The younger Gross called the bobs, William Stephens rang the tenor, and the other ropes were taken by George Gross, senior, Isaiah Bray, Thomas Reeves, William Shipway, William Gibson, John Wooding, Thomas Morris, and William Richardson. The composition has not survived; probably it was by the elder Gross.

This was the first notable performance by the Cumberlands after George Gross had resumed his old office, but in the next year he called eight peals for them. The first, on February 16th, was 5,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Horsleydown, 'with the sixth twelve times right and twelve times wrong.' This composition also is lost. It may have anticipated William Booth's variation of Reeves' one-part 5,040.

Then followed peals of Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch, and All Saints', Hertford; Bob Major at Edmonton and Romford; Grandsire Triples at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields;

Treble Bob at Camberwell; and 5,200 changes of Cumberland Royal Treble Bob at Shoreditch.

The peal at Hertford, rung on June 9th, was the first in the steeple after the two trebles had been added by the Society of Hertford College Youths. The band was the regular Cumberlands' party—the elder Gross, Darby, Harris, Shipway, Gibson, Rawlings, Channon, Truscoat, and Stephens. The tenor was rung by a man called Peter Poor, whose name shows that he had been a foundling and had been christened in the name of the parish which brought him up. This is some evidence that the Cumberlands were less exclusive than the College Youths, as is also the entry in their name book recording that on April 9th, 1796, one of the members, John Leek, was 'scratched as a vagrant.'

Two months after the Cumberlands' peal, a band of College Youths went to Hertford and rang at All Saints' Church 5,160 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. As they claimed it as 'the first peal ever rang on the ten bells,' it looks as if the other was disputed, unless the claim was only to have rung the first peal of Royal. But that is hardly likely. The peal of Treble Bob called by Gross at Camberwell was John Reeves' 6,720 in five parts with the sixty-course ends. Shipway rang the fifth, and in his book he says that this was the first time it was performed; but there is not much doubt that it had already been rung at Kensington. Gibson, Stephens, Darby, Channon, Truscoat and Harris made up the band at Camberwell.

The Cumberland Youths were fond of ringing variations of the standard methods and calling them by their own name as, in the opinion of some people at the time, they were fully entitled to do. Real Double Bob Major they called Cumberland Real Double, Real Double Grandsire Caters and Cinqs they called Cumberland Caters and Cinqs, and we may assume that the Cumberland Eight-in composed and conducted by George Gross in 1773 was Grandsire Major.

Similarly I imagine that the peal Cumberland Royal Treble Bob at Shoreditch was Kent Treble Bob, and there can be very little doubt from the number of changes, 5,200, 'the most that can be rung in nine courses,' that the composition was John Reeves' one-part, which at the time was popular among conductors.

In the following March the society rang at St. Saviour's, Southwark, 5,232 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus, and that evidently was the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus ever accomplished. George Gross called from the treble, his son rang the second, and the other ringers were — Darby, Thomas Morris, Gibson, Thomas Reeves, Saxton, Tyler, Malachi, Channon, Truscoat, Stephens, Harris and Richard White. In 1784 George Harris had rung the tenor single-handed to 6,048 changes of Double Bob Maximus, but now he had White to help him.

Having rung Royal and Maximus, the Cumberlands turned their attention to Kent Major and scored 'two peals, one of 5,504 at Bishopsgate, the other, one of 5,120, at Edmonton. Both were booked as Cumberland Treble Bob. Shipway rang in the peal at Edmonton, and if it had been something different from the ordinarily known methods, he would hardly have failed to include the figures in his book.

(To be continued.)

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The annual general meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Association will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th.

The annual meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Association will this year be on May 1st, and not as has been customary on the last Saturday in April.

Sixty years ago last Sunday Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Albans Abbey. Matthew A. Wood conducted, and the record said it was the first known peal on the bells, since one of Bob Major in 1765.

The first peal of Wicken Surprise Major was rung at Anstey by the Midland Counties Association on April 6th, 1935.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, by the Eastern Scholars, on April 7th, 1741: and the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal was rung at Mancroft by the Norwich Scholars on April 7th, 1769.

James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent, during April 7th and 8th, 1741, the full extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes. It was done by relays of ringers. 'The Clavis' says, 'Those of the performers who have been spoke with on the subject, give such unsatisfactory accounts that it is very little thought on, and it is generally believed, that if they did keep the bells going the length of time, the truth or regularity of the changes was very little attended to.'

Mr. George Price called the then record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 12,160 changes, at Knebworth, on April 8th, 1912.

The first peal of Edmonton Bob Major was rung at Willesden on April 8th, 1924.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Peterborough Surprise Major at Bolsover on April 9th, 1904.

The 'old' Society of London Youths rang 6,336 Plain Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on April 10th, 1758. The elder Samuel Muggeridge turned the tenor in single-handed. Only four men ever rang that bell single-handed to more than six-thousand changes—Muggeridge, his son, James Marilton and George Harris. Mr. A. B. Peck rang the present bell (which is slightly heavier) to 12,675 Stedman Cinques, but the composition unfortunately was false.

The Helmingham men rang the first peal of Woodbridge Surprise Major on April 10th, 1933.

SILENT SURPRISE MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Saturday, April 6th, 1897, the first peal of 'silent' Surprise Minor in seven different methods was rung at St. Mary's Church, Bucknell, Staffs.

No intimation was given as to whether the bobs should be made, nor any assistance from each other in regard to the ringing of the methods.

The band was as follows: George Clarkson 1, William Wheeldon 2, John E. Wheeldon 3, Charles Preston 4, Daniel Preston 5, William Twigg 6, two pairs of brothers, an uncle and a nephew. All have passed over except the brothers Wheeldon.

J. E. WHEELDON.

EASTER BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Every effort should be made so that the church bells can ring on Easter Day. It is one of the festivals when the bells have a special message for the people, and this Easter that message is even more valuable than ever. The Victory bells last November would have lost their real meaning if the bells at Christmas had been silent.

If the ban is lifted again on Easter Day it will be a further strengthening of the faith of the British people. What greater ideal can the bells ring out for than the message at Easter, 'Victory over death.' Let us bow our heads in silence for a minute on that day in memory of our dear ones who have gone down in this war.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning

We will remember them.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

EVENING RINGING SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your leader in 'The Ringing World,' 'Bells at Easter,' if the ban is lifted and we are permitted to ring at Easter I would welcome the suggestion of Mr. Carew Cox that ringing be allowed in the evening as well as in the morning. There are no doubt many like myself on shift work who have to be on duty during some part of Sunday and in many cases could not take part in the ringing if only permitted in the morning.

If ringing could be permitted to take place morning and evening many ringers could avail themselves of the opportunity of being present at their respective towers either morning or evening to fit in with their off duty periods. In reference to the time allowed for ringing, I would suggest that the authorities allow this from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. till 6.30 p.m.

ARTHUR E. SHRIMPTON,
St. Stephen's Ringers, Redditch, Worcs.

AN INTERESTING ANNIVERSARY.

THE SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION.

To-day, April 9th, is the fifth anniversary of a unique performance, a peal of Stedman Cinques rung by twelve secretaries. This peal was rung at Southwark Cathedral, after some very strenuous work by the late John S. Goldsmith in getting the band together. It was rung for one of the most exclusive of societies, the Secretaries' Association, which was formed seven years previously at Beddington, Surrey, on the occasion of the first and only other performance by the society, a peal of Stedman Caters.

The story of these peals is, perhaps, of some interest, especially in these days when there is so little fresh news for ringers. On March 21st, 1931, ten secretaries met at Beddington to ring a peal together. They represented, of course, ten different societies, and as in those days even out-county peals were looked upon with favour by most associations, there was, naturally, a discussion as to whose society should book the peal. The 'difficulty' was overcome by forming a new association, and, of course, the secretaries knew just how to do this. It was proposed that there should be no subscriptions (and thus no trouble in collecting them), and no meetings (and therefore no minutes to write up). Such proposals as these found unanimous support, but no secretary of this association was appointed, as none appeared necessary. From the point of view of those forming it, it seemed to be an ideal association.

Well, the peal was rung (the secretaries, of course, even knowing how to do this), the conductor being John S. Goldsmith, who was the prime mover in the affair.

During the post-ringing celebrations a peal of Cinques was suggested, but despite one or two attempts to get a band together, this did not materialise for some time. Indeed, it is quite possible that it would not have been rung at all but for the efforts of Mr. Goldsmith. As secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, he was eligible for membership of the Secretaries' Association, but he decided to retire in 1933, and he, therefore, made one more attempt to get twelve secretaries together. This time he was successful, and permission was obtained at short notice to make the attempt at Southwark Cathedral on April 9th, the only date possible for all before Mr. Goldsmith's retirement.

Five members of the Caters band were also in the Cinques, and thus the Secretaries' Association had a sudden influx of new members. It may not be strictly in order for five members to elect seven, even before a peal, but as was said at the time, secretaries are made to get over difficulties, and that one was got over. The secretary of the Ladies' Guild, Mrs. Fletcher, was invited to conduct the peal, and did it quite successfully, very wisely choosing a composition by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, secretary of the Irish Association, and thus avoiding any suggestion that the secretaries had to get outside help to complete the job.

There was a touch of sadness about the peal, however. Just when all the arrangements had been completed, one of the most noted secretaries of all time passed away, and the peal was rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute to the late William T. Cockerill. Since that day, alas! Mr. Goldsmith himself has gone to his rest, and his fellow secretaries await the opportunity when the ban is lifted of doing the usual honours to a great colleague.

(Contributed.)

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many readers will have noted with interest, no doubt, the formation of a Universities Association. That there are possibilities in such a scheme few will question: in fact, if it were to be what the name implies and cover all the universities, the Oxford and Cambridge Societies being submerged to become branches, one would be ready to approve of the project. However, according to the report on the foundation meeting which appeared in your issue of March 12th, eligibility for membership depends on whether one has been to Oxford or London, Cambridge or Durham.

The aims of this association appear to be no more than to arrange ringing tours in the summer time. I am not suggesting that tours of this nature are undesirable: but for a ringing society to exist for that purpose alone is anything but desirable, in my opinion. On the face of it, it would be more to the point if this association were called 'The Varsity Touring Club.'

I would add that for the Universities Association to seek affiliation to the Central Council is no less absurd than the band of enthusiasts, commonly known as the N.U.T.S., doing likewise. I sincerely hope, and I feel that I am not alone in this, that the Central Council will refuse all applications of affiliation in cases such as this one.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Grove, Kingsbury.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM HAIGH.

The death is announced of Mr. William Haigh, of Fitchingham, Sussex, who passed away on March 14th at the age of 79 and was buried at Gillingham. Mr. Haigh, who came of a family of ringers, was for long the captain at Rochester Cathedral and the leading man in the Chatham district.

THE BAN ON BELLRINGING.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Last week in the House of Lords, the Archbishop of York, Dr. Garbett, raised the question of church bells, and moved that the ban be lifted or modified. He had the support of several influential speakers, and one of them, Lord Geddes, made public for the first time the circumstances under which the order was issued, and the people responsible for the suggestion. No one spoke in favour of the order except Lord Croft, the joint Under Secretary for War, who pronounced the official decision that the ban cannot be removed. There is, however, a very considerable amount of feeling on the matter, and the last about it has not yet been heard.

The Archbishop said that the edict about church bells came into force at a time of great stress and difficulty. Since then many things had happened, but among the various changes and modifications one ban remained unchanged. For nearly three years, 12,000 parishes, with three exceptions, had had their bells silenced in case there should come to one of those parishes a certain number of Germans. Psychologically the silence of the bells has a very bad effect on the people.

FAULTY REGULATIONS.

Under the regulations the bells had to be rung if 20 paratroops drop in a parish. But in the towns it is not easy to know ecclesiastical boundaries. 'When I went to South London, I found that people rarely knew their parish church, so I had to ask for the nearest public-house.' If paratroops came, a policeman, or other official, would first have to be sure of the exact number of them, and then got an ecclesiastical map to see in which parish they had fallen.

There are some people who hate bells and regard their silence as the one and only alleviating compensation of the war, but most people deplore their silence (cheers). He was not suggesting that the danger of landings had passed away. It was possible that when a second front was opened up, every form of attack would be made upon this island. But he did urge that it was unnecessary to silence the bells, which for centuries had been so closely connected with both the religion and the life of the country. Church bells could be rung in a different way to give warning; they could be clashed or clanged. If the noble lord who was going to reply for the Government was not a bellringer and tried to ring a bell at the nearest parish church, the noise would soon cause consternation to all those who heard it (laughter). The Government could lift the ban entirely and replace it in a few hours' notice by means of the wireless; could lift the ban on the town churches and leave it on the country; or leave it that the bells were not to be clashed or clanged except as a warning.

Lord Mottistone said that to rely seriously on church bells for warning was not only a disadvantage but a positive danger. If the ban were removed it would add to military security instead of lessening it.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ORDER.

Lord Quickwood said that to multiply regulations which were not necessary was unwholesome from the point of view of public morale.

Lord Geddes said he was present at a meeting at Tunbridge Wells in May, 1940, with Lord Ironside, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Horne and Lord Knollys. The question was asked, 'What can we use for a warning?' and someone (who he could not remember) answered, 'We will use the church bells until we find something better.' It was intended for purely local purposes throughout Kent and Sussex. The War Office had been trying to think of something better ever since. He had asked one high officer after another what he thought of the regulation, but he hesitated in that House to quote most of the replies. He was sure no one knew what the regulation was supposed to do, and it was kept on only because no one would take the responsibility of agreeing to lift it.

Replying for the Government, Lord Croft, Joint Under Secretary for War, said the whole question had been reviewed very often. Every form of alternative warning had been considered, including a variation of the use of sirens, but none had been found satisfactory. 'We are convinced,' he said, 'that the bells are the only signal which can be regarded as a distinctive and definite warning.'

Asking leave to withdraw his motion, the Archbishop said, 'If the Government does not make some satisfactory statement on this subject soon, I shall be bound to bring the matter up again, and carry it to a division.'

The motion was with leave withdrawn.

(Continued in next column.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING AT BRAMLEY.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society held a very successful joint meeting at St. Peter's, Bramley, near Leeds, on March 27th, when over two dozen members attended from a wide area.

At the Leeds and District Society's meeting, it was decided to nominate the retiring officers for re-election. The secretary pointed out that almost all the officers were working long hours and travelling facilities were becoming increasingly difficult, but in spite of this those who could attend were doing their best to keep the society alive. The annual general meeting would be held at Leeds Parish Church one week earlier than usual, on April 17th.

At the meeting of the Western Division, the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, was in the chair, supported by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall. It was decided that if possible the next meeting should be held at Shipley on June 19th as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society, but full details would be announced.

Canon Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to the local company. The burden of these meetings usually fell on the shoulders of the local secretary, and Mr. Helliwell had seen to it that everything possible had been arranged. He could assure him that the members were exceedingly pleased. This was supported by Mr. W. Barton. The chairman read a letter from Mr. James S. Eastwood, who previously was a member of the Bramley company, now in the Midlands, and one from Mr. J. W. T. Holgate, another old Bramley stalwart.

Mr. S. Helliwell, replying, said if the members were satisfied with the arrangements, the local company were amply repaid.

A collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised the sum of 9s.

A number of excellent touches from Minor to Caters were rung on handbells.

During the day members were present from Almondbury, Addingham, Bramley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Ossett, Pudsey, Rothwell, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Shipley and Cpl. C. W. Woolley, from Wakefield.

INSURANCE OF BELLRINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In case no one else has answered Mr. Duke's letter, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office undertakes to insure ringers against whole or partial disablement incurred in connection with their duties at the rate of 1s. 3d. a head, minimum premium for one tower 12s. 6d.

J. M. B. RIDOUT.

54, King's Road, Swanage.

THE BAN ON RINGING

(Continued from previous column.)

COMMENT BY 'THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.'

Commenting on the debate, 'The Daily Telegraph' remarked: 'For nearly three years the people of some 12,000 parishes have had before them the question whether the ban on church bell ringing is a reasonable measure of public security or not. Most of them have needed much less than that time to reach the conclusion, stated by the Archbishop of York in the House of Lords, that the reasons for which the ban was supported at a time of agitation and stress were quite insubstantial. If the bells are to be rung only in the event of invasion their carrying power is so uncertain as to make them practically useless for alarm purposes; and in cases where they might fulfil that purpose there is nothing against their being rung in the ordinary way as the ordinary summons to church.'

'Those who know most about the bellringers' art, and about bell-ringing conditions in general, think least of the notion of giving alarm by this means; but such persons evidently have not been taken at any stage into the counsels of the War Office, where there is no intention, as Lord Croft declares, of altering the existing arrangements.'

'The speeches in which Dr. Garbutt's case was supported, notably Lord Mottistone's remark that to rely on church bells for alarm purposes would be a positive danger, confirm what is a general public feeling, that the matter has not been given proper consideration, and that the authorities should think again. It looks like a case of mere inertia.'

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LEANING TOWERS.

(Continued from page 154.)

Although our English leaning towers are not so famous as those of Pisa, Venice, Bologna or Saragossa, yet they are unique. The famous twisted spire of Chesterfield, for instance, has no rival, and travellers from distant lands who visit it wonder who could have put up the eccentric steeple. Harrison Ainsworth once likened it to the uplifted tail of the dragon of Wantley, but it is revered by all who live within the sound of its fine ring of ten bells. This steeple with its grotesque ridges and flecks of black and grey and white, may appear ugly to some, but to the inhabitants it is a treasure, even though it be an architectural singularity. It leans six feet towards the south from the perpendicular, and four feet four inches out to the west. Not only so, but its edges twist round like some giant corkscrew.

The Rev. J. C. Cox, in his scholarly 'Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire,' says that the spire, which is composed of lead-covered timbers, may have become crooked through the clinging pressure of the lead, an irregular subsidence in the timbers, which have also been powerfully warped by the action of the sun beating through the lead on the green parts of the woodwork. This is further evidenced by the fact that the most displaced and twisted parts are on the south side, that most exposed to the sun's rays. It appears to lean different ways according to the sides on which you approach it.

Many stories have been woven round the deflection of the spire and the cause. Some attribute the deflection to his Satanic Majesty. The legend goes that Lucifer, who was flying from Nottingham to Sheffield, alighted for a moment on the apex of the spire. At that moment a waft of incense from below so irritated his unholy nostrils that he gave a violent sneeze—so great that he twisted the whole structure of the spire.

Chesterfield had bells at an early date, the old tenor being a pre-Reformation bell bearing an invocation to the Blessed Trinity. There was an octave from the year 1700, and doubtless a set of good ringers. The earliest complete peal I have note of is as follows:—

'June 2nd, 1800, 5,040 Grandsire trebles in 3 hours 20 minutes, by W. Rollinson (1), Edward Dean (2), John Pickard—Conductor (3). Joseph Fogg (4), Isaac Siddall (5), John Hearnshaw (6), Samuel Tetley (7), Peter Maden (8).'

In 1820 a new ring of ten bells was erected by Messrs. Mears, of London, tenor 24½ cwt. The opening of this ring must have been a brilliant affair, and the bells did not rest long on the first two days. On Monday, May 22nd, of that year the undermentioned societies rang:—

1st—The Society from Oldham, Lancs, rang a complete peal of 5,147 Grandsire Caters.

2nd—The Society at the Parish Church, Sheffield, completed a peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters.

3rd—A miscellaneous band from the Societies of Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield Independents and others, performed a complete peal of New Treble Bob Royal, consisting of 5,200 changes:

— This finished the first day's ringing. —

On Tuesday morning the Ashton-under-Lyne company ascended the tower and rang a complete peal of 5,000 and upwards of Grandsire Caters.

After them the Nottingham Society of Sherwood Youths performed a peal of 5,364 Grandsire Caters; and, lastly, the Society from Mottram, in Cheshire, performed a peal of 5,000 and upwards of Grandsire Caters.

This concluded the whole; each party having completed their peal at the first attempt, which is an achievement never before performed in the annals of Change-ringing.

The crooked spire must have rocked during such a strenuous 'opening,' and it was a good omen for the peals that followed. In the reports of the Midland Counties Association, the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield Society, for a period of over a century, more peals are noted as rung here than in any other tower of this district. Especially during the time the late Arthur Knights was in his prime did peals of all standard and some Surprise methods follow one another in rapid succession. The favourite methods were Stedman and Grandsire Caters, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Royal. Most of these were compositions rung for the first time on new plans, and on one occasion the writer had the pleasure of calling one of A. Knight's irregular multi-single peals of Royal here.

Some years ago, however, the tower and spire were deemed unsafe, and all change ringing ceased, the bells being simply chimed for services. Later on, extensive repairs were carried out and a restoration completed, and so the tower is safe for many years to come. A deputation from the M.C.A. for the bells to be reopened took place, and an interview with the Archdeacon of Chesterfield arranged and carried out, but as yet no definite result has been achieved. Let us hope that when final victory in the present war comes, Chesterfield bells will once more ring out as they did of yore.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—May I say a word on the subject of unpaid subscriptions? I think I can go one better than my colleague, Mr. W. H. Howe, of the Exeter Branch, and state that during my term of office I have not yet to my knowledge had any cases of 'No peals, no subscriptions.' I would like to support his remarks, however, and would suggest that if peal tours come into being again after this war is over, tourists who are not members of the guild or association in whose territory the peals are being attempted should 'be honourable' and pay their subscriptions, whether the peals are scored or not. This would obviate the expression used by Mr. Howe and Mr. C. E. Borrett that 'This is where touring parties don't do guilds and associations a ha'porth of good.'

A. L. BENNETT, Secretary,
Devonshire Guild of Ringers, Mid-Devon Branch.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th. Room available from 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. sharp. Short service St. Andrew's 4 p.m. Tea, at about 1s. each, followed by annual business meeting at 5 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice will be held on the 'silent' apparatus at St. Peter's tower, Dorchester, on Saturday, April 17th, from 6 p.m. Suitable train service on the Bournemouth, Weymouth and Yeovil lines.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Club and Institute, Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton. Tea provided (at approximately 1s. 9d. a head) at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting and social evening.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Sefton on Saturday, April 17th. Tower bells, with fixed clappers, from 3 o'clock. Handbells will be provided and cups of tea. Please bring a little food. Short service at 5 o'clock, followed by the meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Syston on Saturday, April 17th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting near church at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by April 14th.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 17th. Handbells in the tower from 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, April 17th. Handbells available, Church Hall, 2.30 p.m. A cup of tea will be provided, but bring a sandwich.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 24th. Silent tower bells (6) at 3.30. Tea in School at 4.30

p.m., followed by business meeting. Will members take own eatables and sugar? Cups of tea provided. Handbells before and after meeting.—W. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by Wednesday, April 21st.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

LLANFAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, April 26th, at 3 o'clock.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

DEATH.

HAIGH.—On March 14th, William Haigh, of Park Cottage, Etchingham, Sussex, at the age of 79. Interred at Gillingham Cemetery.

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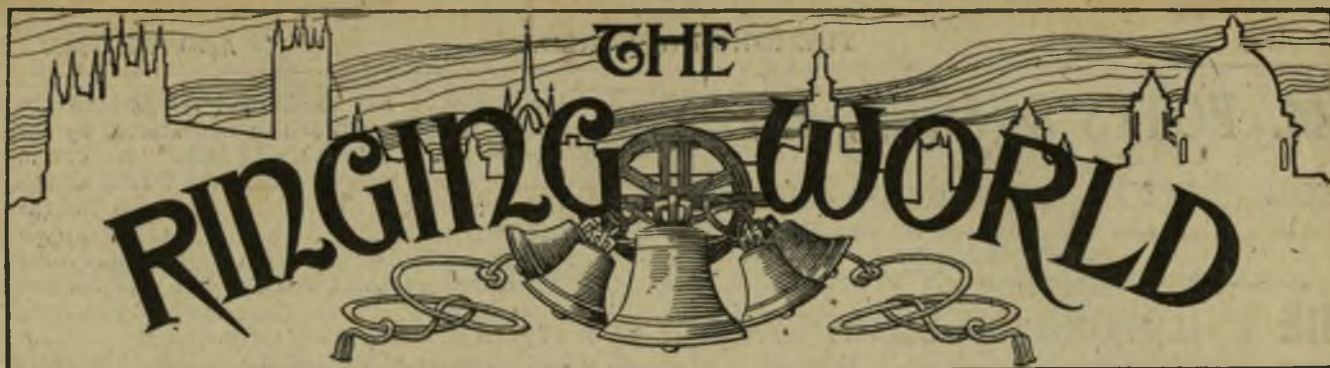
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THE VOICES OF THE BELLS.

The war has brought along several things which are unmitigated evils, and which have no compensations. Such is the black-out, and such to us ringers appears the ban on the use of church bells. We do not grudge the sacrifice we are called upon to make, but we do think it is useless and unnecessary.

However, it is well to take wide views on these matters, and it may turn out that in the long run the ban will prove a blessing. It has already shown that there are very many people besides ringers who value the bells, and who desire to have them rung, and the victory ringing proved how well their sound can express the sentiments and feelings of the people.

This is the most wonderful thing about bells. In some mysterious way they have the power of appealing to the deepest thoughts and feelings of men and giving them expression as no other thing can. This quality is not confined to our English bells or our English change ringing. It is common in varying degree throughout the world and from the remotest ages. Among musical instruments a bell is one of those least capable of variations in expression. It can be sounded only in one way (by being struck by an iron clapper) and its note is always the same. Yet it can be heard by the listener so that it expresses the full range of emotions, from the profoundest sorrow to the brightest joy, from gaiety and merriment to solemnity, from alarm and terror to deep religious contemplation.

Not all men are thus susceptible to the appeal of bells, nor are many men often deeply moved by them, least of all perhaps ringers who have other reasons for loving them. But the power is there and is attested in all ages, not merely by poets and writers, but by the experience of ordinary people.

It is difficult to say wherein lies this power. It certainly does not lie in the mere sound of the bell; that does not vary, or varies very little. All the great range of expression and feeling are supplied by the listener himself out of his own heart and his own brain. Bells can bring no message to any man (beyond perhaps that of marking the time) which he has not already within his own subconscious being.

Few people realise this, for if they did, they surely would not think it possible to ring bells in such a way that a war alarm could not possibly be mistaken for an ordinary summons to worship. This erroneous view found full expression among the speakers in the recent debate in the House of Lords. Lord Quickswood men-

(Continued on page 166.)

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

tioned the old use of the tocsin and referred to the Massacre of St. Bartholomew which was started by the tolling of the bell of St. Germain's Church. 'No one in Paris,' he said, 'could' have mistaken the frantic clanging from the steeple of St. Germain l'Auxerrois for the ordinary summons to Mass. No verger had to explain to devout ladies expecting a Mass that the bells were being rung because of some trouble with the Huguenots.' Of course not, because when the bell was rung no devout ladies were expecting to go to Mass. Instead, in the darkness of the narrow and winding lanes of old Paris hundreds of armed men were lurking, waiting for the signal, and when it came they knew what it meant. All over the city was already the tense feeling of impending doom. The bell rang as it would have rung to Mass, but it was a very different message it sent forth.

To draw present day parallels with the tocsin of olden times is entirely fallacious. Conditions have completely changed. Never could bells have served to warn people other than those in the immediate vicinity and who were expecting something. To-day, with our vastly greater and more widely scattered population, only a tiny fraction could hear them, and of those only a tiny fraction could pretend to distinguish how the bells were being rung.

There is but one sound conclusion. Church bells as invasion warnings would be a complete failure however used, and the sooner the authorities recognise it, the better it will be for the country.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not intend to occupy your valuable space with a detailed reply to Mr. Spears' letter. If he will re-read the letter from Kenneth Croft and myself in 'The Ringing World' for March 5th, and the report of the foundation meeting in the issue of March 12th, he will find a full discussion of the whole question. In particular, I would draw his attention to the summary of purpose, aims and organisation, in the March 5th issue.

In order to avoid any further confusion, however, I would emphasise that for the present membership is restricted to those who have at any time been full-time, internal students at a university. 'University' refers, in the first instance, to the universities of the British Isles, which are Oxford, Cambridge, London, Durham, Bristol, Birmingham, Reading, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, St. Andrew's, Belfast, Dublin and the University of Wales.

JOHN E. SPICE.

New College, Oxford.

THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir,—Mr Russell Spears' letter would have looked much better if it had appeared several weeks ago when the matters to which it refers were fresh in our minds. As it is the letter draws attention to several things which many of your readers will have neither the inclination nor the opportunity to verify for themselves.

Mr. Spears complains that only those who have been to Oxford or London, Cambridge or Durham are eligible for membership. The actual wording in 'The Ringing World' of March 12th to which he refers is, 'It was decided to restrict membership at present to those who had at some time been full-time members of a university proper.'

The arranging of ringing tours in the summer time is only one of the aims of the society; but another aim which Mr. Spears overlooks is, 'To do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change ringing societies in universities other than Oxford and Cambridge.'

Mr. Spears seems to be accusing the Universities Association of being just another clique, and, therefore, should be condemned. We can all have our own opinions about cliques, but if a clique is going to help to raise the general standard of our art, then let's have them. For Mr. Green to say that with a National Association ringing tours would be open to anybody who wanted is just nonsense. If a National Association arranged ringing tours on those lines, then they would be a failure. Tours are primarily for the amusement of those who spend time and money in arranging them, and they have every right to decide who should go on them.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

The Knowles, Lichfield.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5440 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*V. JOAN BUDDEN	...	...	1-2	|	BRENDA M. RICHARDSON	...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	...	...	3-4	|	MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON	...	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the 21st birthday of Brenda M. Richardson.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 4, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Double Bob, two of Reverse and three of Plain.

*CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON	1-2	|	JOHN E. SPICE	...	...	3-4
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON	...	...	5-6			

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Minor and in more than one method.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, April 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF BROOKS'. Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE	...	...	1-2	|	ERNEST MORRIS	...	...	5-6
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS	...	...	3-4	|	MRS. LAURA M. POWELL	...	...	7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE,

Umpire—J. MORRIS.

Arranged for Mrs. Powell, Lyme Regis, Dorset, and is her first handbell peal.

ROTHWELL, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, April 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	1-2	|	PERCY MASSAM	...	...	5-6
THOMAS W. STRANGEWAYS	3-4	|	ARTHUR G. WOOD	...	...	7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, April 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT CHAILEY, 36, DEAN PARK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S 'TWELVE-PART' (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*PETER J. SMALL	1-2	|	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	|	†CYRIL F. TURNER	7-8	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal of Triples 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.' Rung in grateful appreciation of the late W. J. Bastable's life's work for the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W 1,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. J. THOMAS	...	...	1-2	|	JOHN THOMAS	...	...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	...	3-4	|	EDWIN H. LEWIS	...	...	7-8

EDWIN BARNETT... 9-10

Composed by WILLIAM KENT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 159.)

NEW NAMES.

William Shipway, we may be quite certain, cherished in his early days the ambition of becoming the leading composer and conductor in the Society of Cumberland Youths, and we may be equally certain that in both capacities he found his path, if not blocked, at least hindered, by the ambition of George Gross and his son. Shipway rang in many of the peals accomplished by the Cumberlands at this time, but not in so many as we should have expected. He called a peal of Treble Bob

**LEWISHAM PARISH CHURCH.**

Major at St. Clement Danes, in 1793, with George Gross in the band, and after that did not again act as conductor until November 12th, 1796, when he called the first 'name' peal on ten bells.

This was 5,129 changes of Grandsire Caters at Shore-ditch by a band, all of whom were named William. Actually there were eleven of them, for William Castle, who rang the tenor, had, as usual, an assistant. He was a man with more money than the others, and he owed his place in the band rather to his willingness to spend it, than to his ability as a ringer.

The others were Whitehead, Richardson, West, Stephens, Gibson, Shipway, Brown, Court and Tyler.

By this time the fortunes of the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths had been revived, and they were again ringing peals. For this, two men, William Williams and John Noonan, were mainly responsible.

In February, 1793, Williams called a peal of Bob Major at Hackney, to which James Marilton rang the tenor. He lived at Greenwich and later was to make a name as one of the most famous heavy bell ringers of all time. He possibly was a son or relative of the Norfolk farmer who subscribed to the 'Clavis.'

Later in the year John Noonan joined the company. He was a Birmingham man and, like John Holt before

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

him, a shoemaker by trade. The story goes that he made a pair of shoes for Joshua Short, the Witton farmer, who, in 1793, rang Aston tenor to 15,360 changes of Bob Major. With the money he received for the job he set out for London, like Shipway, to try his fortune and get greater opportunities for change ringing. Like Shipway, too, he made his way to the Junior Cumberland.

The first peal he rang with them was at Lewisham on October 6th. It was 5,264 changes of Grandsire

Junior Cumberlands achieved one of their greatest performances by ringing 5,453 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow with ten men only. This was James Marlton's first outstanding feat as a heavy bell ringer, and one which showed him as a worthy successor of Allan Grant, Samuel Muggeridge, and Philip Pilgrim.

Only nine peals are known to have been rung at Bow Church during the eighteenth century. The first, on January 12th, 1730, was one of Bob Triples, the second on February 11th, 1733, was Bob Major. Both were by the College Youths, and in both there were three men to the tenor. On December 13th, 1761, Joseph



ST. SEPULCHRE'S, SNOW HILL

Major, composed and conducted by Williams, and was claimed to be 'the first in that method ever brought round backstroke.' That, however, was not so, for on July 30th in the previous year the Birmingham men had rung 7,552 changes at Aston. The third at Lewisham was rung by Henry Symondson. This is the first time we come across his name. Later on he became one of the best known of London ringers.

Three weeks after the Lewisham peal the Junior Cumberlands rang Grandsire Triples at Whitechapel, and on December 10th 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. It was sixteen years since the last peal had been rung in that steeple, and forty years more were to elapse before the next was accomplished. It was quite evidently a much bigger performance than appears at first sight. Williams was the composer and conductor, Noonan rang the third, Symondson the fourth, and Marlton the ninth. The ringer of the fifth, Joseph Ladley, in due time, became the leading conductor to the society, and later on to the Society of Junior-College Youths.

On the second day of January in the next year the

Monk, aided by John Lokes, turned the bell in to a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. In April, 1765, the College Youths rang 5,363 Grandsire Caters, the first peal on the ten bells. Three men were needed to the tenor, and the same number in the next peal—5,111 Grandsire Caters by the Cumberlands, in February, 1775.

Two years later, the London Youths rang 5,219 Grandsire Caters with only two men to the tenor, and in 1782 Samuel Muggeridge and William Lyford together rang the bell to the first peal of Royal in the steeple.

The first man to ring Bow tenor single-handed to a peal was Philip Pilgrim. This he did on January 19th, 1787, with a band of College Youths. The method was Grandsire. Samuel Muggeridge was not in the band. His best heavy bell performances were all in even methods, and it is probable he had no desire to ring a bell behind whatever its weight and reputation.

On January 20th, 1796, the Junior Cumberlands started for the longest length on Spitalfields bells, and rang 7,001 changes of Grandsire Caters in four hours

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND. YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

and fifty-two minutes. But, says the peal book, 'the third and fifth were out of course five courses about the middle of the peal, after which they took their right course again to the end of the peal.'

William Williams was the conductor, and he evidently was calling John Reeves' peal with the sixty course-ends, or possibly the similar composition by George Gross. What must have happened was that when the time came for either the third or the fifth to be behind the ninth, he found the two shifted, and put them back into their places. It could only have been by asking questions after the peal was finished that he knew they had been wrong for five courses.

In Grandsire Caters all the changes are in-course unless a single is made; therefore in such a peal as Williams was calling, if two bells shifted and were afterwards put right at no matter what interval, there would be no repetition of rows. This fact may have been just sufficient for the band to claim the performance as a true peal; for there have been other ringers who have maintained that a peal is true so long as the bells do not strike twice in the same order.

One of the two culprits in the peals, the man who rang the fifth, was John Hints. This is the first time his name appears, and he was then a young and very enthusiastic ringer. He seems to have been connected with St. James', Clerkenwell, where there was a band of young ringers under his leadership who called themselves the St. James' Youths, and who may perhaps be considered to be the ultimate beginnings of the later

St. James' Society and the present London County Association.

A fortnight after the Spitalfields peal these young men, with the help of William Williams, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Edmonton, Hints calling the bobs.

During these years the 'ancient' Society of London Youths, which we last heard of in connection with John Frazier's peals, had existed in a quiet and inglorious fashion, probably as a band who met at the Whittington and Cat, and held a regular practice at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green. Once, on January 1st, 1792, the company emerged from obscurity and rang a peal of Bob Major at Bishopsgate. The younger George Gross called it, and among the other ringers were John Wooding, James Stichbury, and James Nash.

Stichbury became an active London peal ringer and his name frequently occurs in the records. Nash joined the Society of Cumberland Youths and lived to a great age. He supplied Osborn with a good deal of information about the ringers of his time.

John Noonan was now coming to the fore as a composer and conductor. On September 12th, 1796, he called 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes, and in the following month 5,007 changes of Grandsire Major at Whitechapel, both his own composition.

On November 13th, 1797, he achieved his first outstanding performance by calling 6,003 changes of Stedman Caters at Christ Church, at the time the longest length in the method. For this peal Henry Symondson and William Tyler came back from the 'old' Cumberland.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Fifty years ago last Monday, Mr. Charles E. Borrett rang the tenors and called on handbells 5,040 Bob Major. It was his first peal as conductor; and the time, 2 hours and 14 minutes, was supposed to be the quickest of any peal of Major so far rung.

Mr. Thomas Groombridge rang his first peal as conductor (Hollis' five-part of Grandsire Triples) at Tonbridge 60 years ago yesterday. Mr. William Latter, whose death was announced recently, rang the sixth.

On April 11th, 1888, 13,265 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Appleton, composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook. It was the longest at the time, beating the 12,312 rung at Painswick in 1817, and was itself beaten in 1889 by 15,227 at Cheltenham.

At the time a long peal contest was going on between Appleton and Cheltenham comparable to the famous Treble Bob contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands. The following peals were rung in just over twelve months: March 5th, 1888, 12,041 Stedman, at Appleton; April 11th, 13,265 Grandsire, at Appleton; May 21st, 13,054 Stedman at Cheltenham; December 31st, 15,041 Stedman at Appleton; April 22nd, 1889, 15,227 Grandsire, at Cheltenham.

The Appleton peal of Stedman stood until April 12th, 1909, when a mixed band rang 18,027 changes at Loughborough Parish Church. William Pye rang the 30½ cwt. tenor and conducted, Gabriel Lindoff rang the ninth, and the others included Isaac G. Shade, John H. Cheesman, Bertram Prewett and William Willson. Messrs. George R. Pye and William J. Nudds, who rang the treble and eighth, are still with us.

The first peal of Otley Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on April 12th, 1937. It was the 40th Surprise Major method rung on the bells.

Owing to Good Friday falling in next week, 'The Ringing World' will be published one day earlier, Thursday instead of Friday. Will correspondents kindly send all communications to reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday morning?

RECONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Throughout the country there is much talk of reconstruction and much planning for the future, but to date I have read very little and heard nothing about the future of change ringing, so, with permission, I venture to express opinions on a matter which should be the concern of all ringers.

Happy days will come again and we shall be allowed to ring at will, many peals will be attempted in various methods and many will be scored. This will be all to the good, and I hope to take my part in the general rejoicing. But what of ringing for the church services?

All ringing guilds and societies are formed for the furtherance and the improvement of change ringing as a branch of church work and as a recreation and study, but are our guild officials aware that at many churches where there are peals of bells there was before the war little or no ringing or chiming for the services?

It is safe to predict that the number will be increased after the war, and is also safe to say the towers which boasted of a complete band will be short of their full complement of members when we are permitted to restart ringing in full. Here it is that guild ringing masters can make themselves useful.

The office of guild ringing master has always appeared to me to be more titular than effectual, the holder being elected by virtue of his knowledge of the more exalted methods of the Exercise rather than by his abilities to instruct, which I suggest is all wrong. A guild ringing master need not of necessity be an exponent of the higher methods, but he should be able to conduct in the standard methods, he should be a free and tactful man, and should take an interest in all the towers of his guild, giving or organising assistance where it is required.

I further suggest that quarterly and monthly guild meetings are held at churches with peals of bells, but where there is little ringing for the services, the clergy be cordially invited to attend and urged to bring their ringers with them whatever their abilities, half the ringing time should be devoted to the latter's tuition, thus service ringing will be improved and a steady flow of new members into the guilds will be assured.

Opposition from certain quarters will come to these suggestions, but my answer will be that for a time, perhaps for some time to come, seraphical heights must be abandoned for plebeian levels, retrospective reflections must give place to prospective activities and fruitful construction.

To be a member of a ringing band visiting some church for a peal attempt is a delightful experience, the pleasure intensified when the attempt is successful, but I submit our guilds prompted by their officials should devote more attention to the less spectacular side of ringing, that of the services of the Church as being the only use to which all peals of church bells are dedicated.

G. H. WILLIAMS.

137, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

OPINION OF 'THE CHURCH TIMES.'

Commenting on the debate in the House of Lords, 'The Church Times' remarks:—

'Few churchmen will withhold support from the Archbishop of York in his plea, that the time has come for lifting the ban on ringing. His argument in the House of Lords was not based on any frivolous assumption that the danger of invasion was past. On the contrary, he contended that the danger remains a very real one. In many cases, however, the ringing of bells would give no useful warning, and in other cases the bells could be clashed and clanged in an unmistakable manner, without interfering with ordinary ringing.'

'This was a sensible and practical line to take, and we are not surprised that Lord Croft's answer was merely an unconvincing rechauffe of War Office obscurantism. Any experimental test of ringing church bells as a warning (it is perhaps curious that none has been made) would prove how right Dr. Garbett was. On the other hand, evidence continues to accumulate that the silence of the bells has psychologically a bad effect on the people. Again and again parish priests report how useful a part the bells play in reminding their parishioners of the obligations of divine service, and how grave an injury the tying of their tongues has done to parish life in the past three years.'

OFFICIAL IGNORANCE

To the Editor.

Sir,—'E. T.' makes what appears at first sight to be a good point on the latest decree, but there is another side if one considers it sufficiently.

In the Home Guard in Middlesex we had an interesting lecture on the prospects of invasion and what we were to do 'when we had rung the bells.' In all simplicity I caused the question to be put, 'Just who is to do the ringing—and how?' After a fortnight's lapse the C.O. told the truth—he didn't know!

Recently I was approached to give a lecture to the Home Guard in this part of the country on 'Bellingringing.' This should have been a proper bombshell, but the C.O. eventually found out that 'it was a job for the police.'

The only intelligent statement by a Government spokesman that I have heard on the subject of ringing was in the Prime Minister's last broadcast, when he said, speaking of the end of hostilities, 'When the bells clash (or crash, I am quoting from memory) out.' I couldn't help wondering if he had been taken to a silent practice.

Now for the sequel to 'E. T.'s' point. What is the position of any responsible church official who removes, or causes to be removed or otherwise renders unworkable, any of these alleged indispensable instruments of warning—sabotage, subversive action, or merely high treason?

T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

Nottingham.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF RINGING.

Dear Sir,—Your leader in the current 'Ringing World' has revealed a point, relating to the ban, which I have been intending to raise for some time.

If I may make an extraction from your article, I quote: '... but it is pretty certain it never occurred to any of them that there would be any difficulty in the matter. If bells can be rung twice every Sunday, and whenever anyone wants them for a wedding, surely they can be rung when they are needed at a time of national importance.'

Undoubtedly the powers that be do think that there is not the slightest difficulty in setting the church bells ringing. When one considers this point, the view taken by the Ministers is not at all surprising, when one looks back at our performance last November. On that occasion the Government said that the bells will ring, and ring they did, with very few exceptions. The man in the street might almost have thought that at 9 o'clock on that Sunday morning a big switch, marked 'bells,' was thrown at the Ministry of Home Security, and behold—bells.

In view of all this, is it not possible that we made a mistake when we dashed to the towers, as we will again at Easter, I suppose, should the ban be lifted? It might be to the common good if we failed to ring on any future occasion until the ban is lifted entirely.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Grove, Kingsbury.

SUPPORT THE ARCHBISHOP.

Dear Sir,—One continually reads in your columns of the opinions of various ringers and others regarding the ban on ringing, which is still likely to remain, but I feel sure we all appreciate the action of the Archbishop of York in his recent effort in the House of Lords to get the ban lifted or modified. His Lordship did not merely take 'No' for an answer; he went further to state that if something was not done in the near future he would endeavour to force a division. Here surely is an opportunity for our heads to approach the Archbishop and give him all the support he richly deserves.

A. L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh, Devon.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT ASTON.

The St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham has for very many years held its first quarterly meeting at Aston Parish Church, and it is always a very popular meeting. It is easy to account for this, as it has many attractions, among them a beautiful church (the gem of the Midlands), a popular Vicar, the Rev. H. McGowan, Archdeacon of Aston and a vice-president of the Guild; the burial place of the Guild's famous Ringing Master, Henry Johnson, where a pilgrimage is always made on this occasion; a famous peal of bells, unfortunately silent in these days, and, in addition, an excellent tea is always provided by the local company and their ladies.

Those members who went to inspect the grave of Henry Johnson received somewhat of a shock when they saw the headstone removed and laid down, but were reassured when the Vicar informed the company later that the cause was that Selina Johnson, the widow of Henry Johnson, jun., aged 89, was buried there on November 24th, 1942, and that the stone would be carefully replaced in due course.

The Vicar conducted the service and presided at the organ. In his instructive and helpful address he referred to the ban on bellringing and said that the two silver trumpets which Moses was ordered to make were used for several purposes, amongst them being the sounding of an alarm. He commended the Guild for continuing to hold their meetings and various functions, which served a good purpose in keeping the community life of the members alive and ready for the time when the ban would be removed.

Tea was served in the schoolroom. Later on a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the Vicar to the Aston ringers, their wives and sweethearts for the wonderful tea provided and the enthusiastic way they had served it. He referred to the engagement of Mr. Fred Price and Miss Parkes, of Leicester, and on behalf of the company present wished them all success and happiness.

Mrs. Davies replied for the ladies and said how pleased they were to be able to do it. It had been a real pleasure to them.

The short business meeting followed with the Vicar in the chair, supported by the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith. Apologies were announced from Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, W. Short and W. L. Whiston.

THE GUILD'S PEAL BOOKS.

The following new members were elected: Mr. F. W. Allaway, of Stratford-on-Avon, as a life member, proposed by Mr. A. Walker and seconded by Mr. F. E. Haynes; Mr. Arthur D. Cook and Mr. Richard J. B. Hadden, both connected with Shirley tower, as full ringing members, proposed by Mr. G. E. Fearn and seconded by Mr. A. Morris.

On the proposition of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. W. C. Dowding, it was unanimously agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd.

Mr. Walker reported that the Guild's peal books, which during the bad blitz period had been transferred for greater safety to the care of some friends of his at Belbroughton, had now been brought back to Birmingham owing to the removal of his friends, and were now at his address. They were in a fairly safe area, but he thought the members should decide if they were to remain there. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. F. E. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Fred Price, and agreed, that they should be transferred into the care of the librarian, Mr. G. F. Swann, who resided in an equally safe district. It was decided that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Walker's friends for so kindly taking care of the books.

Councillor Paddon Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for having presided at that meeting and for his interesting and helpful address. The Archdeacon was a very busy man, particularly in these days, yet he never failed to give them a hearty welcome and something inspiring to think about in his address. This was seconded by Mr. Haynes and carried with acclamation.

The handbells were then brought out and several good touches and tunes were rung. Amongst the visitors were C. H. Webb and Ernest and Percy Stone, of Coventry.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your article on the ringing tour in Scotland and the North of England 40 years ago, in one paragraph you say a peal was lost at 'Glasgow Cathedral.'

This is not the case, as at Glasgow Cathedral there has only ever been one bell. If a peal was attempted in Glasgow during the tour then the attempt must have been made at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, which is a totally different building and is at the other end of the city.

I point this out to you and would be grateful if you would correct the error, as the confusion between these two buildings is the source of much inconvenience to visitors to our tower at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow.

W. H. PICKETT.

1214, Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow.

[No peal on the tour was attempted at Glasgow. We were misled by a statement in the contemporary Norwich Diocesan Association report.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

LONDON CHURCHES OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.

By RICHARD F. DEAL.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw great expansion in the area of the Metropolis, both north and south of the Thames, and existing places of worship became inadequate to deal with the spiritual needs of the rapidly increasing population. To overcome the difficulty, and as a token of thanksgiving for the victory of Waterloo, Parliament in the year 1818 voted £1,000,000 'for building churches in London and populous towns in the provinces.'

The circumstances were, in fact, similar to those which about a hundred years earlier led to the building of the 'Queen Anne' churches, of which a good number remain. Under the later scheme provision was made for between forty and fifty churches in the London area alone, and while this work was in progress some of the ancient parish churches were rebuilt, consequent upon their inconvenience or dilapidated condition.

At that time, architecture, like some of the other arts, had fallen into rather low water, and it must be admitted that the churches we are now considering, though generally of sound construction, are sadly lacking in interest when compared with the buildings of Wren and his followers. The high standard displayed in the work of the joiner, plasterer and carvers in wood and stone, which gave charm and interest to the earlier work, is no longer evident. Many of the Waterloo churches were designed by men like our friend, Mr. Gold, of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, architects 'otherwise unknown,' but some are the work of such eminent men as Sir John Soane, designer of the Bank of England, and Sir Robert Smirke, whose masterpiece is the British Museum.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the attention of our architects was directed to the monumental buildings of ancient Greece, and study of these and appreciation of their beauty influenced the design of many buildings of the time. Sometimes the Greek characteristics were closely followed, but very often Roman details (such as the arch, which was not known to the Greeks) were introduced. This hybrid style was used in most of the early nineteenth-century churches, the few exceptions being in Gothic based on work of the fifteenth century, usually called Perpendicular.

The requirements of bells and their ringers were as a rule indifferently met; the Graeco-Roman architecture did not lend itself to the design of broad and sturdy towers such as our art requires, and the ingenuity of the bell-hangers must have been severely taxed in disposing the bells in the inadequate spaces usually provided. But such defects in design do not trouble ringers if the bells can be made to go, and some of these towers have certain claims on our affections.

St. John's, Waterloo Road, St. George's, Camberwell, and Holy Trinity, Newington, were built about 1822-1824 from designs by Francis L. Bedford. The fourth church in this group, St. Luke's, Norwood, is the only one not provided with bells. It has the most graceful spire, and perhaps the most imposing portico, though the Corinthian order is of curious proportions. The interior has been reconstructed in a florid Romanesque style. At Waterloo and Camberwell, Mr. Bedford used a simplified Greek Doric order, which could have

been improved by giving the cornices the conventional projection.

Ringling at Newington was discontinued many years ago, it is said through the opposition of the wife of a former incumbent. According to old ringers, the bells are of fair tone, but were not improved by amateur attempts to correct a defect in tuning.

St. Peter's, Walworth, was built 1823-1825 by Sir John Soane. There is little of interest in the church, which has a tiny tower of the pepper-box type, with eight bells, on which a great number of peals have been rung in spite of difficulties due to cramped conditions.

A year or two earlier, a very remarkable building was completed, the great Church of St. Pancras, Euston Road, said to be the first place of worship erected in England in strict Grecian style. The designer was William Inwood. He was assisted by his son, Henry William, who had travelled extensively in the East.

The proposal to build a new church for St. Pancras did not meet with general approval, and there were violent scenes at vestry meetings while it was under discussion. The foundation stone was laid in the presence of a distinguished company, on the first of July, 1819, by His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York, the expert London pickpockets seizing the opportunity to gather a rich harvest. The dedication was in May, 1822.

Outwardly, the church is an enlarged copy (with certain variations) of a famous temple, the Erechtheum at Athens. The steeple (an inappropriate addition) is modelled on another Grecian monument, the Athenian Temple, or Tower of the Winds, surmounted by the Cross in place of Triton, a figure of Greek mythology. The height is 165ft. The Ionic portico of six columns is the finest external feature. The church now has a rather gloomy and sepulchral appearance, due to the action of the London atmosphere, but no doubt it looked very fine when the Portland stone was new and clean.

I have little information about the bells, which were originally four by Thomas Mears; they were increased to eight (for chiming only) by John Warner and Sons about 1882. The tenor is said to be 30 cwt.

(To be continued.)

RICHARD DUCKWORTH AND THE PARISH OF TOLLAND.

Mr. B. T. Jeanes writes that 20 years ago he was often in the village of Tolland, Somerset, an interesting place, off the beaten track, where there are three bells.

One of the old ringers told him that the first ringing parson was rector there, and had written a book on ringing. Mr. Jeanes enquired whether any copy still remained in the village, but could get no definite reply.

It is remarkable how the tradition that Duckworth had written the 'Tintinnalogia' lingered in strange places, while the Exercise as a whole thought that Stedman was the author.

HANDBELLS IN HOSPITAL. To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having recently returned from hospital, and being there during Christmas and New Year, I would like to bring forward to all handbell ringers the great pleasure that patients in hospitals and institutions would receive from handbell ringing at Christmas and New Year.

We thoroughly enjoyed the singing of Christmas carols, sung by a small choir along each floor of the hospital, and that was the only reminder that it was the Christmas season. It was a pleasure that I shall never forget, and I am sure that handbell ringing at Christmas would be appreciated by all those who are not able to be with their friends and families.

With best regards to all old friends.

E. WEATHERBY.

4511, Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

LEANING TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 162.)

Lincolnshire has several examples of deviating towers and spires, the best known of course being Surfleet—home of those world-travelled ringers—Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson (not forgetting their daughter Enid); and the tower made famous by the late Rev. H. Law James.

At St. Lawrence's Church the tower and spire reaches a height of 120 feet, and it leans 6 feet 4 inches out of plumb. The probable cause of it going thus, was that they built two big buttresses on the west side to hold it up against the church. This, however, had the reverse effect. The added weight on that side pulled it over. The tower went before the spire was built. Had the spire been plumb with the tower it would have been approximately 13 feet over.

Originally there was a ring of five bells of varying dates from 1607 to 1694, and North, in his description, remarks that the third bell was cracked, and the belfry was in a dirty, unsatisfactory state.

This was all altered when the Rev. H. Law James became Vicar. With the aid of the village carpenter he patched up the wheels, and begged all ropes from his former parish; cleaned out the ball bearings, and generally put things in as good order as possible. Soon he got a local band together, and the next step was the addition of a sixth bell. Later, through the generosity of Mr. James, these were augmented to ten by the addition of four new trebles, thus making them the lightest ring of ten in the country (Loughborough Foundry tower excepted). On these bells many notable peals were performed both by local and visiting ringers.

In 1933 two further trebles were added as a memorial to this worthy Vicar, and so Surfleet possesses the lightest twelve in England, the tenor being 12 cwt. 9 lbs. The new bells were cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in mediæval style in like manner to the four trebles added in 1913, 'with lettering of the same kind. At the same time a memorial tablet, cast in bell metal, was placed in the belfry bearing the inscription:—

'The ring of ten bells hanging in this tower was augmented to twelve by the members and friends of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers in affectionate remembrance of the Revd. Henry Law James, some time Master, and in appreciation of his work for the Guild and for the Art of ringing. 1933.'

Since this time peals in all Standard and some Surprise Methods have been rung here and Surfleet has become the 'home from home' to many visiting ringers either singly or in crowds.

At Pinchbeck and Spalding nearby both towers are leaning, and a local rhyme thus describes them:—

'Gosberton church is very high,
Surfleet church is all awry;
Pinchbeck church is in a hole,
And Spalding church is big with foal.'

Pinchbeck tower leans quite two feet out of the perpendicular and towards the west; while Spalding spire is some eighteen inches out of straight. Both possess rings of eight bells which are regularly rung. Spalding tower was built about 1360, and the spire probably in the first half of the fifteenth century. It leans distinctly towards the north-east, and became extremely unsafe

towards the middle of the sixteenth century. The eastern arch of the tower was walled up to strengthen it in 1688. It received special attention at the restoration of the church in 1865-7, at which time it was said to be on the point of falling. In 1925 it was again deemed unsafe, so two concrete floors were then inserted, broken stones replaced, and the masonry grouted in several places.

The ring of eight bells (of various dates from 1629 to 1885) were recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., rehung at a lower level, and a new clock provided. The bells were more than once the cause of dispute between the Priory of Spalding and the parishioners. The Priory agreed to provide two bells at the building of the church about 1284, which were not to be rung while the monks were in their dormitory. It appears, however, that the parishioners later obtained a dispensation from the Pope to break this agreement. The Prior thereupon appealed to the King (Henry IV.), the parishioners submitted an address (written in French) to the King in reply to the appeal, and the King referred the dispute for settlement to Henry de Beaufort, then Bishop of Lincoln (A.D. 1401). The Bishop's decision, unfortunately, does not seem to be known.

The total height of the tower and spire is over 150 feet.

Another Lincolnshire leaning tower is at St. Mary's Church, Cowbitt, where, although only 47 feet high, the tower leans twenty-three inches westward. The inside floor is a foot below the outside level, and the Vicar informs me that there were three bells here once, but now only two remain which are fixed on a beam. The old bell frame was rotten and removed some years ago.

Originally the tower had a candle-snuffer shaped thatched roof, but the present embattled roof was put on about 1885. The louvres of the bell chamber are made of slabs containing the Ten Commandments from the east wall of the church. The tower is nine feet square inside and remarkable for fine joints of masonry throughout. It was dated about 1480.

(To be continued.)

AN OLD LONDON RINGER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On seeing a peal recalled in Belfry Gossip rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, 109 years ago, it struck me that the conductor, Mr. Thomas Tolladay, must have been born quite near if not in the eighteenth century, yet I knew an old gentleman, Mr. E. J. Coombs, who knew him and frequently rang with him.

Mr. Coombs was well known to London ringers about 45 years ago. He used to be present at all St. James' Society practices at St. Clement Danes', and it was most interesting to hear him talk of the old days with Thomas Tolladay.

Mr. Coombs only rang one peal, that was one of Grandsire Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields with him. He also had a young friend, and they were successful in ringing their first peal together. But Mr. Coombs was so thoroughly uncomfortable during the ringing that he resolved there and then that, successful or not, he would never again attempt another. He never did, but remained a ringer for the rest of his life, and I believe he was over 80 when he died. But his friend, on the other hand, went on until his name was one of the best known in England. He was Matthew A. Wood. I believe they at one time lived together in the Bethnal Green district.

ERNEST H. OXENHAM.

34, North Street, Bexleyheath, Kent.

VILLAGE BELLS.

Dear bells! How sweet the sound of village bells
When on the undulating air they swim
Now loud as welcomes, faint now as farewells,
And trembling all about the breezy dells
As fluttered by the wings of Cherubim.

—Hood.

A VISIT TO RUSSIA.

THE BELLS OF MOSCOW.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In 1934 my wife and I visited Moscow and spent nearly a week there. We were able to see two bells, the big one in the Kremlin and another big fellow outside Moscow. We also watched the mixed bathing in the Moskva river and I jumped off a parachute tower.

We joined the 'queue of sightseers in the Kremlin in charge of a lady Intourist guide and a Russian Army officer.

When we came to the Czar bell I silently detached myself, got inside it and took a few notes. These notes are not actually at my elbow now, so I am writing from memory. A large number of facts about the bell are well known. I noticed, however, that the rim has the flat surface on the inside like the bells at St. Augustine's, Kilburn. There are about a dozen major cracks, fairly equally spaced round the bell, running vertically down from the waist to the rim, but two of them very nearly meet at their upper ends.

If they had done so a second triangular piece would have split off bigger than the existing broken piece. There were two clappers, very badly shaped, lying inside the bell, but they did not appear to fit it in any way. A tower nearby did not seem to be big enough to take the bell, nor would any of the others have been big enough either as far as I could see. The lady guide gave several reasons for the bell being cracked, but not the correct one, which must, I think, have been a flaw in the casting process (see Canon Papillon in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica').

A DISAPPOINTING BELL.

The other bell, said to be the second largest in the world, is in actual use and is hung dead in a tower, which it completely occupies, in a former religious house 60 kilometres from Moscow. It is a lovely colour and is sounded by getting under and pulling the clapper with a short rope. The superintendent of this place, now a rest camp and barracks, very kindly sounded the bell for us and we retired outside about 30 yards to listen. The sound was disappointing as it was probably not hit hard enough. I sounded it myself with no better result. This bell has the flat rim inside. There was a lot of tarred rope at the top of the clapper shaft, but whether there was anything else holding it I do not know.

As we were coming away a Russian officer came up and asked Tania, our charming lady guide, for her telephone number, and she, later, firmly insisted that she gave him a false one. On the way home we passed a delightful limpid stream and I could not resist stopping and having a swim. I expected Tania to leap in as well, but she did not. Almost at that moment the soles of her shoes came off and this may have worried her. We gave the superintendent a lift for 20 kilometres and after that six or seven children, who all stood up in the car and became quite hysterical with joy, one little girl falling down flat on the floor screaming with laughter.

Going out over Russia our plane flew at 12 to 14,000ft. Planes come back at a few hundred feet, making flying real fun, and you can see people quite plainly coming out to look and horses and cows and hares scampering out of the way.

The villages are quite attractive, all log huts, no bricks or stone, nicely grouped with no metalled roads or pavements between them, just paths on the grass, like a forest village in England. The wells supplying the villages with water are lined with logs placed horizontally, and they are, therefore, square in section. The log huts came right up into the suburbs of Moscow. The appearance of the Russians was not improved by the widespread custom of shaving the head.

THE BELLS OF BATH.

In the eighteenth century whenever a visitor with money came to Bath the ringers would ring the Abbey bells, and the visitor was expected to pay half a guinea for the compliment.

'No city, dear mother, this city excels

In charming sweet sound both of fiddles and bells.

I thought like a fool that they only would ring

For a wedding, a judge, or the birth of a king;

But I found 'twas for me that the good-natured people

Rung so hard that I thought they would pull down the steeple;

So I took out my purse, as I hate to be shabby,

And paid all the men when they came from the Abbey.'

MEMORIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was given recently a number of old 'Ringing Worlds' and while perusing them with keen interest I was very much taken with Mr. Morris' articles on detached towers, especially that of Woburn old St. Mary, whose bells were merged with the large tenor in the new church, of which Mr. H. D. Harris gave additional details in a later issue.

I am fast approaching 80-years of age and a native of Apsley Guise. It brought to my mind 60 years ago in 1883 when the Rev. A. C. Maltby installed a new peal of six bells there in lieu of an old peal of four.

I remember the interest taken in us by the late Mr. Charles Herbert, who compiled 'Church bells of Bedfordshire,' and the help we received from him in acquiring the art of change ringing. How vividly I recall, too, tramping over to the old tower at Woburn full of zeal, sometimes not finding enough to ring. On these occasions we would retire to Mr. Herbert's house for handbells or some music by his sons, Cyril and Ernest plodding home again at all hours, but like the man and woman tramping to London, 'blithe and hearty (?) were we.' The late Canon W. W. C. Baker, whose home was a mile or two away, frequently came to Apsley Guise to give us a hand.

Some Saturdays Charlie Clarke and Isaac Hills would come from Bedford. Also the late Jim Frossell. It is one of my regrets that I did not know in later years he was steeplekeeper at Kingston-on-Thames, as I lived for a short time at Hampton Court and would have loved to have seen him again. Mr. W. Turney, too, was a bulwark with the handbells.

I left Bedfordshire 50 years ago and spent many years at sea, when I was forced to neglect the art. I have heard bells at Melbourne and other overseas towers, but circumstances prevented me from taking part.

During a spell ashore at Newport, Mon, in 1902, I took up ringing again and rang my first 5,000 on a new peal of bells there, which Mr. W. Coombes, of Cardiff and Llandaff, conducted. Mr. J. W. Jones was also one of the band.

I have not been in the district I am now living very long, but have received every assistance from men whose names are household words in the Exercise as well as the tower. A wound in my right shoulder received while serving in a minesweeper during the last war handicaps me somewhat; nevertheless, my happiest hours until the ban were spent in the belfry. Taken all round, the ringing fraternity is unique for comradeship. I was able to take part again on the two occasions recently we were permitted to ring, and I look forward to that pleasure again, I hope, in the near future.

I fear that most of my contemporaries have passed away, but would like to know if Mr. Ernest Herbert is still alive. I visited Mr. Cyril a few months before his death. He, like his father, was a generous host. I also saw Mr. Ernest at the same time.

I wish Mr. Harris every good wish, but fear that most of his dear ones at Aston, Birmingham, whom I remember in 1894, have passed away.

Browsing through these 'Ringing Worlds,' often until 2 a.m., I have revisited and lived in the past, and from now on I intend becoming a regular subscriber.

All honour and respect to many old associates passed away, and the most delightful memories of the late Mr. Herbert and his sons.

I enclose my name and address, but prefer to sign myself

'MARINER.'

PLAIN BOB AND GRANDSIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I like your leading article in the April 2nd issue, which prompts me to write on a matter on which I have held very strong views during a good many years past.

I have often wondered why, in some parts of the country, a beginner is taught Plain Bob as his first method and in other districts Grandsire seems to hold so much sway.

I have noticed that in East Anglia a young ringer is first of all taught Plain Bob, but in other counties excepting Yorkshire we find bands practising Grandsire.

In East Anglia a greater variety of methods can be obtained, while in other counties, apart from the crack bands, one generally cannot get beyond Grandsire.

This fact seems to me very significant indeed.

C. W. PIPE.

Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

THE MUSIC OF BELLS.—Bells, the music bordering nearest heaven.—Charles Lamb.

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THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Club and Institute, Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton. Tea provided (at approximately 1s. 9d. a head) at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting and social evening.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Sefton on Saturday, April 17th. Tower bells, with fixed clappers, from 3 o'clock. Handbells will be provided and cups of tea. Please bring a little food. Short service at 5 o'clock, followed by the meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Syston on Saturday, April 17th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting near church at 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 24th. Silent tower bells (6) at 3.30. Tea in School at 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will members take own eatables and sugar? Cups of tea provided. Handbells before and after meeting.—W. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting, Cookham, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (silent) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by April 19th. Business meeting to follow. Subscriptions now due. Annual reports can be obtained at meeting. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the tower of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. Handbells 3.30 p.m. Address by the Vicar of Brighton.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester. Handbells in the belfry 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.15 p.m. at Crispin Court. Bring own food.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, May 1st, at 3 p.m. A social evening on the same premises from 6-8.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea obtainable at the many city cafes. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by Wednesday, April 21st.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, April 26th, at 3 o'clock.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alterryn View, Newport, Mon.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting is postponed until the summer.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

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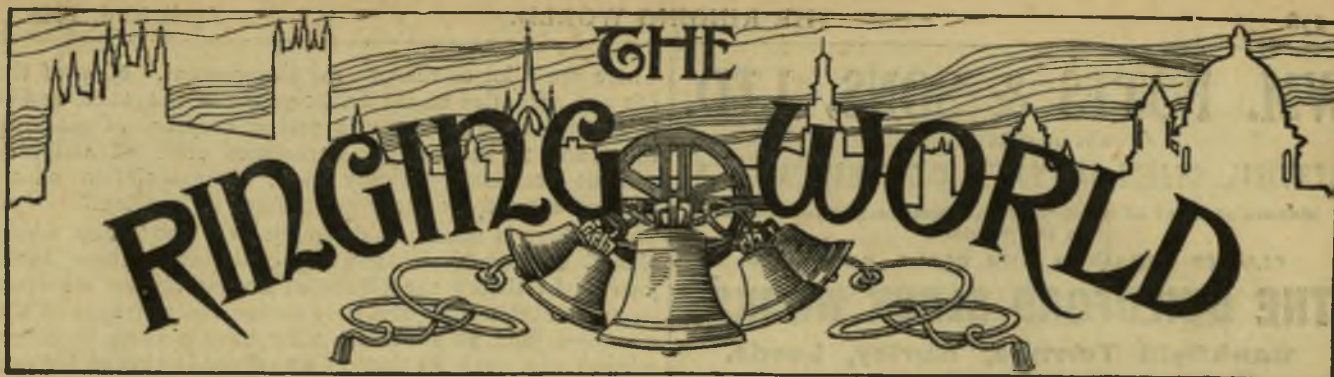
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Registered at the G.P.O. for
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EN BLOC

Now that the long evenings are coming and the dangers and inconveniences of the black-out much mitigated, we may expect there will be an increase in the number of meetings held by the various associations, and of that the larger number of notices in our columns give a welcome sign.

It is not an easy thing nowadays to arrange and carry out meetings even in the summer time, for the difficulties of transport are many, and there is the absence of any attraction in the form of tower bell ringing. But the attempt should be made, and members, even if they sometimes wonder whether it is worth the trouble of going, should make every effort to support their officers. It is not merely that a man cannot miss touch with his friends without suffering some loss, but unless some pains are taken now to keep things going, when the time does come to start ringing again the Exercise will be found wanting and the individual ringer suffer accordingly. We must not be misled by the success of the victory ringing last November. That was a very special occasion which appealed in a very special way to many whose interest in ringing had become lukewarm. There will be a similar, and we believe equally successful, appeal when peace comes, but what we must think of are the days of humdrum reconstruction which lie beyond that. Then it will be that those who in these dark days have striven to keep interest alive will reap their reward.

Especially should the average member make a point of being present at the annual general meeting of his association. The time is now coming when most associations hold their annual meetings, and there can be no better test of the continued vitality of the Exercise than full and enthusiastic attendance at these meetings.

The task of officers during these last three years and more has been a rather thankless one and they deserve support and encouragement, for upon the officers and the work they do depends in no small degree the success of the guild. Theirs is the work and the worry. Others reap the benefit, both immediate and prospective.

This brings us to a point which may be worth while considering at these annual meetings. It has been a general custom since the war, when the officers come up for election, for someone to get up and move that they be re-elected en bloc, and this is usually done, unless particular circumstances compel one to withdraw.

(Continued on page 178.)

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There are a lot of reasons for this custom. Most of the life and activities of the Exercise are in abeyance, and it is natural to treat the war period as years of marking time, and to keep things unchanged until full activities can be resumed. In any case, an association which has got a good secretary never likes to lose him.

But there is another side to the 'en bloc' habit which should be considered and especially after these three years. In theory the offices of an association are open to any suitable man who may secure the suffrages of the members, and all members alike have a voice in determining who shall fill them. An officer is elected for one year only and though he is eligible for re-election he should not be considered as having any more prescriptive right than another candidate. It is not always for the good of an association when a man holds an office year by year until he cannot be replaced by another, however suitable, without something of an affront to him.

It is always advisable not to allow the impression to grow up among the younger and less active members that the officers of an association have been selected by a handful of men who keep the control in their own hands. It may well be that the members as a whole desire to re-elect their officers, but the impression should be avoided that the whole thing has been cut and dried over their heads and behind their backs.

In the nature of the case the office of honorary secretary is a more or less permanent one, and most societies desire as few changes as possible, but it is usually desirable to let the other posts be filled in turn by any and every suitable persons.

We do but suggest general considerations. Each association has its own particular circumstances to consider and must make arrangements to meet its own particular wishes and needs. In most cases probably no changes will be made, but we suggest that the time has come when the 'en bloc' custom should be dropped and each officer elected separately in the old style.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

* WILLIAM C. PORTER ...	1-2	SGT. K. ARTHUR, R.A.F. ...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ...	3-4	MISS MARIE R. CROSS ...	7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal of Triples 'in hand.' Fiftieth peal as conductor.

THOSE EVENING BELLS.

Those evening bells! Those evening bells!
How many a tale their music tells,
Of youth, and home, and that sweet time,
When last I heard their soothing chime!

Those joyous hours are past away!
And many a heart that then was gay,
Within the tomb now darkly dwells,
And hears no more those evening bells.

And so 'twill be when I am gone;
That tuneful peal will still ring on
While other bands shall walk these dells
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells!

—Thomas Moore.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 169.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CLOSES.

John Noonan was now coming to the fore as a composer and conductor. On September 12th, 1796, he called 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes, and in the following month 5,007 changes of Grandsire Major at Whitechapel, both his own composition.

On November 13th, 1797, he achieved his first outstanding performance by calling 6,003 changes of Stedman Caters at Christ Church, at the time the longest length in the method. For this peal Henry Symondson and William Tyler came back from the 'old' Cumberland.

Samuel Austin, who recorded the performance in the peal book seventeen years afterwards, added a note that 'the performance will remain a lasting honour to the Society, and an example worthy to be imitated by posterity'; but, unfortunately, the composition, which is given in Shipway's book, is a false one.

In 1799, John Briant, of Hertford, added two trebles to Pack and Chapman's ring of ten at St. Giles', Cripple-gate, and on February 2nd the College Youths rang the first peal on the twelve, one of Grandsire Cinques. Two of the best of the living heavy bell men—Philip Pilgrim and James Marlton—were needed for the tenor.

Three weeks later the Junior Cumberlands rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and a month after that, the College Youths rang 5,258 changes in the same method at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

The 'old' Cumberlands now took a hand, and on April 22nd at Southwark achieved 5,390 changes. Thus, at the time, there was keen competition in twelve-bell ringing, four peals of Grandsire Cinques being rung by three different companies.

The younger Gross called the Cumberlands' peal, and the band included his father, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, James Barnard, Malachi Channon, James Nash, and John Wooding. George Harris was again at the tenor, and again he had to have help.

On April 8th, 1798, at Watford, George Gross called Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples. John Hints was in the band and several of the local men. Gross was the fourth man to call the peal and ring at the same time. James Bartlett, of the College Youths, had lately called it several times. He seems to have had the ambition of calling it from every bell, and he almost succeeded in doing so.

On September 17th, 1798, George Gross called at Edmonton 'a peal of 5,011 changes of Grandsire Triples, being the first peal rung without a single.'

The early composers, when they studied Grandsire Triples, noticed that though the two halves of Holt's Ten-part are complete and independent in themselves, yet it is quite easy to pass from one half to the other by making a bob in certain places. Thus the two halves can be joined together, but they cannot be joined together in round block form. In other words, the bells cannot be brought round at the end.

Since the plan would not give the full 5,040 changes, it was natural for men to try to see if they could not get from it, if not the extent, at least more than the five thousand which would be sufficient to rank as a peal.

In this way Stephen Hill, of Kidderminster, produced the 5,012 which is given by Shipway in his book.

Hill's composition was brought to London by John Noonan in 1793, and so was known to Gross, who used it to get his 5,011. Indeed, there seems to be an oblique reference to Hill's peal in the statement that Gross' peal was without a single. The other has an in-course single made at the treble's full lead by the bells in 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 7ths lying still, two leads before the end.

Shipway, who must have known that the Edmonton peal had been rung even though he had forgotten it when he wrote his book, gives Hill's figures but not Gross'; and it may be either that Gross kept his peals to himself and allowed no one to see them, or else that the composition was false or contained such a departure from the method as led men to condemn it as illegitimate. There must have been some departure or the bells could not have come round at handstroke. Henry Johnson afterwards produced 5,025 changes on this plan by using an irregular start.

On April 28th, 1800, George Gross called 10,112 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Edmonton. It was his own composition, and was the longest length in the method at the time, either composed or performed. The band was George Gross, sen., George Gross, jun., James Nash, Thomas Reeves, John Hints, James Barnard, Samuel Cowling and William Stephens.

Concerning this peal the Annual Register of April 28th, 1800, gives the following very circumstantial story. 'A short time since eight members of the Society of Cumberland Youths made an attempt to ring 15,136 changes of Oxford triple bob on Edmonton church bells. It required upwards of ten hours time to perform this task at 25 changes a minute. They had entered the ninth hour when an unlucky accident befell Mr. Gross, the composer of the peal, making an attempt to slacken his knee buckle, his leg became entangled in the coil of the rope, by which he was elevated to a considerable height, and thence falling down upon his head, he broke his collar bone. Had it not been for this accident no doubt the feat would have been accomplished and the performers crowned with perpetual honours, as nothing to be compared with such an achievement of strength and skill can be found in the records of the campanological art.'

As it stands this account cannot be accurate, though it was written at the time; and how much truth there is in it it is impossible to say. George Gross never composed a peal of Treble Bob Major so long as 15,136 changes, or if he did, Shipway never heard of it. A broken collar bone does not take long to heal, but in February, 1800, Gross rang a peal, and on April 28th he called the 10,112 changes at Edmonton. Osborn did not believe the story and he probably had made inquiries among men who were living and ringing when the attempt was supposed to have been made.

The figures of Gross' 10,112 are lost and we cannot be sure the peal was true. Shipway mentions it and another by Gross of 10,994 changes, but he does not give them in his book. It is pretty certain that, though the two men were contemporary members of the Society of Cumberland Youths, Shipway's knowledge of Gross' compositions was confined to the little he learnt about them from the 'Clavis.'

John Hints was a member of the Society of Cumberland
(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

land Youths and so the Society of College Youths was closed to him, but he was one of those men who were quite prepared to ring with any band where there was a chance of a peal. Other ringers shared those views and just as the nineteenth century opened the old exclusive style of company might have become obsolete. But the time for that was not yet come.

In December, 1800, Hints called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. James', Clerkenwell, for the Westminster Youths. It seems to have been the first peal by that company which eventually developed into the St. James' Society. William Williams was in the band, and Richard Mills, who afterwards became a leading man among the College Youths.

A week after the Clerkenwell peal Hints took part in a long peal of Grandsire Caters, 10,421 changes, at St. John's, Horsleydown, with a company who called themselves the Society of Surrey Youths. George Harris was one of the band and so was Robert Muggeridge, evidently a son of Samuel Muggeridge. He rang in one or two peals, but never attained the eminence of his father and grandfather.

When John Reeves left the Cumberlands, soon after calling the peal of Grandsire Maximus at Southwark, his name drops out of the contemporary records, but he seems to have continued to ring with the men of Whitechapel and the district, where he lived, and where the Society of London Youths still existed in a quiet and inglorious fashion. Reeves, we may be sure, had not altogether lost his interest in composition, though with the publication of the 'Clavis' his greatest incentive to work was ended, and, so far as we know, he produced nothing in his later years to compare with his earlier achievements.

He had covered the whole field of composition as he knew it; but Grandsire Triples he had to leave as he found it. There John Holt held the ground and the secrets of his peals had not been revealed to the Exercise. We may be certain that Reeves studied them carefully, and towards the end of his career he discovered how to add to the Ten-part the Q Set with the observation bell before, which gives the variation now usually known by his name.

It was an interesting and important discovery, and the peal was rung by the London Youths on February 7th, 1801, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel.

Reeves called from the second, which shows that, notwithstanding what he had said in the 'Clavis' of the superiority of calling by the bobs before over the 'absurd and unscientific' plan of ringing the observation and calling by the position of that bell, he did know by experience that the latter has its uses and advantages.

This was the last peal by the Society of London Youths, which not long afterwards faded away.

John Reeves took part in one more peal and that a notable one. Two bands—one of them a mixed company with John Noonan as conductor, the other belonging to the Cumberlands' society with George Gross as conductor—were striving for the honour of ringing what they thought would be the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal, or, as they called it, Court Bob Royal. The first peal in the method actually had been rung at Norwich in the year 1769, and the London men should have known it, for it is mentioned in the 'Clavis.'

Noonan's party was the first to succeed. On February 28th, 1801, they rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, 'an excellent peal consisting of 5,040 changes of Court Bob Royal in 3 hours and 37 minutes.' 'This great performance,' said the tablet, 'being the first in this critical method, is highly esteemed for the correct striking and harmony it produced, and cannot be equalled but by the same exertion and perseverance, which must ever reflect honour and credit to the performers.'

The band was made up of Thomas Smith, James Purser, Joseph Ladley, William Beard, John Reeves, Anthony Cavalier, William Troup, Charles Barber, John Noonan, and Edward Bartell. Smith, Purser, Beard, Barber and Bartell were College Youths; Ladley Troup and Noonan were Junior Cumberlands; and Reeves was a London Youth. Cavalier had been out of the leading peal ringing bands since 1789, when apparently he quarrelled with his companions of the 'old' Cumberland Society. Before the end of the year he was back again with them and taking part in peals.

A little more than a month after the Spitalfields performance the Cumberlands rang their peal at Shoreditch. It consisted of 5,220 changes, one course longer than the other. The band was—George Gross, George Gross, junior, James Nash, William Shipway, John Poulden, John Hints, Malachi Channon, Thomas Reeves, Samuel Cowling and William Stephens. Since they had been robbed of the honour of ringing the first peal in the method, they made much of the fact (which really was not a true one) that they were the first of any society to ring a peal in 'that intricate method.'

It was not until October 20th, 1890, that the next peal of Royal in any method other than Plain Bob or Treble Bob was rung in London. This was at All Saints', Fulham, by the Ipswich company, who were the first to ring Double Norwich Royal after the peals mentioned above.

John Reeves lived for about twenty years after these peals and died when he was eighty years old, but we hear no more about him. His is one of the greatest names in the whole history of ringing, and few, if any, have done more than he did to develop the science of composition.

(To be continued.)

LEANING TOWERS.

(Continued from page 181.)

its name from the military order of the Knights Templars, by whom it was founded about 1145. Like all such foundations, it was originally a round church. It is sad to relate that in recent air raids on Bristol this grand church was utterly destroyed. Yet its leaning tower still stands, and, I believe, the bells are safe. They were rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1935, and the tenor is 21 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb. The inscription couplets on some of the bells are very quaint and as follows:

1. My sound is good which that for ee heare
Yovng Bilbie made me sovnd so clear.
God be praised.
2. Come let vs all sovnd ovt
I'le keep my place no dovbt.
Th Bilbie casted me 1726. Sing prais x to God.
7. A seventh bel I hope shall be
And with you all sing merrylie.
8. Come serve God all when I do cale.
There is also a Sanctus bell of mediæval date.

LEANING TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 173.)

The leaning steeple of St. Mark's Church, Old Street, London, of recent years took a further list from the perpendicular and—deeming it to be a danger to the extensive traffic passing to and fro beneath it, it was taken down. Alas, now the church is no more.

Another leaning spire formerly existed at St. Mary, Walsingham, Norfolk, but some years ago this was taken down and rebuilt. This church has a ring of five bells, including a pre-Reformation tenor, two dated 1622 and two 1736. At an early period Salisbury Cathedral spire—the highest in England—404 feet high, deflected twenty-three inches from the perpendicular, but there is no sign of further movement. The tower and spire of St. James', Westminster—on the south side of Piccadilly—is out of the perpendicular. The spire of St. Mary's Church, Stanwell, near Twickenham, Middlesex, leans considerably westward. The tower contains a ring of six bells.

At Barnstaple, North Devon, the old parish church of St. Peter (sometimes wrongly described as SS. Peter and Paul) stands near the centre of the town. It was consecrated by Bishop Stapledon September 9th, 1318, and is an edifice of stone in Gothic style with the tower on the north side containing a clock presented in 1913 and nine bells, i.e., a ring of eight and a clock bell, which latter hangs outside on the spire. The tower has a twisted steeple covered with lead somewhat after the style of Chesterfield, but, of course, not so crooked. The bells are rung in the south transept of the church

to the right of the choir stalls. Heavy curtains hang around so that the ringers do not actually stand in full view of the congregation as they otherwise would do. In January, 1803, a licence was granted to cast five old bells into six, and this work was carried out by John Briant, of Hertford. Later two trebles were added and the ring was rehung in 1920 by W. Aggett and Son. The tenor is 23 cwt.

Another very crooked spire is that at the little village church of St. Peter, Ermington, Devon, and legend says that the first bride to be married here was so beautiful that the spire turned round to have a look. There is a ring of six, consisting of five originally cast by Christopher Pennington in 1748, of which the 3rd was recast by Bilbie in 1799, and a new treble later added.

At St. Mary's, Yapton, Sussex, a very beautiful village church of the Norman period, the picturesque tower is so far out of the perpendicular that it has been necessary to prop it up with a large buttress on the south side. Rude Norman work is to be seen in the tower, in the arches and in the aisles, and the building has some quaint dormer windows. The tower contains four bells.

The small church at Puxton, Somerset, is 700 years old and has a low tower leaning away from the nave at least three feet out of plumb. Here hang two old bells of mediæval times.

A notable leaning tower is that of the Temple Church, Bristol, which deviates four feet six inches from the perpendicular. It is 110 feet high and contains a fine old ring of eight bells, which, up to the war period, were rung regularly in perfect safety. The church derives

(Continued on page 180.)

John Taylor & Co.

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Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The wedding will take place quietly at St. Alban's, Streatham Park, S.W.17, on Wednesday next, between Charles William, eldest son of Mr. W. Denyer, 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, and Edna Phyllis, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Page, 15, Furzedown Drive, Tooting, S.W.17.

The first peal of Penning's Triples was rung at Stansted on April 13th, 1907; and the record peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, 14,000 changes, at Ashton-under-Lyne, on April 13th, 1914.

On April 17th, 1820, the Birmingham men rang 7,200 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's. It was at the time the longest length of Maximus, supplanting the 7,104 by the Cumberlands at Southwark in 1802. It is generally supposed to be the first of Kent Maximus ever rung, but that is more than doubtful.

Sir Arthur Heywood died on April 18th, 1916.

Twelve thousand and six changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Painswick on April 18th, 1737.

On April 18th, 1894, the Cumberlands rang the then record peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 13,440 changes, at Romford; and on the same date in 1927, what is still the longest true peal of Treble Bob Major, 17,824 changes, was rung at Heptonstall. It was in the Oxford Variation.

The first peal of Killamarsh Surprise Major was rung on April 18th, 1936, conducted by Albert Nash; and on the same day the first peal of Hughenden Surprise Major was rung at Hughenden, conducted by Mr. Harry Wingrove.

William Pye called the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in seven methods at Willesden on April 19th, 1932. The methods were London, Bristol, Cambridge, Rutland, Yorkshire, Norfolk and New Gloucester.

James R. Haworth, who is still remembered by several London ringers was born on April 21st, 1821.

On April 22nd, 1889, what was then the record peal of Grandsire Caters, 15,227 changes, was rung at Cheltenham. It was beaten on December 27th, 1932, by one of 16,271 changes at Appleton, where on April 22nd, 1922, the record length for any method, 21,363 Stedman Caters, was rung.

The first peal of Levenham Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on April 22nd, 1938.

Primrose Surprise Major is the same as Cambridge, but with eighth's place instead of second's at the lead end. The first peal of it was rung at Edenham, in Lincolnshire, on April 23rd, 1932, conducted by J. W. Lake.

On April 24th, 1905, 8,232 changes of Double Oxford Bob Major were rung at Tanfield, and on the same date in 1924, the first peal of Belgrave Surprise Major (an inferior variation of Yorkshire) was rung at Chester.

To-morrow is the fiftieth anniversary of the first 'name' peal of Stedman Triples. It was rung at Southover, Lewes, and was conducted by Mr. George Williams. Eighty-six years ago to-day another 'George' peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung by the St. James' Society at St. George's, Camberwell.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL

Many diocesan ringers' associations hold their annual service in their cathedral, but at Norwich the normal thing has been to hold it at St. Peter's, Mancroft, which is an obvious centre for ringers in this diocese. However, as in these days Mancroft bells cannot be rung, it seemed a good opportunity to hold the service in the Mother Church of the Diocese, and this will take place on May 1st at 3 p.m. It will be a good opportunity of showing the existence of the association to those non-ringers who attend the service. It is being arranged for a band to ring handbells in the triforium of the Presbytery before the service, and the Precentor, who is general secretary of the association, will be glad to conduct any ringers up the most interesting Norman tower, between 2 and 2.30 and after the business meeting, if they will let him know.

The Cathedral has five interesting bells, notes C sharp, B, A G sharp, F sharp. Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 were cast at the Norwich foundry in pre-Reformation days, and bear the inscriptions: 1, Fac Margareta Nobis Hec Munera Leta. 2, Quesumus Andrea Famulorum Suscipe Vota. 4, Subveniat Digna Donantibus Hanc Katerina. 5, Orate Pro Aia Roberti Brentham Monaci Norwici. Sum Rosa Pulcata Mundi Varia Vocata.

The monk Robert Brentham was gardener to the Cathedral Priory in 1451. and torches at his funeral in 1469 cost 8d. No. 3 is inscribed Anno Domini 1635 J.B. It is presumably a recasting by John Brend, jun. These bells are now hung dead, but a cross section of the Cathedral, dated 1784, shows them hung for ringing, and holes in the walls above the tower arches appear to show where joists for a ringers' floor were placed (something like the arrangement remaining to this day at Winchester Cathedral).

A wheel still hanging in the bell chamber is doubtless a relic of this period. Inside the tenor is scratched the name of Samuel Thurston, the great Norwich ringer of last century, who probably did some bricklaying in the tower. Thus Norwich Cathedral is of considerable interest to ringers, even if none of us have ever had a ring on its bells.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association was held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th, and proved very successful, 32 members and friends being present from Beaconsfield, Beddington, Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's), Bushey, Ealing (Christ Church and St. Stephen's), Hayes, Hillingdon (St. John's), Kingsbury, Ruislip, Streatham, Twickenham, Uxbridge (St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's), Wembley and Windsor.

A short service was held at 4 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Home, who welcomed those present and stressed the importance of the recognition of ringers as church workers.

Tea was followed by the annual business meeting, presided over by Mr. J. A. Trollope, vice-president.

In his report, Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, the hon. secretary, said that it had not been possible to hold many meetings, and the position was not likely to become any easier owing to the increasing difficulty in obtaining the use of church halls and the like, and to the difficulties of food rationing. The two meetings which were held were both enjoyable and successful, the annual at Cranford, attendance 30, in April, and the Acton meeting in October, attendance 32.

A number of handbell peals had been rung, which will be referred to in the general report at the annual general meeting. It is needless to state that Mr. E. C. S. Turner has been prominent in these as a conductor.

Two deaths had occurred during the year—the Rev. Dr. Flecker, Vicar of St. Peter's, Staines, an honorary member, and Miss I. L. Hastie, of Ealing, who had given much willing and cheerful assistance at Ealing and Acton in connection with service ringing. Her sudden and untimely death at a comparatively early age was a great loss and she is greatly missed.

Mr. Cockey was glad to state that subscriptions and many arrears had come in much better during the year, and he thanked those who had responded to his appeals.

'In regard to future policy, I can only appeal to all members to retain an active interest in the society, and to keep in touch with me as regards any information they may have, any suggestions for the good of the society, any possibilities regarding meetings and so on. It is very much a matter for the individual member these times, as towers are closed and local secretaries are often not in touch with their members.'

The annual statement of accounts was presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, and showed a sum of £5 8s. 10d. paid over to the general treasurer out of total receipts of £6 17s.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary district secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Ringing Master, Mr. E. C. S. Turner; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. T. C. Bannister; committee, Messrs. H. C. Chandler (Heston), J. Herbert (Twickenham) and G. M. Kilby (Ruislip); auditors, Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Fulwell.

The hope was expressed that it might be possible to hold the next annual meeting at Fulham, but owing to the present situation no definite action was taken. It is hoped also to arrange a number of summer meetings, probably at Cranford, Ruislip and possibly one or two other places.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Herbert, seconded by Mr. F. G. Baldwin, a warm vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Goodfellow, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Coles and Mr. F. Corke for arranging the meeting and for the excellent tea provided, great appreciation being expressed at the kindness of Mr. Goodfellow and company in twice recently making such successful arrangements on behalf of the association.

Handbell ringing was kept up at intervals during the afternoon and evening, the methods rung including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich Major.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting held on April 10th, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was supported by the secretary and treasurer, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, E. Pye, W. H. Pasmore, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, J. F. Smallwood, E. J. Taylor, of Bradford, and L.-Bomdr. H. Thompson and Corpl. Len Fox.

The passing of two members was announced—Mr. W. Haigh of Rochester, and Mr. W. Latter, of Tunbridge Wells—and the members stood for a few moments as a token of respect.

Mr. F. Deal spoke of the courtesy and kindness that he had received from the late William Haigh at the time of his demobilisation at Chatham at the end of the last war.

On behalf of Mr. J. J. Lamb, of Greenwich, Mr. Hoskins handed over another ringing book for inclusion in the society's library.

Mr. Smallwood brought fraternal greetings from Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham. Mr. R. T. Hibbert stated that he had been asked by the sole surviving sister of the late Mr. J. Martin Routh to thank the members on behalf of herself and brother (aged 90 and 87) for their kind expression of sympathy to the family. The sister remembers ringing Grandsire Triples on handbells with Mr. Hibbert more than 50 years ago.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Association was held at Alloa on April 10th, after service in St. John's Church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Canon Sturrock-Clarke. Nineteen persons sat down to tea in the Townhead Tea Rooms. These included 16 ringers from Alloa, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and R.S.M. C. Barker, of Sheffield.

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. R. O. Street, Cpl. C. R. Raine, R.A.F., R. J. G. Thom, J. Colville, and a letter was read from the patron, the Duke of Argyll, K.T., who expressed his satisfaction that the society was endeavouring to carry on in spite of depleted membership.

He recalled that, when the King and Queen were sailing up the St. Lawrence River, on their memorable visit to Canada, all the members of the churches, convents, etc., lined the river bank, while the sound of hundreds of bells came pealing across the water, at which their Majesties frequently expressed their delight.

Reference was made to the deaths during the past year of Sgt. A. McColl, R.A.F., Paisley, killed over Malta, Hugh White, Edinburgh, and J. S. Goldsmith. Twenty-three members are now serving with H.M. Forces.

Prof. R. O. Street (president), W. H. Pickett (Ringing Master), both of Glasgow, and Cpl. C. R. Raine, R.A.F. (hon. secretary), were re-elected to their respective offices, with E. A. Stafford, Glasgow, as deputy hon. secretary. Mr. Leslie Bounphrey and R.S.M. C. Barker were elected ringing members, and the Rev. Canon Sturrock-Clarke honorary member.

It was reported that no arrangements had been made at the various towers to have the bells rung as a warning of enemy action with two exceptions. In their case a chiming rope had been led down to the church, but no one knew who, or by whose orders, the bell was to be sounded.

The afternoon was spent in practice on St. John's tower bells (with clappers lashed), finishing with a service touch of Stedman Triples on handbells at the back of the church.

It was reported that St. Mary's, Glasgow, Society rang a touch of Stedman Caters 'on hand' in the Cathedral last Easter Day, and again in Glasgow Cathedral (St. Mungo's) on Sunday, December 27th, also a touch of Stedman Triples at the Church of All Hallows, Hillington, on Sunday, April 4th, 1943.

Eight members travelled from Glasgow to Alloa, where a set of handbells were kept going for most of the journey, in both directions.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There was one point in Mr. Russell G. Spear's letter which neither Mr. John E. Spice nor Mr. Malcolm Melville answered. Why should a number of people have special representation on the Central Council merely because they have been to one of the universities? They are already members of the different associations and guilds.

CHARLES GREEN.

A LETTER OF APPROVAL.

Dear Sir,—The founders of the new Universities Guild have gone to great trouble and pains to explain to the Exercise the purpose of its formation and the qualifications necessary for membership. The situation appears to me to be perfectly clear, and I cannot understand the criticism or opposition to its existence. I sincerely trust there will be nothing to prevent the new Guilds' affiliation to the Central Council when the time comes.

I believe that the Exercise has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the existence of such a society, and it should do much to further the interest and study of our art within the universities. If a few more ringing persons are produced by its activities they alone will justify its existence.

The young people concerned with the formation of this new guild are out for one thing only—progress in our study of campanology—and having met some of them, I can only regret I am not eligible to become a member of their new group.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think it would be very foolish to follow Mr. Russell G. Spear's advice and refuse to ring on any future occasion until the ban is lifted entirely. He is quite mistaken if he thinks that would impress the authorities, and the result might be that he would find towers closed to him, when he did want to ring.

'X.'

RECONSTRUCTION

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. G. H. Williams is quite wrong. It is not the duty of a guild ringing master to instruct. He has to take control of the ringing at general meetings, and general meetings are not the times to instruct beginners.

'A RINGING MASTER.'

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 155.)

The decorations in bas-relief around some of the old bells are extremely beautiful, whilst the inscriptions are often highly suggestive, and even touching. These decorations are usually confined to the top and bottom rims of the bells, and are in low relief, so as to impede the vibration as little as possible.

At Mechlin, on a bell bearing the date '1697, Antwerp,' there is an amazingly vigorous hunt through a forest with dogs and all kinds of wild animals. It is carried right round the bell, and has all the grace and freedom of a spirited sketch. One one of Hemony's bells, dated 1674, and bearing the inscription 'Laudate Domini omnes Gentes,' we noticed a long procession of cherub boys dancing and ringing flat hand-bells, such as are now rung before the Host in street processions.

On some of the older bells the Latin grammar has not been properly attended to, and P. van den Gheyn has a curious affectation of printing his inscriptions in types of all sizes, so that one word will often contain letters from three or four alphabets. The old inscriptions are frequently illegible from the extreme narrowness of the Gothic type and the absence of any space between the words. One of the Ghent bells bears an inscription which, in one form or another, is frequently found in the Low Countries. Englished it is—

My name is Ruelant.

When I toll them it is for fire,

When I swing them there is stormy weather in Flanders.

The famous Strasbourg tower, although, unlike the Belgian towers, it possesses no carillon, and but nine bells in all, is remarkably rich in inscriptions, and has been richer. Its bells are interesting enough to warrant a short digression.

The first, or Holy Ghost bell, dated 1375, weighs about eight tons and bears the beautiful motto:—

O Rex Gloriæ Christæ veni cum Pace.

It is only rung when two fires are seen in the town at once.

The second bell, recast 1774, is named 'The Recall,' or the Storm-bell. In past times, when the plain of Alsatia was covered with forests and marsh land, this bell was intended to warn the traveller of the approaching storm cloud as it was seen drifting from the Vosges Mountains towards the plain. It was also rung at night to guide him to the gates of the city. It is fitted with two hammers and is constantly used.

The third, the Thor or Gate-bell, is rung at the shutting and opening of the city gates. It was cast in 1618. In 1641 the Thor bell cracked and was recast. It broke, and was recast again in 1651.

The Mittags, or twelve o'clock bell, is rung at mid-day and at midnight. The old bell was removed at the time of the French Revolution, and bore the inscription:

Vox ego sum vitæ

Voco vos—orate—venite.

The hanging of most of the Strasbourg bells, almost outside the delicate network of the tower, is highly to be commended. They can be well heard and seen. The same remark applies to Antwerp, and it is to be regretted that in such towers as Mechlin and St. Peter's at Louvain, many of the bells are so smothered up as to sound almost muffled.

Almost all the bells which are open to public inspection, and which can be reached, bear white chalk inscriptions that an illustrious countryman, Jones, of London, has thought it worth while to visit the bells on such a day, that his Christian name is Tom or Harry, and his age is, &c. &c. However, on the stone walls inside the Strasbourg tower there are some more interesting records. I copied the following:—I.M.H.S., 1587; Klopstock, 1777; Goethe, 1780; Lavater, 1776; Montalembert, 1834; and Voltaire. The Vo was struck away from the wall by lightning in 1821, but has been completely replaced in stucco.

In Mechlin tower I noticed the initials I. R. in the deep sill of the staircase window; underneath is a slight design of a rose window, apparently sketched with the point of a compass.

Close inside the clock-tower of Antwerp Cathedral, and sheltered by the skeleton clock dial, although exposed to the weather, is scratched the name Darden, 1670. It is strange, but true, that what we condemn in tourists is regarded by us with interest when the tourist happens to be eminent, or even when he happens to have been dead for two or three hundred years.

For the sake of contrast, it may be worth while to look into one or two English belfries, before I close this paper. I will select St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Clock Tower.

The bells of St. Paul's Cathedral are four in number; three belong to the clock, and hang in the south-west tower; one small one hangs alone in the north-west tower and is rung for service. The largest bell weighs over five tons, and is commonly supposed to have been recast from the metal of Great Tom of Westminster.

The truth seems to be as follows. Great Tom was no doubt at one time conveyed from Westminster to St. Paul's, but having cracked, it became necessary either to recast it or to procure a new one. The bell metal was considered so bad, that by the advice of Richard Phelps, the bell-founder, a new one was made for £627. He allowed 9½d. a pound for the old bell, but did not work up any of this metal for the present bell. This is quite certain, as I have the best authority for saying that the old bell was not removed until the new bell was delivered at the cathedral.

The inscription is perfectly legible, and as copied by me on a particularly bright morning, runs thus—

Richard Phelps made me 1716.

A common fleur-de-lis pattern runs round the top, varied only by the arms of the Dean and Chapter, whilst the bottom is decorated by a few straight lines. The bell has a very fine tone and is rung at the hour.

There is absolutely nothing to be said about the other bells, except that R. Phelps made them, and that they are all, more or less, out of tune in themselves and with each other—a fact which that truly musical people whose metropolis they adorn will probably be prepared to deny with a vehemence equally patriotic and superfluous.

(To be continued.)

SABBATH BELLS.

The cheerful Sabbath bells whenever heard
Strike pleasant on the sense, most like the voice
Of one, who from the far off hills proclaims
Tidings of good to Zion.

—Charles Lamb.

MORE ABOUT Q SETS.

We have, in some recent articles, explained the nature and use of Q Sets as sets of calls—usually of bobs, sometimes of singles, and occasionally of bobs and singles—which form the links by which natural courses are joined together. When this is realised, the real nature of composition is not difficult to understand.

But bobs are not always used in the form of Q Sets, and natural courses are not the only blocks which can be joined together by Q Sets.

If we write down the twelve even course-ends of Bob Major, and from each of them pick a 5-course block in which each course is called Wrong and Middle, we shall have the in-course extent of the method set down in twelve independent and mutually exclusive round blocks.

A similar group of twelve will be produced if we call each course Wrong, Middle and Right.

23456 W. M.	23456 W. M. R.
42635 — —	64235 — — —
64523 — —	52643 — — —
56342 — —	36524 — — —
35264 — —	45362 — — —
23456 — —	23456 — — —

In either of these two groups of twelve we shall find that the rows which form a Q Set are either all bobbed or all plained—that is a necessary condition of a true extent—but these rows have no connection with each other, and the Q Sets are not links in a composition. To that degree they are not Q Sets in the fullest sense.

Having got our group of twelve blocks, we can proceed to join them together. If we wish to keep the groups intact we must use Q Sets, and they can be in the first group, Q Sets of bobs at Right, or Q Sets of omits at Wrong or Middle. In the second group they must be Q Sets of omits at either Wrong, Middle or Right.

The same laws will apply when we are joining these blocks as apply when we are joining independent natural courses. So long as we keep the blocks intact we can join only an odd number, and eleven blocks (or 55 courses, which is 6,160 changes) is the extent which can be had.

Besides the twelve even blocks there are twelve odd blocks, and the twenty-four between them contain the extent of the method with the tenors together, or 13,440 changes.

By means of bobs or omits arranged in Q Sets and with the aid of singles it is quite a simple job to link up these twenty-four blocks and so get the extent. If we wish to use no more than two singles we must employ the combined Q Set (consisting of bob, single, bob, single) of which we spoke in recent articles.

Here is an example of an extent formed from the first set of twenty-four 5-course blocks.

(Continued in next column.)

BENJAMIN ANNABLE.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

We naturally think of old Ben Annable as the dominating figure of eighteenth century bellringing, the great authority on composition, the stickler for good striking, and the martinet of the belfry. But he had a lighter side, and in his manuscript book, mixed up with the figures of methods and peals, he wrote out an old-fashioned homely ballad, which apparently he was going to sing at one of the College Youths' social gatherings.

It was a traditional song, like many more popular among the ordinary people, come down from past ages and belonging to the same class as those Ophelia and Desdemona sang in such tragic circumstances. It is interesting to see the popular opinion of tailors, and the origin of the proverb about nine tailors making a man, which had nothing to do with the nine tellers of the death bell.

On the opposite page to the verses Annable wrote 'Xmas' three or four times, and 'Amo, Amo, Amas.' We do not suppose his knowledge of Latin was very profound.

I am taller by the head than my sister Kate
And She has got a husband here of late.
With a Lulabaly Bye
She has better Luck than I.

I wonder wt. the meaning be
that men are not i' Love wth. me.
I have as Clean a Skin as She,
It is well known.

I might have had a taylor Long ago.
he asked me, but still I answered no.
I had Rather live a Maid
than wed a theiving trade.
For wh—y I hate them all.

Their Cabbage won't Agree with me.
It is a downright Theivery.
I Love an honest man Quoth she,
and ever Shall.

Was I to have my Choice of all mankind
give me a Lusty Sailor to my mind
They are noble hearts of Gold
and Scorn to be Controuled.
Whilst Bat—tle from their arms Secure.

Besides when they do Come on Shore
they Rant and make the taverns Roar.
One Sailor's worth eleven Score
of taylors sure.

THE VOICE OF THE BELLS.

Bell: thou soundest merrily
When the wedding party
To the church doth hie.
Bell! thou soundest solemnly
When on Sabbath morning
Fields deserted lie.

—Longfellow.

MORE ABOUT Q SETS.

(Continued from previous column.)

All the Q Sets at R when the 6th is a sixth's place bell are bobbed.

When the 6th is a fifth's place bell, the following Q Sets are bobbed:—

S 32564	43562	45362
53264	54362	34562
S 52364	35462	53462
35264		

If the student will write out the peal from these directions, he will learn a good deal about how extents are composed.

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LONDON CHURCHES OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.

By RICHARD F. DEAL.

(Continued from page 172.)

All Saints', Poplar, consecrated 1823, is about the last important London church in which the Greek influence is seen. It is from the design of Charles Hollis. There is no record of any other work by him. The architectural interest does not extend beyond the west end, which has a fine portico of four fluted Ionic columns and a graceful tower and spire 161ft. high. The louvre windows are recessed between Corinthian columns and pilasters with good effect.

Exception might be taken to certain details, but on the whole there is much to admire in the steeple of Poplar. I like to approach it from the east on a misty morning, when it appears quite suddenly as we pass a place once known as the Iron Bridge, rising majestically above a collection of commonplace buildings. Its lightness and grace contrast with the ponderous character of its neighbour at Limehouse. It is one of the few architectural highlights of a dreary road punctuated by stumps of unfinished towers, four in as many miles.

St. James', Bermondsey (1829), is by James Savage, whose office is said to have been in Walbrook. Familiarity with Wren's little spire of St. Stephen's is perhaps sufficient reason for taking this as his model for the steeple of Bermondsey, which falls far short of the original in proportion and detail. His reason for terminating the steeple with a dragon (the emblem of the City of London) is not clear; I know of no connection between the city and Bermondsey to account for it. Perhaps Mr. Savage was inspired only by a friendly feeling for the more famous beast of the same species (about nine feet long) which graces the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow.

Another church by the same designer, in a very different style, is St. Luke's, Chelsea (1820), which has a wide and lofty nave covered with fan vaulting of Perpendicular character, properly constructed of stone, a remarkable achievement for an age which was usually satisfied by imitations of such things in lath and plaster. The effect is spoilt by the inevitable galleries and the flat plaster ceilings over the aisles, and the vault itself would have been improved by greater height. Window tracery and other details are thin and mechanical, as usual in Gothic work of the time, but Mr. Savage left us quite a good tower, 142ft. to tops of pinnacles.

St. Dunstan's-in-the-East near Eastcheap, was restored by Wren after the Great Fire of 1666; all that remains of his work is the tower, designed in imitation of that of St. Nicholas', Newcastle, of course on a smaller scale. In the arrangement, fairly common in Scotland, but rarely found south of the Border, flying arches springing from the corners of the tower carry at their intersection a small open lantern and spire. A famous example is the 'crown' of St. Giles', Edinburgh. The Scottish

steeples of this type are not all of true arch construction, as are Newcastle and St. Dunstan's.

The church became dilapidated, and was taken down in 1817. It was rebuilt by David Laing (architect of the nearby Customs House), assisted by Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Tite, who many years later designed the Royal Exchange. The new church had few outstanding features, but contained good work of its kind, and it accorded well enough with Wren's tower and spire, which is about 180ft. to the vane.

At the other end of the city stands St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, consecrated July 31st, 1833. The architect, Mr. John Shaw, had then been dead exactly a year, and the work was finished by his son. St. Dunstan's, like St. Bride's, has associations with the Press. The ancient church narrowly escaped destruction in the Great Fire, and must eventually have become an obstruction to the traffic of Fleet Street, which would be reduced in effective width near this point by Temple Bar.

St. Dunstan's is a fair example of the Gothic of its time. From our point of view the chief feature is the tower, which, plain in the lower part, is elaborated in the upper stages by large and well proportioned louvre windows, and is terminated by a handsome open octagonal lantern, the whole reminiscent of Boston Stump.

It is quite likely that the designer was inspired by that grand work of the fifteenth century, and he may, too, have known one of the ancient parish church towers of York, which has a very similar lantern arrangement.

The church is octagonal in plan, the tower being on the south side. There are eight bells, cast at White-chapel in 1832, tenor 19 cwt. They have not been rung for many years, and one or two are cracked, probably through misuse. I think I have known only one ringer—the late Dan Lovett, of St. Sepulchre's—who could claim to have rung a peal at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West.

The thirty or forty years which followed the building of the Waterloo churches produced very little of interest to London ringers, and it was not until well into the second half of the century that the Gothic Revival brought out the fine work of Sir Gilbert Scott, G. E. Street, J. L. Pearson and others. This opens up yet another chapter in London's history of church building.

The churches briefly mentioned here have for the most part suffered only superficial damage during the recent troubled period, the exceptions being Waterloo and St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, but I believe in the former case the bells are intact.

St. Dunstan's had a fine eight originally by Rudhall. Church and bells were badly damaged by fire and high explosive, and the bells are now bricked up in the base of the tower.

It is, of course, impossible to foresee the eventual fate of St. Dunstan's, but whether the church is completely restored or not, we may reasonably hope that public opinion, perhaps supported by the influence of the Corporation, will ensure preservation of Wren's graceful tower.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting, Cookham, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (silent) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea for those who notify me. Business meeting to follow. Subscriptions now due. Annual reports can be obtained at meeting. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held in the tower of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. Handbells 3.30 p.m. Address by the Vicar of Brighton.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea

at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester. Handbells in the belfry 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.15 p.m. at Crispin Court. Bring own food.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, May 1st, at 3 p.m. A social evening on the same premises from 6-8.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea obtainable at the many city cafes. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. — L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 1st, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. A. Ridgway, 11, Shirley Street, Leek, Staffs, not later than April 27th?

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at SS. Peter and Paul's, Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Further particulars next week.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (silent) available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.45, with address by Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn, B.A. (Vicar). At 5.30 cups of tea will be provided; please bring own sandwiches. Handbells available.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

GREETINGS.

Easter greetings to all old ringing friends from Frederick S. Macey at University College Hospital, Private Wing, Grafton Way, W.C.1.

HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM.—On April 9th, at 92, Etwell Road. a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Minor (1,440 changes) in 39 minutes: *Arthur D. Cook 1-2, George E. Fearn 3-4. *Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 5-6. *First quarter-peal.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—*The Times*.

'Mr. Trollope has achieved more than his immediate purpose of writing a history of the Society of College Youths. So closely has the Guild been identified with English change ringing, that its history is, to a very large extent, an account of how the ancient sport of ringing developed into an elaborate art.'—*The Guardian*.

'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's*.

Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

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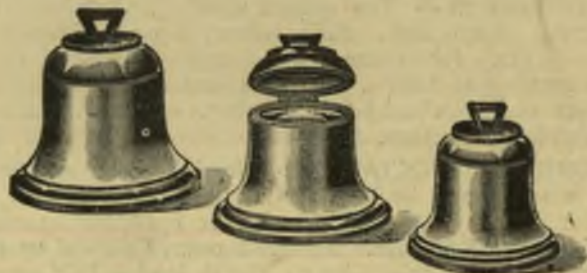
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No. 1,675. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th, 1943.

[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 BAN IS LIFTED.

The ban on ringing is lifted. To many people, and not only to ringers, the news has come as a welcome surprise, for most of us perhaps had reconciled ourselves to the idea of having to endure it so long as the war lasts. Yet to anyone who had carefully followed the debate in the House of Lords, and especially the speeches of Lords Geddes and Mottistone, with the expressed determination of the Archbishop of York not to let the matter rest, the cancellation of the order should have seemed inevitable.

The Government's decision has been generally welcomed by the Press, but we do not ourselves agree with the construction some papers put upon it. 'The Daily Express,' 'The Daily Mail,' and to a more cautious degree, 'The Times,' see in it evidence that the Government are now convinced that a full-scale invasion of this country has passed beyond the bounds of possibility. It is certainly true, and has been for nearly two years, that there is no immediate fear of invasion. To conquer this country by the landing of armed forces is a very difficult matter, so difficult that during nine centuries it has never been attempted, and only on two occasions has been seriously contemplated. The difficulty can be summed up in one word—the enemy must gain control of the seas, and control of the seas means not only being able to pass an army on to our shores, but to supply and reinforce it. That difficulty has remained the same throughout the ages, but in one important respect conditions in this war have altered greatly to our disadvantage, and have largely robbed us of the security we enjoyed for so long. Control of the sea in such a restricted area as the English Channel now depends as much, possibly even more, upon mastery in the air as upon the supremacy of ships. Germany could not hope to rival us in war vessels. She could and did hope to overwhelm our air force.

The attempt was made and it failed. How badly it failed was perhaps better realised in Berlin even than in Whitehall; and when Hitler turned to bombing our towns, and later threw his armed might against Russia, he confessed that a full-scale invasion of England was not then practicable, just as Napoleon did when he broke up his camp at Boulogne and turned upon Austria. This is not to say that another attempt at invasion cannot and will not be made, but first there must be vast preparations which cannot be hidden.

All this, of course, was known to our military authorities, and it is a poor compliment to their intelligence to suggest that they have only just realised it in the

(Continued on page 190.)

three or four weeks since Lord Croft made his statement in the House of Lords.

If we may judge by the wording of the original order, there never was any intention to use church bells as a general warning in the case of an attempt at a full-scale invasion. For that no special means of warning is needed. As the Prime Minister said, the news would 'leak out' somehow without it. What was at first thought useful was to reserve the bells for warnings in the case of limited raids, especially by airborne troops, much of the same class and scope as those made by our commandos on places in France and Norway. So far, Germany has not attempted any on this country, but she may do so at any time, and the chances are as great now as they ever have been.

The ban has not been lifted because of any dramatic change in the character of the war, but because it is known that bells would be useless as warnings. It is quite certain that this has been known for a long time, almost from the beginning; for the military authorities have left them out of their calculations, have not included them in any of their tests, and have taken no adequate steps to find out whether they would be available or effective.

The soldiers ignored the bells. The people at the War Office sat tight, and no one was found able and willing to take the responsibility of reviewing the matter.

But when the thing was brought into the light of day by the debate in the House of Lords, the Prime Minister took the matter into his own hands and did what some other authority ought to have done long ago. He called the Chiefs of Staff together and asked them plainly whether they relied on church bells as an essential part of their defence plans. When they told him they did not, there was an end of the matter. The use of bells as warnings disappeared and nothing was put in its place. It was a small matter compared with the great issues of the war, but it shows the value of having a strong and able man in supreme control.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BURSLEM, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At SNYD VICARAGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5440 CHANGES!

Tenor 15 in C.

ROBERT S. ANDERSON... .. 1-2 | REV. HUGH G. BENSON ... 5-6

JOHN WORTH... .. 3-4 | *ANDREW THOMPSON ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Umpire—Charles H. Page.

* First peal in hand. First peal on handbells for the association and believed to be the first ever rung in North Staffordshire.

BRING BACK THE BELLS

By one of the happiest of coincidences, Mr. Churchill's announcement of the removal of the ban on church bells coincided with the publication of Mr. A. P. Herbert's new book of verse, 'Bring Back the Bells.'

This is the title of one of the many delightful lyrics in the book, and contains the following lines:—

If we can not inform the town
That parachutes are coming down
Without inviting Huns to search
For targets in the parish church,
The old inventive British brain
Had better, surely, think again.

These lines are dated November, 1941; even then the case against the ban was unanswerable.

JONATHAN WILD.

A NOTORIOUS 18th CENTURY CHARACTER.

One of the most notorious characters of the early eighteenth century was Jonathan Wild, who founded and for long maintained a very flourishing business as a receiver of stolen goods and a patron and organiser of thieves. He also acted as a thief-taker and a receiver of stolen property, and he combined the different branches of his trade in a very efficient manner.

He would arrange for things belonging to some wealthy person to be stolen, and when that was done he would approach the victim and offer for a substantial fee to get them back again.

He disliked the competition of rivals, and he had no use for thieves who worked outside his organisation, so he was quite willing to aid the authorities in laying them by the heels. Especially he disliked any of his own men who rounded on him. He would always help in securing a conviction against them.

There were then no proper police, and the law against receiving was vague and slack. The magistrates and other people knew all about Wild's activities and used him, and he managed for long to keep apparently within the letter of the law. In the end, however, he did slip and he was hanged at Tyburn on May 24th, 1725.

A man with a career like Wild was bound to become a legend. A lot has been written about him and many tales told. Most of them are the result of imagination and have no foundation in fact, and we do not think for one minute that there is any truth in the following, which comes from a book called 'Jonathan Wild, Prince of Robbers,' by Frederick J. Lyons, and published in 1936.

'There was the incident of the group of wealthy men who had formed a bellringers' club, and who frequently met for dinner at a well-known inn. To indulge their interest they also arranged visits to different cathedral towns to hear and compare the different bells and changes. Wild heard of the activities of this club and resolved to make its members victims of one of his coups.

'One night a big dinner was in progress. All had dined and wine exceeding well, and one of the leading members had been disserting at great length on his memories of historic changes. Everyone was in the best of humour and one member was recounting to another famous feats of ringing that he could remember when up spoke a new member, "I and five of my friends will wager two hundred guineas on a match against any team in the room."

'The party had reached the stage when even the most fantastic challenge would have been accepted with alacrity. This one was accepted with acclamation. The newcomer made one condition, that he should be allowed to select the scene of the contest. No one was in the mood to quibble about such a modest demand, and Lincoln Cathedral was chosen.

'Soon after dawn the next morning the cavalcade set out for Lincoln, some on horseback and others, who felt more severely the strain of the previous night's carousal, by coach. The newcomer noted with satisfaction that the challenged carried, in addition to the two hundred guineas of the wager, a hundred guineas for their expenses.

As the Cathedral hove in sight, a few of the party rode ahead to make arrangements for the contest. Despite the length of the journey they had travelled, the challenged party insisted on the contest proceeding immediately they arrived. Dismounting, they lost no time in changing into the drawers, waistcoats and caps that constituted the ringing dress of the day.

'The challenger and his party were more leisurely. Before retiring to change they obligingly commanded their servants to remove their opponents' clothes to a safe place.

'They were away for a long time, and the challenged party occupied themselves in practising. Eventually one of them went to see how long the others would be. To his amazement they and their servants had vanished, and with them the clothes they had so kindly offered to put in a safe place, to say nothing of the better part of the three hundred guineas, besides watches, snuff boxes, tobacco boxes and other valuables.'

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

ST. MICHAEL'S, MACCLESFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—Here are the peals rung on the bells of St. Michael's, Macclesfield, since they were increased to twelve. The three peals of Grandsire were rung by the resident band, the rest by mixed bands.

JOHN WORTH.

Broken Cross, Macclesfield.

May 17th, 1924, Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

May 14th, 1927, Stedman Cinques.

April 21st, 1930, Cambridge Surprise Maximus.

June 3rd, 1930, Grandsire Triples.

May 28th, 1932, Bob Maximus.

July 15th, 1933, Oxford Treble Bob Maximus.

May 21st, 1935, Grandsire Caters.

October 13th, 1936, Grandsire Cinques.

December 26th, 1938, Bob Maximus.

W. Matthews called the Grandsire Cinques. John Worth called the Grandsire Triples and Caters and the second peal of Bob Maximus. Edward Jenkins called the others.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ACTIVE PEAL RINGING.

When the nineteenth century opened the elder George Gross was still the beadle of the Society of Cumberland Youths and the most important man in the company, though there were younger men, like William Shipway and John Hints, who were working on their own lines. Eighteen hundred and one was an active and prosperous year for the society. On January 11th Gross called 5,104 changes of London Court Bob at Whitechapel. It was the last peal in the method rung in London, though in the following years it was to a certain extent popular among the ringers of the southern and south-eastern suburbs. Shipway took part in the peal, but he does not give the composition and the figures are lost.

A month later Shipway called at Hackney the first peal of Triples in a new system which he had recently produced. The idea was to dispense entirely with dodging, and this he did by causing each bell, as it hunted up, to make a place immediately after it had passed the treble; and, as it hunted down, immediately before it passed the treble. The places were made alternately at handstroke and at backstroke, and as there was one in every change, the result was to turn the whole work of the bells above the treble into plain backward hunting. The defect of the method was that it was necessary for the bells that the treble turned and were turned by the treble from behind, to lie for three blows in sevenths.

The peal book says that 'the society to commemorate the Union of Great Britain and Ireland entitled the method Cumberland Imperial Place Tripples,' but Shipway when he gave it in his 'Campanalogia' styled it simply Place Triples.

In March George Gross called 6,160 changes of Bob Major at Watford, and in April the peal of Court Bob Royal at Shoreditch, which I have already spoken of. In May the younger Gross called 5,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch with a band made up of the elder Gross, Samuel Cowling, James Nash, William Shipway, William Stephens, Thomas Freith, John Hints, James Barnard, and Malachi Channon.

In August the society rang the first peal at Hemel Hempstead. It was one of Grandsire Triples, and nine men took part owing to the bad going of the bells. In October two peals were rung—Treble Bob Major at Lewisham, and Tittum Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, both being conducted by the younger Gross. Two more peals completed the tale for the year—Royal at Spitalfields, and Major at Bethnal Green.

Since the year 1784 the record honours for long peals of Treble Bob Royal and Maximus had been divided between the two leading metropolitan societies. The Cumberlands' 12,000 at Shoreditch was the longest as yet rung on ten bells, and the College Youths' 7,008 at Southwark was the longest length as yet rung on twelve bells.

The College Youths were content to leave the matter where it stood, and had given up all hopes of regaining the double honour; but the Cumberlands were less inclined to rest on their laurels, and when they were joined by James Marlton, they had once more, not only a tenor man of outstanding ability, but a band capable of giving him adequate support. They therefore renewed the contest, and on March 22nd, 1802, by ringing 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark,

gained what was to prove the final and complete victory.

The younger Gross rang the second and called the bobs. The other bells were rung by the elder Gross, Peter Jones, James Nash, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, James Barnard, Anthony Cavalier, John Hints, Malachi Channon, William Stephens, and James Marlton. Four of these men, Gross, Barnard, Reeves, and Channon, had taken part in the Shoreditch peal, and so had personally shared in the double honour.

The Southwark performance has always been considered as one of the very finest long-length and heavy-bell feats in the history of change ringing, and Jasper Snowden expressed the general opinion of the Exercise when he described the 'College Youths' and Cumberlands' peals as 'Wonderful instances of physical prowess,' and pointed out that 'though greater lengths have since been rung on twelve bells, yet, as they have all been accomplished on very much lighter tenors, it can hardly be said that any one of them can compare with the 7000's rung at Southwark.'

In recent years, since Snowden wrote, the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow has been turned in by William Pye to 7,392 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. That is the only performance which can justly be put alongside the feats of Samuel Muggeridge and James Marlton.

A comparison of the times taken by these three peals is interesting. Muggeridge rang Southwark tenor to 7,008 changes in five hours and forty-eight minutes, or at the rate of 20.11 per minute. Marlton took eighteen minutes less for a peal two leads longer, the rate being 21.53 changes per minute. Pye turned the rather heavier tenor at Bow in to 7,392 changes in five hours and thirty-eight minutes, or at the rate of 21.87 changes a minute. The time given for Muggeridge's peal on the board before it was re-written was six hours and five minutes, which is at the rate of 19.20 changes a minute.

Marlton's peal was rung much quicker than the average rate for peals at Southwark during the eighteenth century, and Pye's peals were almost invariably rung much quicker than those of the earlier generations of ringers. It is an established fact, that provided a man has a good band in front of him, he needs less physical exertion to ring a tenor to a quick peal than to a slow peal, the quality of the striking being equal.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TICKNALL.

A pleasant and well-attended joint meeting of the Burton and Derby Districts of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ticknall on Easter Saturday, and among the representative gathering were members from Burton (St. Paul's), Derby (the Cathedral, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Measham, Netherseal, Overseal and visitors from Loughborough and a former Burton district secretary, Mr. R. H. Dove, now of St. Michael's, Headingley.

During the afternoon handbells were rung and a variety of methods on the silent six tower bells.

At the business meeting the Vicar presided and welcomed the association. He referred to the pleasure with which the bells would be heard the following day and to the part they played in creating the proper atmosphere for Sunday.

The Burton District secretary, Mr. J. W. Cotton, reported that since the last meeting the association had sustained a severe loss through the death of Mr. John Swinfield, of Burton; they had also lost by departure to another parish the Rev. J. R. King, of Measham.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Newhall on June 12th if suitable arrangements can be made.

Mr. Cotton proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and to the local company for all they had done to make the visitors comfortable. Seconding, Mr. W. H. Curson expressed the hope that action would be forthcoming by the Central Council to bring weight to bear in the proper quarter so that possibly by the next meeting the ban might be entirely lifted. Mr. Noble suitably replied.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The announcement of the lifting of the ban on ringing was made at the most inconvenient time for 'The Ringing World.' Usually this journal is printed on Wednesday morning, and the latest hour at which anything special can be added is somewhere about 10 o'clock. Last week, owing to Good Friday, we had to go to press one day earlier, and the paper was being printed at the very time the Prime Minister was making his statement. It could not be helped, but it is something of a blow to our editorial pride that the most important piece of news of the year (for ringers) does not appear until ten days after the event.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Denison Taylor, who reached his 79th birthday last Monday, and to Mr. E. G. Fenn, the Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who was 62.

James Pettit, at one time so well known as the conductor of the St. Paul's Cathedral band, was born on April 25th, 1834.

The first peal of Bob Major was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on April 26th, 1725.

On April 26th, 1894, the then longest peal on handbells—11,200 Bob Major—was rung at Norwich; and on the same date in 1899, a band of College Youths rang on handbells at Barking 8,896 Kent Treble Bob Major.

The College Youths rang their famous long peal of Stedman Cinques, 8,580 changes, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on April 27th, 1861, and on the same date, seven years later, at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, what was then the longest length in any method—15,840 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major. Both peals were conducted by Henry W. Haley.

The Cumberlands rang on April 27th, 1876, at St. Ann's, Highgate, the longest peal of Kent Treble Bob Major yet composed with the tenors together and produced by ordinary bobs.

George Gross called his long peal of Treble Bob Major at Edmonton (referred to in our columns last week) on April 28th, 1800.

On the same date in 1890, at Diss in Norfolk, the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung.

The record peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,896 changes, was rung at Stoney Stanton on April 28th, 1925. Mr. Harold Poole conducted.

Mr. F. W. Perrens called the first peal of Stratford Surprise Major at Nuneaton on April 28th, 1938.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Maximus was rung at Ipswich on April 30th, 1927, and the first peal of Apsley Surprise Major at Bushey on the same date in 1938.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

To all Secretaries of Associations.

Please notify to me the names and addresses of present representatives, and note that subscriptions became due on January 1st.

George W. Fletcher,
45, Walsingham Road,
Enfield.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held in the belfry of Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 17th. The attendance was disappointing in view of the fact that the meeting had been specially timed for 6 p.m. to enable those who had to work late to attend. Mr. Harvey presided, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds and Rothwell.

The nominations for officers for the ensuing year were confirmed. The secretary's report showed that the membership was 149, of which 87 were fully paid, 10 were honorary and 15 serving in His Majesty's Forces, leaving 37 members who had not paid their subscriptions. Thanks were due to the tower secretaries and companies (especially the Pudsey company), who had made the meetings enjoyable. The finances of the society were in a good and sound condition, and the net total showed an increase of 18s. 11d.

The next meeting will be held at Batley on May 29th.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar of Leeds and the churchwardens for the use of the tower, to Mr. Percy Smith for preparing the tower and to the retiring officers.

WOODDITTON, NEAR NEWMARKET.—At Sunny View, on Wednesday, April 21st, 1,280 Bob Major: R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3-4, R. C. Sharpe 5-6, J. A. Acres, R.A.F. 7-8. Also recently several plain courses of Stedman Triples: R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin 3-4, S. Brown 5-6, R. C. Sharpe 7-8.

THE BELLS OF ST. PAUL'S, BEDFORD.

A NEW PUBLICATION.

Fifty or sixty years ago it was commonly said the towers and belfries of England generally were in a disgraceful condition. In contrast to the rest of the churches they were shamefully neglected, the floors and timbers rotten, the bells unringable, and the whole going to rack and ruin. 'How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected!' wrote one clergyman in 1857. '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?'

Things certainly were pretty bad, so much so that the Central Council, under the influence of Sir Arthur Heywood, made a survey of all the steeples with eight or more bells, the intention being to publish it, and by bringing the facts before the authorities of the Church, shame them into doing something to remedy the evil.

But already influences were at work which in time were to make a vast improvement, and to-day neglected and dangerous towers and belfries are comparatively rare.

A CAUSE OF IMPROVEMENT

The chief cause of this improvement has been the greater interest taken by the clergy and laity in the bells in their steeples. At one time, though they never lost the inherited love of Englishmen for the sound of the bells, they were little concerned with the bells themselves, which hung so remote from the ordinary man's ways and vision. But as the care and thought which for some long time had been freely lavished on the body of the church was extended to the tower, people began to listen to the select body of archaeologists who insisted that in her bells the Church of England had a treasure of great artistic and historical value. The bells were looked upon once more, as they had been in the centuries gone by, as among the most important of the Church's possessions.

In increasing numbers the histories of ancient churches have been written, usually by men who have a personal interest in the buildings and opportunities for making the necessary local researches. These histories seldom fail to take notice of the bells, and the amount of good they do to ringing is comparable to that done by the large county histories of bells. Occasionally the bells are the main subject dealt with by the writer.

The latest of these publications, and in its own sphere one of the most complete, has just been issued. It is the work of Mr. F. W. Kuhlicke, and deals with the bells of St. Paul's Church, Bedford, of which he is churchwarden. It has obviously been written as a labour of love, but the specific object for which it is published and sold is to help the 'Bells Fund,' which is intended to raise the money required to take down the bells, to put them in a place of safety for the period of the war, and when once more they are needed for a peal of thanksgiving for peace and victory, to rehang them well and truly in their time-honoured place.

Such an object will meet with the approval of all ringers, and since the price asked for the book of over thirty pages is no more than 1s. 3d., post free, we do not doubt that many of our readers will be glad to have it to add to their collections of books on bells.

BEDFORD BELLS.

Mr. Kuhlicke starts with a short survey of the bells of Bedfordshire and Bedford town, and then gives a very detailed account of the bells of St. Paul's. He sketches the career of Thomas Lester, who cast the ring of eight in 1744, and the Loughborough family of Taylor, who cast the present ten.

He then goes on to deal with change ringing and especially the ringing at St. Paul's. With this the name of C. W. Clarke will always be associated, and a large number of the peals on the bells were conducted by him.

Mr. Kuhlicke concludes with a description of the various uses and customs connected with bells, and since the book is intended for the average person it is instructive and useful.

Mr. Kuhlicke disclaims any originality for his book, but he clearly has been at pains to consult the best authorities and as many as possible. To them and not to him is due the faulty history such as the statements that Fabian Stedman wrote the 'Tintinnologia,' that the College Youths were founded at College Hill, and that the Cumberland Youths were originally the London Scholars. But since all ringers believed these fables, and since they are repeated by such weighty authorities as the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' it would be absurd to complain of their presence here. It will be long before these legends are finally disposed of.

THE LATE P. N. G. RAINEY.

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association has lost in action one of its best ringers and churchmen, Percy Rainey, Grenadier Guards, was killed in action on March 17th last.

A native of Marston Magna, he did his first change ringing there. Later he joined the Yeovil band, but for a time he was at Aston, Birmingham. His Somerset and Midlands friends will mourn his passing.

J. D.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT.

Last week, in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, replying to Mr. Greenwood (Wakefield), announced that the ban on the ringing of church bells would be removed. Mr. Churchill said: 'The War Cabinet, after receiving the advice of the Chiefs of Staff, has reviewed the question in the light of changed circumstances.'

'We have reached the conclusion that existing orders on the subject can now be relaxed, and the church bells can now be rung on Sundays and other special days in the ordinary way to summon worshippers to church.'

'The new arrangement will be brought into effect in time for Easter.'

On the following day the Press was informed that the Control of Noise Order, which had been amended to give effect to the Prime Minister's announcement, prohibits the use of church bells on days other than Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, and provides that the bells may be rung only for the purpose of summoning worshippers to church. They must not be used for weddings and funerals.

A further statement by the Ministry of Home Security explained that the Government's object in restricting the occasions on which bells may be used was to avoid misunderstanding from any ringing at times when the public do not expect it.

NO REPLACEMENT.

On Thursday in the House of Commons Sir T. Moore asked the Prime Minister what arrangements had been made for ringing church bells as a warning of invasion.

Mr. Churchill replied: 'We have come to the conclusion that this particular means of warning was redundant and not particularly well adapted to present conditions.'

Sir T. Moore asked if any alternative arrangements had been made? Would the Prime Minister consider the use of sirens?

Mr. Churchill: 'We came to the conclusion that this means of warning was redundant. Therefore, replacement would not arise. For myself, I cannot help feeling that anything like a serious invasion would be bound to leak out' (laughter).

Mr. Stokes: 'Is the right honourable gentleman aware that the Secretary of State for War told me only three weeks ago that the sounding of church bells in case of invasion was the only signal he could think of?'

Mr. Churchill: 'The matter has been exhaustively reviewed and the Secretary of State fully accepts the conclusion.'

Sir W. Smithers asked whether the right honourable gentleman did not consider since permission had been given to ring at certain appointed hours of service, they would still be an effective warning if rung, say, in the middle of the night?

Mr. Churchill: 'The significance of invasion no longer attaches to the ringing of church bells.'

PRESS OPINIONS.

Mr. Churchill's original statement was received by the House with cheers and by the Press with general approval. In a leader 'The Times' remarked: 'The opinion was widely held that the silencing of the bells could no longer be justified on strictly military grounds, and that it should be possible to devise some other means of warning in the case of invasion.'

'Future historians may well look upon the decision as a milestone in a long journey, but those who in 1943 are concerned with home defence, whether as Regular soldiers, Home Guard or civilians, will not be so foolish as to neglect continued preparedness against invasion on a substantial scale. Lord Croft, in his reply in the House of Lords recently, implied that the authorities still regarded the ringing of bells as the only distinct and definite warning of invasion. Now that view has been changed, some new form of warning presumably will be substituted.'

'For the rest no one must expect immediately to hear a joyful clamour arising in the old places. Bellringing is a difficult business; badly rung bells would be a mixed blessing; and in war time it will not be easy to find those that are competent.'

With arms lifted to clutch
The rattling ropes that race
Into the dark above
And the mad romping din.

'Some belfries have vanished altogether, in others there will have to be a reconditioning of bells and ropes. But however few and simple the chimes, it will be good to hear again what Lamb called the music bordering nearest heaven.'

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at St. Margaret's Convent, East Grinstead, on April 10th, the Rev. G. Golding-Bird being in the chair.

Two new members, Mr. G. Ryman, of Hartfield, an old member now in the Canadian Army, and Mrs. Bassett, of Wadhurst, were elected.

The balance sheet showed that expenditure had exceeded income by 4s. 9½d.

In the report, the committee urged that an effort be made to secure more vice-presidents with the object of creating more public interest and increasing the funds, so that the Guild could take an active part in the great work of reconstruction after the war. Mr. E. J. Oliver proposed that extra copies of the report should be printed and circulated by members to influential people in their own localities. After some lively discussion it was decided that copies should be sent to the incumbent of each parish in the Guild's area asking him to put it to the church notice board and to draw attention to it when giving out the church notices.

All the officers of the Guild were re-elected en bloc.

It was decided to hold meetings at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver, on June 12th, and at Balcombe on July 3rd.

The Chairman referred to the death of three old members, Mr. Manley, of Crawley Down, Mr. Latter, of Tunbridge Wells, and Mr. Haigh, of Etchingham.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Mother Superior for the use of the room, and to the ladies who prepared and served the tea.

The handbells were put to good use during the afternoon and evening by members, who attended from Balcombe, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Lamberhurst, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst. The methods included Bob Minor and Major and Grandire Triples and Caters, with some tune ringing by the Balcombe band.

THE BAN IS LIFTED.

WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG?

(Continued from previous column.)

'The Daily Telegraph' wrote: 'Gratitude to the Prime Minister and the War Cabinet for reaching the conclusion that the church bells can now be rung on Sundays and other days to call people to worship, is tempered with general wonder that the authorities have taken so long to make up their minds to restore the liberty of ringing. Like every other emergency measure, the prohibition was accepted with goodwill and has been patiently endured, but the public has never had any explanation how this particular form of warning would be effective.'

'The Daily Mail' said: 'For only the third time in thirty-two months the church bells of Britain, mute with a stunning suddenness since France fell, are to ring next Sunday.'

'Not as once for long and heartrending months we feared they might ring urgent clamant with alarm to announce that the silver frontier of a sea which had guarded us for a thousand years, had gone the way of all the frontiers of Europe. Not even as they rang with jubilation for the victory of El Alamein.'

'Next Sunday and thereafter the bells will ring as they have always rung. Their sound, sweet with distance as it drifts across the sunlit meadows, strong as it shatters in the city street, marks not an isolated but a permanent victory. Britain has repelled the threat of invasion. Henceforth the bells may fulfil their ancient function, "those golden throats that call the world to God."'

'The Daily Express' wrote: 'German air power silenced the British church bells in June, 1940. For three years, except for the celebration of Alamein, they have kept bells silent by the belief that Hitler could invade Britain.'

'What makes it possible for the church bells to ring again for Easter, 1943? British air power. It smashed the German invasion in 1940 and this year, with American air power, it is going to help in the smashing of German invasion power for ever.'

Last Sunday 'The Sunday Times' began a striking leader with the following passage: 'Bells at Easter! We scarcely expected to hear them except for some great victory, but there is a special appropriateness in the breaking of the silence of the steeples on Easter Day, for Easter bells are bells of Victory. They are a part of that annual rejoicing of Christendom over a triumph more momentous and decisive, according to its faith, than any other ever could be.'

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ST. NICHOLAS, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BELLS.

By ERNEST WALLACE.

The tower and bells of Newcastle Parish Church (now the Cathedral) have, since the earliest times, been in the care of the municipal authorities, who have maintained both in a state of good repair, in return for the use of the bells on such occasions as they desire them to be rung.

According to Bourne, a local chronicler, since mediæval times, the tower held five bells. These bells, later the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and tenor of the ringing peal were in existence until 1892, when two were used in making the new ring of ten.

Three of the old bells (now hung in the tower above the ringing peal of twelve) were dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, St. Michael and St. Nicholas (the patron saint of the church).

One of the bells (since melted down) was the '8 o'clock bell,' used for wakening workmen at 6 a.m. and closing down fairs at 8 p.m.

St. Michael bore a chevron between three vases or covered cups with handles and spouts, a replica of which is found on one of the bells at St. Bartholomew's Church, London, which, perhaps, gives a clue to its approximate age.

The 'Great' or 'Common Bell' was used especially for civic affairs. It was tolled continuously for six hours on the day of the election of the Mayor as a 'passing bell' for the retiring Mayor. It was used to summon meetings of the Town Guilds on Mayors' election days, for proclaiming a holiday at noon on Shrove Tuesday and for other special occasions. This bell, according to Carr, was cast at Colchester in 1593. Bourne states that it was recast at Colchester in 1615 and again in 1622, on which occasions it weighed 27 cwts. 3 qrs. 22 lbs. and 32 cwts. respectively. In 1754 it was recast and weighed 36 cwts.

In 1717 the Town Council gave three new bells to complete the ring of eight.

The first mention of any ringing is that the eight were rung muffled annually on the anniversary of the execution of Charles the First (an unusual custom which dated from the Restoration until 1810, when it was abandoned).

On February 7th, 1754, the 'Newcastle team of bell-ringers' rang 2,520 changes of Bob Triples in 1 hour 36 minutes, being 'the first time that ever was done in Newcastle, the whole peal being thought impossible because of the bad hanging of the bells.'

On April 11th, 1754, half way through a peal attempt of Grandsire Triples, the tenor cracked, and was sent to Lester and Pack in London to be recast. The recast bell, weighing 36 cwts., was rehung by 'Mr. Lawrence, a noted London bellhanger, who was specially commissioned for the work by the City Magistrates.'

He did his work so well that, on April 10th, 1755, a peal of Bob Triples, the first peal in the tower, was rung in 3 hours 13½ minutes (No record of the ringers, conductor and composer of this peal are extant as far as I know, but, by checking in all the old local papers, I hope to find a fuller account one day.) being the first peal ever rung in Northumberland.

The only other peals known to have been rung on these bells were all Grandsire Triples, rung by the Union Society of Gateshead and Newcastle, in 1808, 1809, 1842 and 1848. The peal in 1809, being 'the only peal rang in England in commemoration of His Majesty King George the Third entering into his 50th year of his reign over a free and loyal people.'

In 1791 the fifth bell, cast in 1717, was recast by Thomas Mears, and was a maiden bell 'untouched by hammer or chisel.' The bells remained thus, until, in 1892, they were all, with the exception of the three old bells, recast into the present ring of ten bells (later twelve).

In 1833, a large clock bell, weighing 5 tons 18 cwts., was presented to the town by Major George Anderson, and is known to this day as 'the Major.' This bell, of very poor tone, was the result of an experiment by the founder, James Harrison. It was cast in the foundry of Sir Robert Shaftoe Hawkes and Co. on November 23rd, 1833, by James Harrison, the son of the famous maker of clocks and chonometers. Being too poor to experiment on bells, he decided that the Newcastle bell was a good opportunity, so he added one cwt. of brass (copper and zinc) to the metal. The resulting bell was chiselled severely round the soundbow to give it tone, and hung above the ringing bells.

A good story concerning Harrison is told. One day he cast a ring of bells for a church, not far from the church itself. He was a very small man, and, being an addict to the chisel as a means of tuning bells, he one day began to chisel away at his latest ring. A clergyman, who was passing, seeing this little boy 'ruining' the bells, rushed forward and dealt the offender a resounding blow on the head. On asking the culprit what his business was, hammering away at bells, the culprit replied, 'I cast them.' 'I don't know the clergyman's reply to this news.'

This brief account of the bells leaves much of interest untouched. The history of the tower and bells during the 'Border days,' when the Scots attacked the town repeatedly, is full of interest. Newcastle Corporation minutes and the 'Newcastle Journal' of later days, contains an, as yet untapped, wealth of information. The greatest problem to-day is to try and discover any information about the old 'Union Society of Gateshead and Newcastle.' This society, with the exception of its peal records in the various old towers, has left no trace of its activities, despite the considerable efforts of Mr. C. L. Routledge, of Newcastle Cathedral, to trace them.

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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).

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. — G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant, 4.15.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester. Handbells in the belfry 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.15 p.m. at Crispin Court. Bring own food.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, May 1st, at 3 p.m. A social evening on the same premises from 6-8.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea obtainable at the many city cafes. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. — L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at SS, Peter and Paul's, Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Further particulars next week.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (silent) available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.45, with address by Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn, B.A. (Vicar). At 5.30 cups of tea will be provided; please bring own sandwiches. Handbells available.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Annual meeting at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 8th. Handbells in tower from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea in Old National Schools at 6 p.m., 1s. per head, followed by business meeting. Please let me know by May 5th how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Sandy on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (6) silent at 5 p.m., also handbells. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual general meeting on Saturday, May 8th, in the ringing chamber of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, at 3.30 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Broughton Astley, on Saturday, May 8th. Handbells in the church from 5.30 p.m., followed by meeting at 7. Further handbell ringing at the Bull's Head.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Belfry available for use from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea at reasonable prices for visitors who notify me not later than Monday, May 3rd.—A. G. Hill, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton on Saturday, May 15th. Tower bells (silent) from 3 p.m., also handbells. Meeting at 6 p.m. Please bring your own food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst on Saturday, May 15th. Further announcements next week.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Meeting at Hallow on Saturday, May 15th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Church bells (silent) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a charge of 1s. 4d., at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. To ensure getting tea, please send names to me by Monday, May 10th.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, PUTNEY.—Ringing every Sunday at 10.15. All ringers heartily welcomed.—W. T. Elson.

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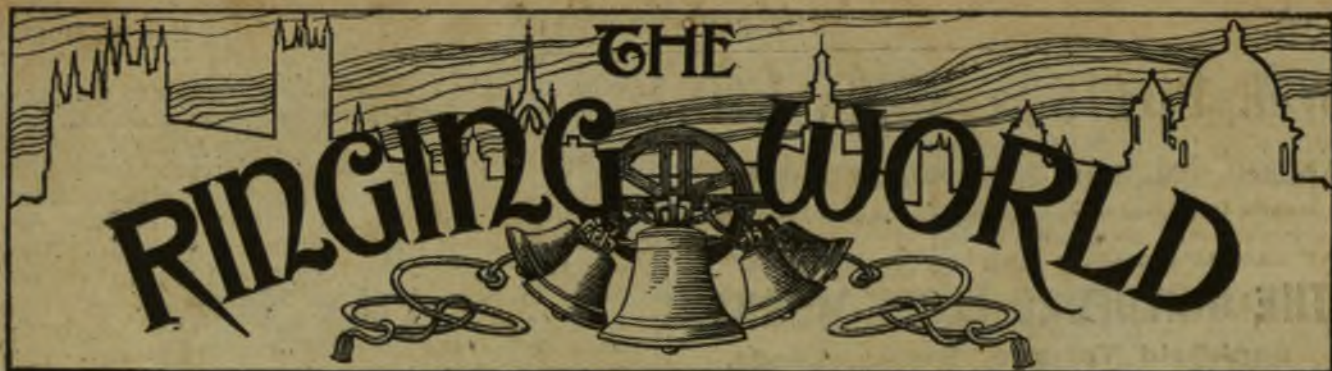
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LOSS AND GAIN.

The ban has been lifted. Not completely, but sufficiently for our immediate needs, and before we consider how best to meet the problems which confront us, it may be well to take stock of the loss and gain we have sustained by these nearly three years of silence.

At first sight it may seem to have been all loss and no gain. Our bells have been dumb, and our activities have been brought to a standstill, and whether we look upon our ringing as part of the service we can render to the Church and nation, or as an absorbingly fascinating recreation, we have had no small proportion of our interest suddenly and completely stopped. The deprivation has been all the more severe because there were good reasons for thinking it was not really necessary.

But that is now largely past, and it is no good regretting the peals we might have rung or the tours we might have enjoyed, had things been normal. What we cannot escape is the permanent loss the Exercise has suffered. And certainly there is loss. During these years the normal wastage caused by death and increasing age, and by loss of interest, has not been abated, while the replacement by new recruits has been negligible. To-day the Exercise is far weaker than it has been for a very long time, not only temporarily, because so many ringers are away serving the country, but permanently, because there are no new members ready to take the places of the old ones.

Much of this is, of course, due to the war, and would have happened in any case; but the ban has accentuated the evil and made it exceedingly difficult to keep interest alive. Not only so, but want of practice has definitely lowered the standard of ringing and striking, and that at a time when it is more than ever essential that the bells should be rung well.

Those are the facts we must face. It is no good pretending we have not had loss, and that we can carry on, as if there had been no long silence; nor, though it is well to take a hopeful view of things, should we deceive ourselves by the satisfaction most of us feel at finding things are not so bad as we feared they would be, and as they well might have been.

So much for the loss. Have we any gain? Well, strange and paradoxical as it may appear, we believe that the gain will, in the end, turn out to have far outweighed the loss, even to the extent of making the ban itself worth while.

(Continued on page 198.)

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Manchester Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

What the bells of England really mean to the people of England we should never have known without these three years of silence. The victory ringing of last November was a most surprising revelation, even to those of us who knew something of the part church bells have played in the past in the life of ordinary men. But that event by itself might have deceived us. There were then special reasons why people should have been attracted to the sound of the bells. The feeling of joy and relief that a victory had been won which gave real hopes that the tide of war had turned at last — the dramatic announcement of the ringing by the Prime Minister at the climax of his great speech—these were almost enough in themselves to focus attention on the bells. But that event did not stand alone. We have had continued and abundant evidence, and not least in these last few weeks, that church bells mean much in the life of this country.

Not so long ago there was a general impression that the public cared nothing for bells, and would have welcomed any official action to suppress or curtail their use. We know better now. We have the general public with us, and we have the Press with us. When great journals like 'The Times,' 'The Daily Telegraph,' 'The Daily Mail' and 'The Sunday Times' publish leaders such as they have done during these last few weeks, we can look in the face, with confidence, any enemies we may have. Let us not forget, too, that altogether apart from us ringers and our particular interests, the Church of England values her bells and will use her vast influence in their defence.

These, broadly, are our loss and our gain. It is our part now to do our best to replace the loss, and to see to it that we do not by foolish and shortsighted action throw away our gain.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes.

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 22 in D flat.

*JAMES S. WEBB 1-2	WALTER H. DOBBIE 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7-8

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Four Minutes.

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 15 in C.

WILLIAM G. YOUNG 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6	

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

At 46 ACACIA AVENUE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

*GEORGE M. KILBY 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
†FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW 3-4	*EDWARD G. COWARD ... 7-8

Composed by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Major on handbells. † First peal of Major on handbells on an inside pair.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently.

JAMES PAGETT 1-2	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, C.F. 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH 5-6	

Conducted by the REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS MARGARET L. TUTT ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal of Triples. Miss Tutt, of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, was proposed a member of the Guild prior to the peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At 92, ETWALL ROAD, HALL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*ARTHUR D. COOK 1-2	†GEORGE E. FRERN 3-4
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 5-6	

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

*ERNEST J. MUNDAY 1-2	CHARLES HAZELDEN 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	JAMES R. MACKMAN 7-8

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in hand. Rung after meeting short for Caters and an attempt for Stedman Triples.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SEFTON.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association held at Sefton on April 17th, ringers were present from Aughton, Ormskirk, Woolton, St. Luke's, St. Catherine's and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and the local company.

Various methods were rung on the silent bells, and in the absence of Dr. Longford, the Rector, the service was conducted by the Rev. E. D. Preston, who gave an address. Thanks to Messrs. S. Flint and R. Guy, an excellent tea was provided.

At the meeting Mr. Preston took the chair, and apologies were received from Messrs. T. R. Butler and S. Morton. A letter from Mr. F. R. Williams expressed his pleasure at the generous way his application for the affiliation fee had been met by the Sefton Parochial Church Council. In addition to the fees for 1943, they had sent the fees for 1940, 1941 and 1943.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on May 15th, if arrangements can be made. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector, to the Rev. E. D. Preston, and to Messrs. Sidney Flint and Robert Guy.

SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

(Continued from page 205.)

5056.

23456	M	B	W	H
35642	2	—		
54632	1	—		
43526		—		
32654	1		2	
56423	1		1	
56234		—		1
64235	1			2
52436	1			1
35426			1	
36524	2			1
23564			1	
62345		—		2
26543	2			2
54263			1	1
34562			1	
34625		✓		1
34256	2		2	1
23456				1

The first and the last eight leads are to be rung in London Surprise, the remainder in the Bristol method.

5664.

23456	M	In	Out	5ths	W	H
42356						B
53462	—	4ths	—	Out 4ths	—	2
54263	—				2	
63425	—					
53462		4ths	—		2	—
46325	—					
62453	—		Out 4ths	—		
25634	—				2	—
53246	—					
23645	—					

Twice repeated.

The whole peal contains 1,728 changes of Bristol. If a bob is added at Home in the third course of one part the fifth course-end is produced, and the peal reduced to 5,152. The number of Bristol changes will then be 1,632.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting of the College Youths, held at the Whitechapel Foundry on April 24th, was one of the best attended since the war. The Master was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, and Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, A. W. Brighton, W. T. Elson, H. Hoskins, R. F. Deal, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles, J. F. Smallwood, J. W. Chapman, F. C. Newman, E. W. Pye, W. Madgwick, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, C. H. Kippin, W. Williams, J. A. Trollope, R. Stannard, E. Barnett, W. Hewitt, F. E. Collins, P. A. Corby, Corpl. F. Shorter, J. G. A. Prior, E. Hartley, E. Jennings and B. White.

The visitors were Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Pte. Wanden, of Lincoln.

The chief topic of discussion was the lifting of the ban, and the arrangements that could be made to ring the bells of St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and Stepney.

In answer to a question from Mr. J. F. Smallwood, Mr. Fletcher gave an account of the work carried on by the Central Council behind the scenes and the part it played towards getting ringing going again.

Mr. Trollope also spoke of the work that was being done.

Two new members were elected—Mr. Robert Wake, of Ferndown, Wimborne, and Mr. Frederick W. Wicks, of Wimbeldon.

Greetings were received from the Ipswich ringers, Mr. H. Eden, late of Oxhey, and Mr. E. W. Izard, of Victoria, B.C.

News was received of Gunner Pat Murphy, who is in a prisoner of war camp in Italy, and the secretary was instructed to send the good wishes of the members to him.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 191.)

DEATH OF GEORGE GROSS.

The Cumberlands' 7,104 of Maximus at Southwark was John Reeves' one-part peal with the extent of the method in nine courses. On ten bells it runs to 5,200 changes and was, at the time, a popular composition with conductors, very likely because it is an easy peal to remember the calling. Throughout there are double bobs at Middle, Wrong, and Home, except that in the first course one Middle is omitted, in the second two Homes, in the fifth one Middle, and in the last one Home.

On January 3rd, 1803, the elder Gross called the peal at St. Mary-le-Bow. William Stephens and James Marlton rang the two big bells, and the rest of the band consisted of George Gross, his son, Thomas Reeves, William Herbert, James Barnard, John Hints, John Wooding, and Anthony Cavalier.

The performance confirmed Marlton's position as the foremost heavy bell ringer of his generation. He was the first to turn in the famous great bell of Bow to a peal. He had already rung it behind to 5,453 changes of Grandsire Caters, beating Philip Pilgrim's length of 5,111 changes in the same method.

William Shipway extended his system of Place Ringing to eight and nine bells. On September 12th, 1802, he called at St. Mary's, Islington, 5,040 changes of Imperial Place Major, the first, and apparently the only, peal ever rung in the method; and on the following November 20th he called at Shoreditch 5,004 changes of Imperial Place Caters.

The method was an interesting experiment and explored fresh fields, but its actual merits are few, and there is little wonder that the Exercise as a whole did not take it up, and even the Cumberlands dropped it after ringing the first peals.

The younger Gross did not ring in these performances, nor for nearly three years did Shipway ring in any with Gross, except for the long peal of Maximus at Southwark. It seems quite clear that there was jealousy and rivalry between the two men. Both were ambitious of calling peals and Shipway and his friends held regular practices at Islington.

There, two days after Christmas Day, in 1892, he called 6,128 changes of Grandsire Major and claimed it as the most ever rung in that method. The claim was an unfounded one, for nearly ten years earlier, the Birmingham men had scored their 8,000 at Deritend.

George Gross died on May 3rd, 1803, and was buried on May 8th. Since September, 1792, he had been beadle of the Society of Cumberland Youths, and he was an active peal ringer and conductor until the last. Little more than two months before his death, on February 22nd, he conducted 5,024 Treble Bob Major at Shoreditch. His is the most prominent name in the story of the Cumberland Youths, and one of the most prominent in the history of the Exercise, though it is not possible to place him among the greatest ringers of the past.

It is difficult to form an opinion of Gross' character, the evidence is so very scanty; but from a number of small hints I got the impression that he was a man without the benefit of education or of the association with educated persons, that he had great natural abilities, but was domineering and dictatorial in his manner. Such

a man will go far and do much, but his range of vision will necessarily be limited. He will be unlikely to understand the work of other people, and be prone to under-rate it, especially if it comes in competition with his own. And if, as probably was the case with George Gross, his rivals looked on him as their social inferior, that would add to the bitterness. It is perhaps significant that he, almost alone among the leading London ringers, did not subscribe to the 'Clavis.'

His right position among the composers of olden times is one of the unsolved and insoluble problems of history. We know that he produced many peals, and that in his lifetime he enjoyed, at any rate in his own society, the very highest reputation. But how far he had really earned and deserved it is doubtful. When he died the Cumberlands adopted the very unusual device of putting an obituary notice of him in their peal book. It records that he 'had served the Society as their Warner more than twenty years and by his abilities as composer and bob caller had caused the fame of the Society to be extended through these kingdoms. His compositions in the art are held in the highest estimation by all admirers of this exercise, but more especially his productions of Treble bob, in which he surpassed all his contemporaries, and which will ever remain a lasting monument of his skill.'

This is high praise, even when we remember that, as Dr. Johnson said, the writers of obituary notices are not on their oath. In view of what John Reeves had done it was a challenge and a proof of the rivalry between the two men.

On the peal board and in the peal book which record the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, the definite statement is made that the peal was composed and called by George Gross. In the 'Clavis' the figures of the composition are given in such a way that the reader is left in no doubt that the authors of the book claimed them as their own composition.

Here are two directly opposite and irreconcilable claims, and it is difficult to resist the conclusion that there was sharp practice on one side or the other. Either Gross deliberately appropriated Reeves' peal and passed it off as his own, or else Reeves and his colleagues knowingly printed Gross' peal in such a way as to take the credit to themselves.

Of course, it is no unusual thing for two men working in the same method to compose the same peal. It has happened scores of times, it is inevitable under modern conditions, and it was not uncommon in the eighteenth century. But it would put too great a strain on our credulity to ask us to believe that Reeves and Gross both composed this particular peal independently of each other.

And it is true that the standards of the time allowed a man to take another's peal, and having altered it, to call it his own composition. This Christopher Wells did with John Holt's peal of Plain Bob Triples, and we have no reason to suppose that he was not a thoroughly honourable man. Gross did the same with Holt's Ten-part, and it may be that the peal of Royal as Reeves composed it began at a different course end. But there is nothing to induce us to think it was so.

The dispute has long since been decided by the Exercise in favour of Reeves, and almost certainly correctly

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

so. Shipway settled the matter when, in his book, he put Reeves' name to the composition. He was not only a contemporary of Reeves and Gross, but knew them well and the other men who had taken part in the performance. He was in a position to hear and judge the current opinion, and his view should be, and probably is, conclusive.

But his authority on the matter is not quite so strong as at first sight it seems to be. As I have already said, between him and Gross there evidently was little friendship and confidence, and when in the years after the other's death, he sat down to write his 'Campanalogia,' he knew no more of his compositions than what he could learn from the 'Clavis.'

George Gross quite likely was chiefly in Shipway's mind when he referred to those who 'reserved the result of their labours under the idea of possessing peals superior to those of any other person'; and, if so, the result has been that all save one or two are lost. So far from his peals of Treble Bob 'ever remaining a lasting monument of his skill,' not one of them is extant.

The survival of the few of his compositions which do remain is due to their having been printed in the 'Clavis.' That book gives four peals by him, more than by any composer other than the authors. Considering the feeling between Gross and Reeves this might seem a generous gesture on the part of the latter, but we must remember it was William Jones, and not John Reeves, who finally decided what was to be in the book, and the peals by Gross are those for which Reeves had no equivalent.

They consist of a peal of Real Double Bob Major with bobs alternately before and behind, one of Real Double Grandsire Caters, one of Real Double Grandsire Cinques, and a 7,001 of Grandsire Caters. The first is a simple adaptation of Annable's peal, but the others, and especially the 7,001, are excellent productions, and quite good enough to lead us to believe that some at any rate of his lost compositions were original and of more than average merit.

George Gross composed many peals of Bob Major; but, like the Treble Bob, they have disappeared. That is a pity, for some evidently were on interesting plans. One of them had the fifty-nine courses, and if we possessed the figures they would have told us clearly enough whether he was really an original composer or merely an imitator and adapter of John Reeves.

(To be continued.)

A LEGEND OF THE BELLS.

(From 'The Quarterly Review,' June, 1854.)

Of all the instances of the power of bells to touch a sympathetic chord of the heart, the most moving is the tradition told in connection with the peal of Limerick Cathedral.

It is said to have been brought from a convent in Italy, for which it had been manufactured by an enthusiastic native with great labour and skill. The Italian, having afterwards acquired a competency, fixed his home near the convent cliff, and for many years enjoyed the daily chime of his beloved bells.

But in some political convulsion which ensued, the monks were driven from their monastery, the Italian from his home, and the bells were carried away to another land.

After a long interval the course of his wanderings brought him to Limerick. On a calm and beautiful evening, as the vessel which bore him floated, along the broad stream of the Shannon, he suddenly heard the bells peal forth from the cathedral tower. They were the long-lost treasures of his memory. Home, happiness, friends—all early recollections were in their sound. Crossing his arms on his breast, he lay back in the boat. When the rowers looked round they saw his face still turned towards the cathedral—but his eyes had closed for ever on the world.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Three or four prominent and well-known ringers have to be congratulated this week, Mr. Frank Bennett on attaining the unusual honour of great-grandfather, Mr. Edwin Barnett on becoming a grandfather, and Mr. E. A. Barnett on the birth of his first-born. Many ringers will wish Mr. Charles Roberts happiness in his wedded life.

Mr. James George has left Birmingham, and is now living at Hall View, Thorington, Colchester.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reached his sixty-seventh birthday last Monday.

Sixty years ago last Saturday the bells of St. Peter, Mancroft, were reopened after being rehung by George Day, of Eye. The Norwich Scholars had then long passed their great period, and ringing in the city was at a low ebb. A revival, however, was started which had considerable results.

Sixty years ago to-morrow Mr. Robert H. Brundle rang the eleventh at Ipswich to a peal of Grandsire Cinques. Mr. Brundle has not been very well lately, but we are pleased to say he is now much better.

The first peal of Grandsire Cinques in the county of Yorkshire was rung at Leeds on May 1st, 1841.

On May 2nd, 1715, the Norwich Scholars rang 'that most Incomparable Peal call'd Grandsire Bob Triples, being the 3d. whole peal that they have rung, but the first whole Peal that ever was rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever.'

One of the many long peals at Painswick was rung on May 5th, 1817, when the local men accomplished 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters.

The first peal of Buckingham Surprise Major was rung at Wigston Magna on May 6th, 1935.

WEDDING.

MR. C. W. ROBERTS AND MISS G. CHURCH.

A wedding of interest to ringers took place on Easter Monday at Holy Trinity, Waltham Cross, when Mr. Charles W. Roberts, of London, the well-known ringer and composer, was married to Miss Grace Church, of Waltham Abbey, a member of the Ladies' Guild. She is also an organist and has on several occasions played at services of the London District of the Guild.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. R. Edwards, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church. The bride, who was given away by her brother, wore a dress of powder blue marocain with navy blue accessories. The best man was Mr. F. Digby.

At the conclusion of the service and in place of the customary wedding march, a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher. A course of Bob Major was also rung.

The guests were entertained at the bride's home, and touches of Stedman Caters, Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Royal were rung, the bride and bridegroom both taking part.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held on April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Sports Club and Institute, Nuneaton, members and friends were present from Allesley, Birmingham, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Nuneaton, Stoke-in-Coventry and Wolvey.

An excellent tea was enjoyed by all and the business meeting followed, presided over by the Vicar of Nuneaton, the Rev. Marcus Knight, a vice-president of the Guild.

Apologies were received from the president, the Rev. F. W. Moyle, the Ringing Master, Mr. J. H. W. White, Mr. T. W. Chapman, Worcester, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann, Rugby.

The report and balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £16 0s. 7d., were adopted. Three handbell peals had been rung during 1942, two of Stedman Caters and one of Grandsire Doubles.

The officers of the Guild were re-elected en bloc. It was agreed to dispense with the monthly meetings and to hold the next quarterly meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry in July.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. J. B. Fenton, of Rugby, be made an honorary life member of the Guild in recognition of his service since the Guild's inception.

Votes of thanks to the officers of the Guild for their services and to Mr. J. F. Clarke for his kindness in providing a meeting place brought the business to a close.

On handbells, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters and Bob Major were rung with varying success during the evening. Piano selections by Mr. Daft, Miss M. Beamish and Mrs. Beamish were well received. The high light of the evening was the singing of Mr. Alec Gibson (tenor) of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was an excellent voice and his rendering of 'Border Ballad,' 'Macushla,' 'O Mistress Mine,' 'To Daisies' and 'Nancy's Hair' will be long remembered. He was accompanied on the piano by Miss P. Godderidge.

DARTFORD.—At 20, Swaisland Road, on Sunday, April 18th, 720 Bob Minor: J. E. Bailey 1-2, J. L. Millhouse (Lincoln) 3-4, G. H. Cross (conductor) 5-8.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

THE NEW ORDER.

The following is the text of the new order controlling the sounding of church bells, which has been issued by the Ministry of Home Security:—

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

1943 No. 624.

EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE).

CONTROL OF NOISE.

The Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1943, dated April 21, 1943, made by the Minister of Home Security under Regulations 24 (1) and 38 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by Regulations 24 (1) (d) and 38 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, I hereby order as follows:—

1. No person shall, in any area in Great Britain, sound any church bell or cause or permit any church bell to be sounded except for the purpose of summoning persons to public worship on a Sunday, Christmas Day or Good Friday.

2. In this Order the expression 'church bell' includes the bell of any church, chapel or other place of worship ordinarily used or intended for summoning persons to public worship or for any like purpose and any bell ordinarily used or intended for tolling at a cemetery.

3.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1943.

(2) The Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1940, and the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1943, are hereby revoked.

HERBERT MORRISON,
Minister of Home Security.

Whitehall,
21st April, 1943.

It will be seen that between this order and what might otherwise have been inferred from the statements by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, there are some discrepancies. It is important to realise that it is this order which controls the situation, not what people may think is implied by what Mr. Churchill said.

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

'The Manchester Guardian' published a letter from the Rev. Geoffrey G. Willis, of Ilkeston, in which he says: 'You reported the Prime Minister as saying in the House of Commons that the use of church bells as an invasion warning was redundant. But if it is unnecessary for the Government to rely on bells for the purpose, and is considered sufficient to allow any invasion to "leak out," may we not justifiably ask why the ringing of church bells should still be prohibited on weekdays?'

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EPSOM.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, and about 25 members and friends attended from Beddington, Carshalton, Croydon, Epsom, Ewell, Ealing, Leatherhead, Ruislip and Southwark.

Handbells were rung during the afternoon in the church, followed by a service conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. McMullan. Tea, prepared in the Parish Hall by Mrs. Massey, followed. The Vicar presided at the business meeting and one new member was elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ewell on Saturday, July 3rd, if possible.

A hearty welcome was given to Mr. J. Crawford, of Christ Church, Epsom, who has been a member of the association for 51 years, but now unfortunately is blind. He still takes a keen interest in ringing activities. A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his attendance and to Mrs. Massey for the excellent tea concluded the meeting. More handbell ringing followed.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held in St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, when, considering war conditions, there was a good representative gathering from both dioceses.

In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar of Cardiff, the chair was taken by the senior curate, the Rev. F. J. Rees, who opened the proceedings with prayer. The hon. secretary read the names of those members who had passed away during the year, and all stood for a few moments in silence.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Mr. F. Hannington, Master; Mr. J. W. Jones, hon. secretary; Mr. C. Greedy and Mr. W. Phillips, auditors. The statement of accounts for the year was adopted. A review of the year's ringing incidents was given by the hon. secretary.

It was thought that now is a fitting time to resume practice nights and having a few bells tied so as to teach recruits and make good the losses caused by the war and death. It is hoped the suggestion will be adopted. Several new members were elected.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at All Saints', Newport. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the Schoolroom and to the chairman for presiding brought the meeting to an end.

THE BELLS OF NEWCASTLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his interesting account of the bells of St. Nicholas', Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr. Ernest Wallace mentioned a mediæval bell dedicated to St. Michael and bearing a shield charged with a chevron and three 'lave' pots.

This device, illustrated in Fig. 39 of my 'Church Bells of Berkshire', was first used on bells by John Langhorne, the owner of the second and more important mediæval London bell foundry, whose business career extended from 1379 to 1406. The arms are those of the Underhill family, and their connection with John Langhorne is puzzling.

Langhorne's bells fall into two main groups: (1) Bells bearing the cross, Berks, Fig. 84, the wheel-top, Berks, Fig. 85, and an inscription in capitals similar to those illustrated in Berks, Fig. 80. (2) Bells with the cross, Berks, Fig. 84, the 'laver' shield, Berks, Fig. 39, and an inscription in mixed Gothic lettering, of which the capitals are the same as in group (1). Connecting groups (1) and (2) are bells which bear the 'laver' shield in addition to the marks described for group (1).

The laver shield, Berks, Fig. 39, was subsequently used by William Dawe and his successors.

A careful examination of the lettering and other marks on the Newcastle bell would reveal its authorship, and if Mr. Wallace would care to send me a rubbing I would gladly give him my opinion in the matter.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

TRAGIC DEATH IN BELFRY.

On Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, Mr. G. R. Jones was calling a touch of Grandsire Triples when he collapsed and died. He was about 60 years old and had formerly held the office of churchwarden.

LETTER FROM MR. A. P. CANNON

We have received an airgraph letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who is now in India. He says he has just received 'The Ringing World' containing the accounts of the Victory and Christmas ringing. 'It is really cheering to read of bands getting together in so many towers and to see the old names again. Let us hope the ban will soon be lifted for good.'

Mr. Cannon says he has always been on the look out for ringers and has met five—Philip Morris, of Kildown, Fred G. Jeffs, of Leighton Buzzard, Owen Giles, of St. Clement's, Hastings, Kenneth Pardoe, of Stourbridge, and Fred Pullen, of St. Giles', Oxford. He has had also news of Harold Smith, of Melksham, Wilts, and John Rodmell, of North Stoneham, though he has not actually met them.

Mr. Cannon refers to the letters about central towers where ringing is done from the church, and mentions nine he has rung at. He adds, 'I believe the lightest ring of five bells to be Foote Cray in Kent, tenor 3½ cwt. I called a peal of Doubles there in 1935. Does anyone know of a heavier peal of five than Felmersham, Beds, tenor 26 cwt.?'

He says that reading 'The Ringing World' cheers one up and takes one's memories back to the good old days, and he wishes all the very best to everyone and hopes they will keep the flag flying.

STOKE WAKE, DORSET.—At Ridouts on Easter Monday in 40 minutes, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Pte. W. G. Young 1-2, E. T. P. Field (conductor) 3-4, W. E. Trevett 5-6. Specially arranged and rung for Pte. W. G. Young, who was on leave.

TOWERS AND SPIRES.

By ERNEST MORRIS, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S.

As we have already seen, there are a number of English churches with leaning towers and spires, but very little is known of churches which possess both tower and spire separately. Indeed, they are not numerous. Perhaps the most interesting and best known is that of Ormskirk, Lancashire, where it is said that the church was built by two sisters, daughters of Orme, a famous pirate, who, failing to agree over the question of tower and spire, built both. A very happy way of ending the dispute—the one of compromise:—

'Sister,' said one, 'tis my desire
The church should have a tapering spire,
To point to realms where sin's forgiven,
And lead men's thoughts from earth to Heaven.'

The other wanted a tower and so—

The other said, 'I like a tower
It speaks of strength, of might, of power—
An emblem of the church's strength
To overcome the world at length;
To show that 'gainst the church though frail,
The gates of Hell shall not prevail.'

The outcome of this dispute was that they made 'Orme's Kirk' unique by erecting a massive tower 84 feet high and 37 feet square, and also a low octagonal tower with a graceful spire reaching about 25 feet above the other tower. The tower contains a ring of eight bells, tenor 25 cwt. As early as the 1552 returns, we read that there were 'fyve bells and iij sacring bells' here, and up to 1679 five bells are alluded to. In 1714 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th were recast into five by Abraham Rudhall, and the 4th (the present tenor) became the sixth or tenor. This ring of six continued until 1774, when two trebles were added by Thomas Rudhall and the present 7th, 'having been cracked and lying idle on the floor,' was recast.

The tenor is an interesting casting and, with exception of initials R.B. and the date, 1497, and fylfot ornament immediately following, all the letters of the inscription (which states that it was cast in honour of the Trinity) are on separate pateræ, and are probably taken from the original bell of 1497 at its recasting in 1576. The initials R.B. are probably those of the founder in 1576, the same occurring at Warton, near Carnforth, in 1574, and Warburton, Cheshire, in 1575.

These rules, dated 1775, are on a board in the ringing chamber:—

'Ye ringers all, observe these Orders well,
He pays his Sixpence that o'erturns a Bell.
He that doth ring in either Spur or Hat,
Must pay his Sixpence for his fault in that.
He that in Ringing doth disturb a Peal
Must pay his Twelvepence or his gun of Ale
He that doth Swear or doth begin a Fight
Must pay Twelvepence e'er he goes out of Sight.
These Laws are Old, they are not New,
That Bells and Ringers both may have their due.'

In the smaller spire steeple at the west end of the south aisle there is a Priest's Bell (17 inches diameter), dated 1716, and came from the Wigan foundry of Ralph Ashton.

Llandaff is the only cathedral with both a tower and spire separately, and these are both at the west end. The

tower is called 'the Jasper Tower' because it was erected at the order of Jasper, uncle of Henry VIII., and it has a ring of ten bells. The tower with spire is modern, having been erected about 1870.

There is evidence that a church existed here prior to 521 A.D., though no trace of it can now be found. Tradition gives its length as 28 ft. long, 15 ft. wide, and 20 ft. high. It was apparently rebuilt in the 12th and 13th centuries, being finally consecrated in 1296. It had a chequered career and, according to local report, has had within its walls an alehouse, a stable, and a post office. It certainly fell into decay and in 1723 about 50 feet of the roof of the nave fell in. The western tower had previously fallen. The ruins of the nave remained until 1851. Restoration commenced in 1856 and part of the nave opened for choral services which had discontinued since 1691.

Llandaff now possesses a fine ring of ten with a tenor 22 cwt. The latter is dated 1782 and is by Thomas Rudhall, of Gloucester, and Mr. A. Wright, of Lewis School, Pengam, Cardiff—an authority on bells—says, 'it bears a long Latin inscription in small neat Roman lettering and a distinctive band of ornamentation under.' To this bell Messrs. Mears and Stainbank added seven more in 1879, while in 1919 two further trebles were added through the generosity of Mr. J. T. Duncan. The cost of rehanging the old octave was also defrayed by the same gentleman, who was a great benefactor to the Cathedral.

The Dean writes: 'January 2nd, 1941, will be remembered for many years as the day on which an enemy bomb fell in the old churchyard about twenty yards from the south aisle of the Cathedral. It caused widespread and serious destruction to the church as well as to houses and other buildings in Llandaff. It hurled great grave-stones on to the green: the heavy oak roofs over the south nave aisle, the south side of the nave and the Chapter House crashed down; both towers have had steeple-jacks busy taking down dangerous pinnacles, etc., and shortening the spire by 32 feet.' In spite of all this, the bells in the Jasper tower were able to broadcast to the world of the great victory in Egypt in November, 1942.

Two small Wiltshire churches share the same distinction of having both a tower and a tower with spire, viz.: St. Andrew's, Wanborough, which has a western tower with pinnacles containing a ring of five bells, and a tower with spire quite separate. Purton St. Mary has a central tower and spire rising from the intersection of the chancel and nave, and an embattled western tower containing six bells.

Of Wanborough bells the treble is dated 1730 and cast by John Corr, the second by A. Rudhall 1706, third and tenor by William Purdue 1662, and fourth by William and Roger Purdue 1664. There is also a Sanctus bell by R. Wells, of Aldbourne, dated 1783. Purton bells (six) have a tenor of 20 cwt. 14 lb. in C sharp, the ring having been increased from five by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1924. The 4th bell is the only one in this county (Wiltshire) by Joseph Carter, of Reading. It bears the coat-of-arms of Chertsey Abbey derived from earlier foundry and is inscribed: 'This bell was made in the yeare of our Lord 1598 I X C.' There is also a Sanctus bearing 'come away make no delay 1760.'

(Continued on next page.)

TOWERS AND SPIRES.

(Continued from previous page.)

The church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs at Cambridge has a central tower and also a separate tower and spire, but the church of St. Andrew, Rugby, has the still more unique feature—it has two separate and complete rings of bells, being the only church so blessed. Several of our cathedrals have bells in more towers than one, but none have two complete rings. At Rugby the old church had a low tower with a ring of 5 bells all of the date 1711 and cast by Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, and these are in perfect ringing order, the tenor being 9 cwt. 19 lbs. in G. On the enlargement of the church, a new tower and spire were erected, and a grand ring of eight with a tenor 24 cwt. 3 qrs. 8 lbs. in D installed by Mears and Stainbank in 1895. The writer had the honour and privilege of ringing in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on these bells and can testify to their grand tone.

Rugby is also unique in the fact that as well as the parish church having both tower and spire separate, the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary also has both. In the tower with spire there is a very fine set of eight bells hung for chiming only—tenor 15 cwt.—but the old tower has no bells.

Scotland and Ireland both have similar examples. The former at Dunfermline, Fifeshire, where the New Abbey Church built in 1821 on the site of the old Abbey, has a large central tower, while it also retains the tower and spire of the old Abbey. The latter has an example in the church of St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus, seaport town of Antrim, where there is a tower with a ring of eight bells, tenor 14 cwt., and at the other end of the church is a tower and spire.

At Ottery St. Mary, Devon, the church has two towers which form the north and south transepts, being the only church in England possessing such a feature. Exeter Cathedral has two towers in similar position, but Ottery differs by having a lead spire on the north tower, at the apex of which is the famous whistling weathercock. The tower is now vacant, but prior to 1645, when Cromwell was at Ottery, it contained four bells which were taken together with the lead from the roof, and other ornaments. The apertures where the bell ropes used to pass through the vaulting are still there, carved in the form of lions' heads with the ropes passing through the mouth, one of which has a groove about an inch deep worn in the stone by the rope. The south tower contains a clock and eight bells, and the ringing is done from the ground floor among the pews in full sight of the congregation. Six of the eight ropes come down along the east and south sides of the transept, and the other two—7th and tenor—actually fall among the seats of the transept. They are somewhat difficult to handle on account of the long draught of rope.

SPLICED SURPRISE.**PEALS OF LONDON AND BRISTOL MAJOR.**

By JOSEPH W. PARKER.

In endeavouring to discover a peal of London and Bristol Surprise Major with the tenors together, and containing all seven leads of each, certain conclusions seem forced upon us.

First, peals will contain few, if any, more than nine leads of London, the remainder being Bristol. Although proof of this is not possible, it is clear that no one course of London, standing alone and in its entirety, can be incorporated within a round block of Bristol. This is due to the falseness between the two methods within the courses joined by the Q sets. To unite them it is necessary to have two additional leads of London, such as the 7th lead of 34256, and the first lead of 42356, joined to the plain course at the beginning and the end by bobs H. It will be understood that, the sixty course-ends being on a regular plan, what may be said of 23456, is true of all other courses. These nine leads leave sufficient courses and leads of Bristol to unite with them to produce peals, an example of which is enclosed.

Such cannot be considered satisfactory as spliced peals, and it is questionable whether they are worth ringing. However, it seems the only possible way, for with two courses of London, or the equivalent, the remaining true courses and leads of Bristol cannot be united to give 5,000 changes. Neither can a peal be found with the fewer number of rows in the Bristol method, for, with one course of Bristol, the available courses and leads of London—owing to its internal falseness—will not give a peal.

Assuming the foregoing conclusions to be correct, then, if the changes of each method can be equalised, the tenors will be parted, and In and fifths seems a likely plan. However, owing to the falseness of Bristol against the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th leads of London, very few changes of Bristol can be included, and results are no better than with the tenors together.

The only plan which gives an improved result is to make use of courses with bobs In, Out and 5ths twice, with the methods LBLBLL. A peal found by using these courses is also enclosed. This has three full courses of Bristol, with tenors together, and, in a shortened form, almost one third of the whole in that method. Most of the remainder (London) has the tenors together.

I have investigated other lines, but none seem to promise any better result than the two sent herewith. I cannot give a proof, but it appears that no peal exists in the two methods only, under the conditions named, with an approximately equal number of changes of each.

(Continued on page 199.)

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HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.**A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.**

(Continued from page 184.)

On ascending the Westminster Abbey tower with notebook and candle, after being told that the bells were all rather modern, I was agreeably surprised to find at least one or two interesting specimens. There are in all seven bells. Each is rung by a rope and wheel, and has a clapper inside and, in addition to this, each is acted upon by an external hammer worked by the striking apparatus of the clock.

They are, as a rule, in quite as good a condition as the Belgian bells of an equal age. The largest bears this inscription:—'Remember John Whitmell, Isabel his wife, and William Rus, who first gave this bell 1430. New cast in July, 1599, and in April, 1738. Richard Phelps, T. Lester fecit.'

The oldest bell, somewhat smaller, dates from 1583. The next oldest is the second largest bell, date 1598. It bears an inscription, 'Timpanis patrem laudate sonantibus altum. Gabriel Goodman Decanus 1598.' Gabriel Goodman was dean 1561 to 1601.

A smaller bell bears this inscription, 'Thomas Lester, London, made me, and with the rest I will agree, Seventeen hundred and forty-three.' Another small bell by T. Lester bears the same date, whilst the smallest of all, hung at an almost inaccessible height, is by Richard Lester in 1738. One bell bears no date. It is inscribed, '+ Christe: audi: nos.'

The Rev. Mr. Ellacombe, of Clyst St. George, a well-known writer on bells, has been good enough to send me an extract from 'Notes and Queries' by Mr. Thomas Walesby, giving a more accurate and detailed account of the Westminster bells than I obtained on my first visit to the tower.

The Westminster bells fail to inspire us with much interest. They are the products of manufacture, not works of art. Unlike almost all the Belgian bells, they are, one + excepted, without symbols or ornamentation of any kind. There has been no labour of love thrown away upon them—not a spray or a branch relieves the monotony of the metal surface. Not even a monogram, or an ecclesiastical coat-of-arms, is bestowed upon any of them. The Latin, like a great deal of bell Latin already quoted, is very bad: the spelling is equally indifferent. The type is poor and devoid of fancy, and the wax in which the letters were originally moulded has been so carelessly laid on that the tops of T's are often twisted down upon the letter, and the dots of the full stops have got displaced. It is interesting to notice that all the dates, even the earliest, 1583, are in the Arabic, and not, as we should naturally expect, in the Roman numerals.

(To be continued.)

EASTER RINGING.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—720 of London Surprise Minor: C. J. Chalwin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, Flight-Lieut. L. Betts 3, L. Haddon 4, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 5, W. Edwards tenor. For evening service, touches of Cambridge Surprise and London Surprise.

CHESHUNT.—Rounds and Grandsire Doubles: T. Chadwick, H. Tulley, E. Pickett, W. Newnham, A. J. House, J. Springlett.

COWLINGE.—For evening service, Grandsire Doubles: S. Coote, J. H. Savage, H. J. Stubbings, C. Gooch, S. Pledger and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

HAVERHILL.—Rounds, call changes and Bob Minor: H. Backler, Miss M. C. Backler, F. Morley, N. Nunn, F. H. Making, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

HELMINGHAM.—Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman Triples. **LICHFIELD.**—At the Cathedral, before evensong, handbells were rung from the choir screen by five of the Cathedral by choristers.

LITTLE MUNDEN.—720 Oxford Delight Minor: W. Williams, A. Woolston, B. Patmore, A. Phillips, E. Overall, S. Carter.

LYNSTON, SUSSEX.—Call changes and Grandsire Doubles: A. Elliott, W. Aylmore, H. Hunt, G. Snow, J. Nedley, G. Lee, T. Wells.

NORTON, STAFFS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor and 720 London Surprise Minor: J. F. Ryles, W. C. Lawrence, G. E. Lawrence, J. E. Wheelodon, J. Walley, W. P. Deane, F. Triner, W. C. Corfield and S. C. Bailey. Conducted by J. E. Wheelodon.

OVER, CAMBS.—1,200 Bob Major: B. Norman, M. Ginn, D. Adams, R. Smith, A. W. T. Ginn, F. G. Gleaves, A. J. Ginn, F. Warrington (conductor).

SAFFRON WALDEN.—Four courses of Stedman Caters: F. J. Pitstow, A. E. Pitstow, Mrs. F. W. Housdon, F. W. Housdon, G. Sparrow, F. Depch (conductor), R. A. Strong, L. E. Pitstow, A. L. Simmonds, W. Parish. Also touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples for evening service.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith, D. Adams, A. W. T. Ginn, F. G. Gleaves, M. Ginn, F. Warrington (conductor). Also 720 Bob Minor: B. Norman, D. Adams, A. W. T. Ginn, R. Smith, F. Warrington (conductor), M. Ginn.

USK, MON.—434 and 756 Grandsire Triples: C. Cooper, R.N., L. Jones, E. W. Luff, E. Perry, A. Hawkins, S. Kear, R.A.F., D. G. Clift (conductor), E. Bowyer.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—Plain Bob, rounds and Queens: Miss L. Wickens, H. S. Wickens, Gunner T. Fox (Stepney), W. J. Lancefield, M. Lancefield, T. Mogg, A. Johnson, R. Newton, M. Gillham, J. Ireland and E. S. Ruck.

DEATH OF MR. PHILIP HODGKIN.

The death is announced of Mr. Philip Hodgkin, who passed away on Saturday, April 24th, in his 80th year.

Mr. Hodgkin was a foundation member of the Kent County Association, and during 52 of his 66 years as a ringer he was a member of the Headcorn band. He had taken part in 66 peals, the last being at Headcorn in 1939. In his prime he was a very powerful man and usually rang at the back end. One of his best performances was to turn in the tenor at Tenterden to Major when it was going very badly.

For many years Mr. Hodgkin was employed on the Southern Railway as a ganger, only retiring when he reached the age limit, after which he worked for Messrs. Cashford and Son, builders, at Headcorn, until a short while ago. He was a widower and leaves two sons and one daughter.

The funeral service was on April 27th and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. G. Bryant.

DEATH OF TWO OLDHAM RINGERS.

The Parish Church band at Oldham has sustained a loss by the death of two of the oldest members.

Mr. Mills Newton, who was 73 years of age, died on March 7th. He had been a ringer for 50 years and had rung three peals.

Mr. Charles Hadfield Marsland was 71 years of age. He had come to Oldham from Mottram 30 years ago. He took part in about 80 peals, including 16,800 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Mottram, in 1906. He then longest length in the method.

RUISLIP.—On Sunday, April 11th, at 46, Acacia Avenue, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 40 minutes: *George N. Kilby 1-2, *Frederick W. Goodfellow 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner (conductor) 5-6, *Thomas Bannister 7-8. * First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (silent) available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.45, with address by Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn, B.A. (Vicar). At 5.30 cups of tea will be provided; please bring own sandwiches. Handbells available.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual general meeting on Saturday, May 8th, in the ringing chamber of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, at 3.30 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Belfry available for use from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow.—A. G. Hill, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton on Saturday, May 15th. Tower bells (silent) from 3 p.m., also handbells. Meeting at 6 p.m. Please bring your own food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Meeting at Hallow on Saturday, May 15th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, May 15th. Service in church 4.30. Tea will be arranged if possible.—T. Saunders, Hon. Djs. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Warkton on Saturday, May 15th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Church bells (silent) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a charge of 1s. 4d., at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. To ensure getting tea, please send names to me by Monday, May 10th.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, May 15th. Handbells, 2.30 p.m., at The Three Houses Inn. Tea

4.45 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, near Wakefield, not later than May 12th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Long Ashton on Saturday, May 15th. Bells (silent apparatus) from 3 o'clock. Tea and light refreshments 4.30.—Percy G. Yeo, Local Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting at Wokingham on Saturday, May 15th. Service at All Saints' Church 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at All Saints' Rectory. Handbell ringing in tower from 3.30. Please notify for tea by May 11th.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfield Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 15th. The Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells provided; also cups of tea. A short service at 5.30.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon on Saturday, May 22nd. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards. Numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, May 19th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Cup of tea for those who notify me by Tuesday, 18th. Bring your own food and sugar.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Halstead on Saturday, May 22nd. Handbells from 2.30 in church. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the school. Please bring own food.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to be sent to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2 (Tel. Hampstead 4510) by previous Thursday.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Malins Lee, Saturday, May 29th, 3 p.m. Silent tower bells, handbells and service. Tea will be provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, PUTNEY.—Ringing every Sunday at 10.15. All ringers heartily welcomed.—W. T. Elson.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.—Ringing every Sunday. Meet 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. All ringers heartily welcomed.—William Saunders.

HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Ringing at All Saints' Church every Sunday evening, 5.30-6.30 p.m. Visitors cordially welcome.—Geo. Ditton.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. W. Rogers, Hon. Sec., Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, is now 212 Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

BIRTH.

BARNETT.—On April 28th, 1943, at Marchwood House, Roffey, Horsham, to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Barnett, a daughter.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

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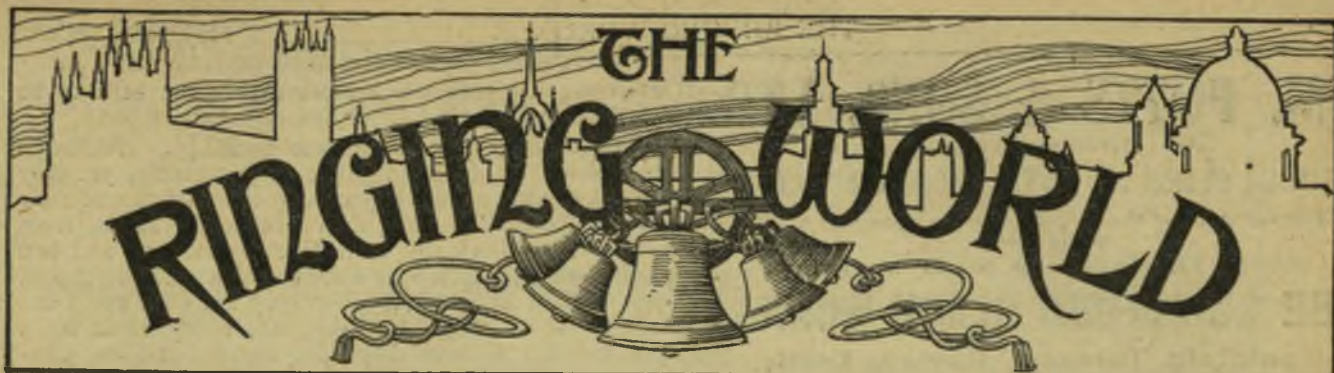
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FRIDAY, MAY 14th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE ESSENTIAL THING.

There has been abundant evidence during the last few weeks that the partial lifting of the ban on the use of church bells has failed to satisfy a considerable amount of public opinion, and it is not at all unlikely that efforts will be made to secure a complete removal of the restrictions. Ringers would welcome any such effort and they would be delighted if they were once again allowed to hold practices and to ring at association meetings. But it is advisable not to expect too much and to make the most of the concession already granted. Anything like an attempted agitation on our part would be a mistake, for it would have small chances of success, and would lay us open to the taunt that we were seeking only our own selfish pleasure.

The present position is an illogical one, and it is no wonder that people are asking the question—If the ban on ringing was imposed because the bells were needed as warnings in the event of invasion, and if, as Mr. Churchill said, the significance of invasion no longer attaches to ringing, what justification can there be for any restriction at all? The question seems to be unanswerable. The semi-official reason, that ringing at times when the public was not expecting it would cause misunderstanding, will carry weight with no one. Nor do we think there is anything more in the suggestion made by 'The Church Times' that 'the authorities are properly anxious to cause as little disturbance as possible to the well-earned sleep of workers on night shifts.' The real explanation probably lies in the way the bureaucratic mind works in such matters, and to some extent in the fact that it was thought necessary from the start of the war to keep a strict control over all noises, however made.

We must accept the situation as it is, and we shall be most foolish and shortsighted if we do not realise its limitations as well as its possibilities. We may only ring for church services and that means we must still put aside many things which we should like to do and which we are sorely tempted to do. The one essential thing is that the ringing should be good. Striking is the one thing which matters, and the desire to ring the more advanced methods should be resisted until the general public is again familiarised with frequent ringing, and opportunities for practice are again available.

Let us never forget that we are on our trial. When 'The Times' said that badly rung bells would be a 'mixed blessing' it was saying what the general public

(Continued on page 210.)

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(including that part which most desires the bells to be heard) strongly feels.

Ringers suffer from one great disability. Although they are among the most public of performers, yet they realise less than almost any others the publicity of their performances. The same men who would shrink from making an exhibition of themselves by slovenly and bad handbell ringing before an audience of a score or two in a parish hall, little think, when they are shut up in the seclusion of a belfry, that they are being heard by a whole parish. And not only being heard, but being criticised and judged.

It cannot be insisted on too much and too often that the one essential is good striking. It is essential now in these days if we are to retain the support of the public, and it is essential always, for method ringing, however advanced, unless it is based on good striking, is only a fraud and a sham.

If the restriction of ringing to Sunday services during this time of transition leads ringers to pay more attention to the outside effect, it will be by no means an unmixed evil.

HANDBELL PEALS.

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On Saturday, May 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
 AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5087 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

GEORGE F. SWANN ... 1-2 | ALBERT WALKER ... 5-6
 FRANK E. PERVIN ... 3-4 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7-8
 *HENRY H. FEARN ... 9-10

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* First peal on handbells and first attempt. First peal of Stedman on an inside pair by G. E. Fearn. 100th peal for the Guild by F. E. Pervin.

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Tenor size 12 in F.

* HAROLD E. BROWN ... 1-2 | W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 3-4
 * WILLIAM M. GREENAWAY 5-6

Conducted by W. B. KYNASTON.

* First peal on handbells. The ringer of 5-6 is 71 years old.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for publishing the article on Spliced London and Bristol Surprise Major. Unfortunately the three-part peal which accompanied it has been very much jumbled. It may be my fault, but as it appears with ten callings and course-ends instead of nine, the only remedy is to republish it, if you will be so good. The correct figures are herewith.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

5,664 SPLICED LONDON AND BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR.

23456	—	In	Out	5th's	W	H	
42356	—	—	—	2	—	—	1 lead of B
54263	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBL
63425	—	—	—	—	—	—	LLBLBL
53462	4th's	—	—	—	—	—	4LB4L
46325	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBL
62453	—	Out 4th's	—	—	—	—	LLBB4L
25634	—	—	—	—	—	—	6L
53246	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBL
23645	—	—	—	—	—	—	L6B

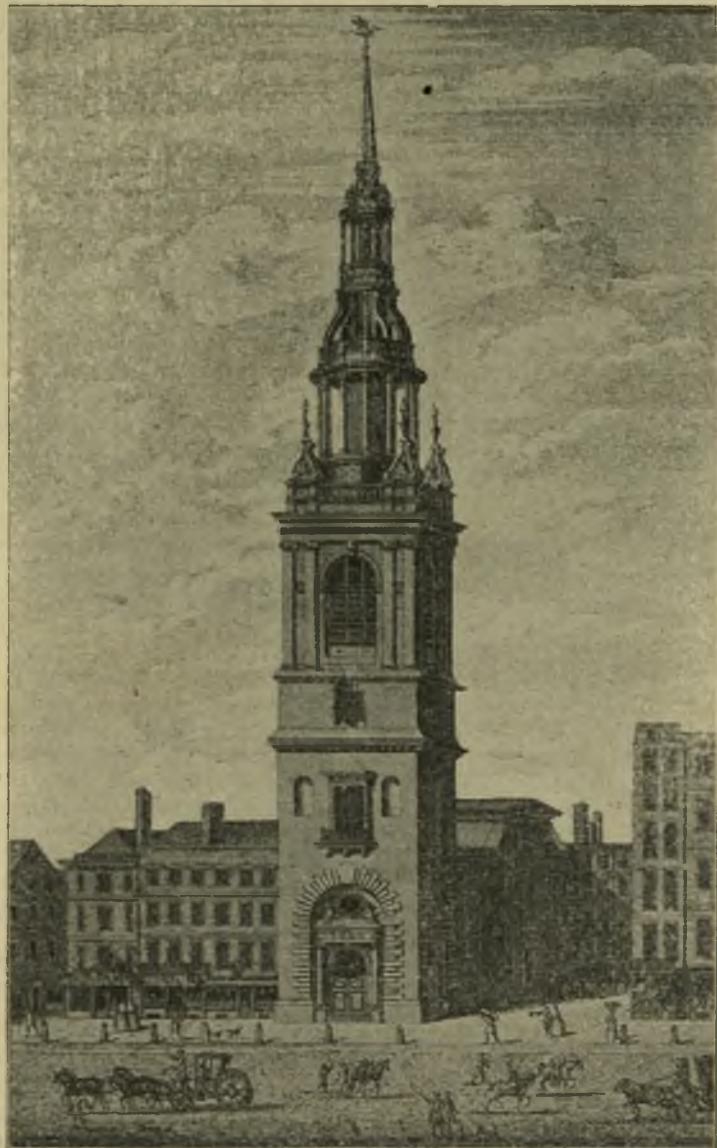
Twice repeated.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 201.)

THE YOUNGER GEORGE GROSS.

In 1801 two trebles were added to the ring of ten at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and that gave the Cumberland Youths a twelve bell tower to practise in, but it was some time before they gained access to the belfry.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The bells were now in the charge of Charles Purser, who was the landlord of the Ben Jonson tavern, in Booth Street, near the church. For several years his name had been absent from the ringing records of the Metropolis, apparently because he had been living in the West of England. In 1783 he called a peal of Grandsire Triples at Almondsbury in Gloucestershire, with a band belonging to the Bristol Society. Earlier in the year he had rung the treble to the College Youths' Cambridge Surprise Major at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, and during the following eight years his name does not appear in

any performance by a London company. He was not among the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' William Williams rang the sixth at Almondsbury. He shortly afterwards went to London, where, in due course, he made a name as one of the best ringers in the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths.

In the course of a long and varied ringing career, Charles Purser had played many parts. He had joined and left every one of the leading companies. At one time he was almost the foremost man in the London Exercise. At another he stood outside all the societies. He led the College Youths in the earlier stages of the long peal contest, and he went backwards and forwards between them and the Cumberlands as suited his purposes. Such a man was sure to have made rivals and enemies, and it is more than likely that the elder George Gross was one of them. For twenty years the Cumberlands had rung every recorded peal in Christ Church steeple, but during the years that Gross was beadle of the society, and Purser was steeple-keeper at Spitalfields, they rang only one.

Gross died in 1803, and on March 5th, in the following year, the Cumberlands rang the first peal on the twelve. It was one of Grandsire Cinques, 5,170 changes, and was conducted by the younger George Gross, who had succeeded his father in the office of beadle. He rang the treble, and the others were Anthony Cavalier, Peter Jones, James Nash, William Beard, Thomas Reeves, James Barnard, William Richardson, James Stickbury, Malachi Channon, John Hints, and William McDonald.

Five weeks later, on Spitalfields bells, the society repeated the great performance they had achieved two years before at Southwark, and again rang Reeves' nine course peal of Maximus containing 7,104 changes. Marlton was once more the tenor man, and Stephens at the eleventh. Gross conducted, and Shipway rang the fifth. The time taken was ten minutes longer than at St. Saviour's.

In the same year the Cumberlands rang two other peals, one of them 5,024 changes of Treble Bob Major at Chelmsford, where George Gross acted as composer and conductor; the other, 5,039 changes of Grandsire Caters, at Shoreditch. It will be remembered that when, after the upheaval of 1787 John Reeves joined the Cumberlands, he called for them a peal of Stedman Caters, the second achieved in the Principle, and though they rang no more five-thousands, we may assume that so long as he was beadle the society practised the method. The College Youths rang peals of Stedman Cinques in 1788 and 1792, and John Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands rang Stedman Caters in 1797, and Stedman Triples in 1799. But after the elder Gross had returned to his old office of beadle, the senior Cumberlands appear to have neglected the method. Gross did not ring in the 1787 peal (though his son did) and it is likely he despised and discouraged a method which was so closely associated with his rival, John Reeves. As long as he was beadle the Cumberlands rang no peals of Stedman, but his death made a great difference. The younger Gross, who became leader, had taken part in the early peal, and since had studied the composition of the method.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The society again began to practise Stedman Caters seriously, and on February 26th, 1805, after an unsuccessful attempt which they lost through the breaking of the clapper of the sixth bell when over 5,500 changes had been rung, they scored at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, a peal of 6,129 changes, in four hours and twelve minutes. This took its place as the longest in the method, beating the 6,003 rung by Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands in 1797.

George Gross called from the treble and the band was made up of the most skilful ringers then belonging to the company—William Shipway, Samuel Cowling, William Beard, James Stichbury, Peter Jones, William Richardson, John Hints, Anthony Cavalier, and Philip Pilgrim. Pilgrim, apparently, had broken with the College Youths, and since 1801 he had been out of their peal band.

The composition was by Gross, and was on the five-part plan, with the big bells in the tittums and the treble fixed in second's place at the course ends. This style of peal had lately been introduced by Noonan, and was generally adopted by composers during the following hundred years.

John Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands had a band fully capable of ringing Stedman Caters, but they did not attempt to regain the record they had lost, and the Cumberlands' peal remained unbeaten for nearly forty years. Instead, the two societies started a rivalry in Stedman Cinques, which culminated in a regular match at Spitalfields lasting for six weeks. Every Monday the junior society attempted a peal, and every Saturday the senior. On December 13th, 1806, the seniors rang over 5,500 changes and got out—curiously enough the same length they had rung in their failure for Caters. On the following Monday, the juniors rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells, 5,086 changes in three hours and fifty-nine minutes. Noonan rang the treble and conducted; and the band was made up of Thomas Humphrey, William Williams, William Troup, Joseph Ladley, Richard Jagers, William Mackee, Robert Bates, Samuel Garratt, James Blacklock, Thomas Oven-den, and William Fletcher. The figures of the peal have not survived, but there is no doubt that it was on a similar plan to the Caters.

On the following Saturday, December 20th, 1806, the 'old' Cumberlands were also successful. They rang a peal of 6,334 changes in four hours and fifty-five minutes.

The band was, George Gross the conductor, James Purser, James Nash, Peter Jones, James Stichbury, Edward Bartell, William Shipway, John Hints, Thomas Freeth, Anthony Cavalier, William Stephens, and Philip Pilgrim. James Purser, after some years with the College Youths, had come back to his old society, and Edward Bartell had also come back. He was now the steeplekeeper at Shoreditch, having succeeded Charles Purser, who died in 1805.

As the Cumberlands' peal was 130 changes longer than the one the College Youths rang in 1788, it was the longest so far in the method, and the society for some years held the double record for Stedman Caters and Cinques, conjointly with the double record for Treble Ten and Treble Twelve. They lost it in 1820 when

Thomas Thurstans called a peal of 6,600 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham for the St. Martin's Youths.

The early days of the nineteenth century were a time of considerable activity in bell founding, and Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel, supplied several rings to churches in the metropolitan area, and augmented or restored several rings already existing. In 1807 he recast the heavy octave at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, into the present ring of ten, and the first peal on them was one of Grandsire Caters by the Junior Cumberlands on March 8th. Noonan conducted and James Marlton rang the tenor.

The next day the senior Cumberlands rang 5,075 changes in the same method, and four days later 5,080 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. George Gross, who rang the treble, was the composer and conductor and the rest of the band were James Purser, Peter Jones, James Nash, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, John Hints, James Stichbury, Anthony Cavalier, and Stephens.

On the following February 24th, the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,200 changes of Treble Ten composed and conducted by Noonan. The peal book claims it as the first peal in the method on the bells; but, owing to the very haphazard way in which the book was written, it need not be taken as an assertion that Gross' peal was false in composition or execution.

When George Gross succeeded to his father's post of beadle he inherited much of his prestige and influence, though there were men like Hints and Shipway, who were inclined to resent and resist his assumption of authority. For some years he managed not only to maintain the society's reputation, but through his peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques to add to it. The Cumberlands were reaping the reward of their less exclusive spirit; for while the College Youths were ceasing to ring peals because the older men's ambition was sated and there were no younger men to take their places when they dropped out of the peal band, the rival company still included many active and skilful ringers.

In 1805 the society promoted a scheme for increasing the ring at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, to twelve, and the necessary money was subscribed or collected. The amount had to be raised twice, because the man appointed as treasurer absconded with the first subscriptions.

Permission to install the new bells was granted by the vestry on October 29th, 1805, and the casting was done at Whitechapel. It would seem that at first they were not a success, for they were recast in 1823.

The new bells were hung in November, 1807, and on the last day of the month the opening peal was accomplished, 5,390 changes of Grandsire Cinques, composed and conducted by George Gross, who rang the treble. The other ringers were William Shipway, James Nash, James Stichbury, Anthony Cavalier, Peter Jones, John Hints, William Stephens, Thomas Freeth, James Purser, Philip Pilgrim and James Marlton.

On the following March 8th the Cumberland Youths scored a notable peal when they rang 5,094 changes of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow. Gross was again composer and conductor, and the band was made up by Shipway, Nash, Jagers, Stichbury, Hints, Freeth, Cavalier, Stephens, and Pilgrim. It was the first in the method on the bells.

(To be continued.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held in Norwich on Saturday, May 1st, and was very successful. Nearly 50 ringers were present from Mulbarton, Bergh Apton, Norwich (Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Aylmerton, Long Stratton, Stradbroke, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, King's Lynn, Wymondham, Redenhall, Aylsham, Buxton, Palgrave, Ealing, Enfield, Shelfanger, Winfarthing and Diss.

As Mancroft bells cannot be rung on weekdays, it was thought most appropriate to hold the service in the Cathedral, at which, in addition to the usual beautiful music, a special hymn and psalm were sung and the association prayers used.

The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of the Cathedral and general secretary of the association, preached, and took the opportunity of enlightening the general congregation with regard to some of the elementary facts known to ringers, but less well known than they should be to the majority of church people. A most popular innovation was the ringing of handbells in the triforium of the Cathedral before the service.

After tea, in the Cathedral Cafe, the business meeting was held. A most warm welcome was given to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, who, to the general pleasure, are hoping to come and live in the diocese soon; and to Mr. J. A. Trollope, one of the oldest members of the association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Diss on June 19th, subject to the usual conditions. Two new members were elected. It was a great pleasure to elect Mrs. Fletcher a member, and to convert Mr. Fletcher from a non-resident into a resident member.

All the officers of the association were re-elected. After discussion it was agreed to try to issue a single sheet report and balance sheet, of correct size to bind up with previous annual reports. It was agreed that the general secretary should receive his honorarium for a change; he replied that he did not see why he should do this, as it would mean half of it going in income tax. Instead, with the consent of the members, he would put a small sum to defray part of the cost of making it possible to chime his ring of three at St. George Colegate. He is on the look out for another three, perhaps from a blitzed church, to add to these, to make a handy six on which to teach learners.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Dean for the service at the Cathedral, the preacher, Mr. C. Bird for tying the clappers at St. Giles', Mr. Tooke for arranging the handbell ringing at the Cathedral, and Mr. Harrison for bringing the handbells from Diss.

Before the service and after the meeting the general secretary conducted parties of ringers up the grand and interesting Norman tower of the Cathedral.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher, took the chair at the annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association, held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. An apology was received from the Vicar of Brighton, who had promised to address the meeting, but was kept away by illness. Apologies were also read from Mr. J. Downing, acting secretary of the Eastern Division, Mr. W. Stenning, late of Hurstpierpoint, and Mr. G. Wiggins, of Ringmer.

The Master's report for the year and the accounts, which showed a satisfactory balance, were passed. The peal secretary reported the ringing of nine handbell peals, eight of which were rung at Burgess Hill.

The officers were elected as follows: Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. D. Stone; hon. general secretary, Mr. S. F. Armstrong; hon. peal secretary, Mr. F. I. Hairs; hon. trustees, Messrs. Butcher, Dallaway and Tompkins; auditors, Messrs. J. T. Toms and W. C. Hart.

It was strongly expressed that meetings should be held whenever possible, but the secretaries of the Northern and Southern Divisions, while agreeing in principle to the holding of meetings, stated that it was impossible for them to give their personal attention, owing to pressure of other duties. It was then suggested that an assistant should be appointed in each of these cases, and the Northern Divisional Secretary, Mr. O. Sippetts, was re-elected, with Mr. A. E. Laker as assistant. Mrs. F. I. Hairs was appointed secretary of the Southern District, Mr. J. Downing of the Eastern District, and Mr. L. Stilwell of the Western District. Committees were re-elected with the exception of the Southern Division, where Mr. R. G. Cross replaced Mr. J. Dearlove.

A short discussion took place on the value of practice on silent bells, the general opinion being that it was a useful aid in the teaching of beginners up to the stage of rounds, but in method ringing was likely to lead to the formation of bad habits as regards striking.

Finally a proposal was made that at the next general meeting a tea and social evening should be possible. This was agreed to, and on the general secretary's suggestion a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs and Mrs. Cross, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, May 2nd, at St. Peter's, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters in 51 minutes: A. Kendall 1, Lieut. G. E. Debenham 2, Miss K. M. West (first quarter-peal) 3, R. W. Darvill 4, E. J. Gale 5, R. Dobson 6, Lieut. G. W. Debenham (conductor) 7, H. G. Cashmore 8, W. Ayre 9, S. Jones 10.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal of Stedman Caters at Birmingham, on May 1st, was a birthday compliment to three members of the St. Martin's Sunday service band—E. Mansell (May 1st), E. T. Allaway (May 2nd) and Albert Walker (May 3rd).

Mr. Albert Walker is doing good work in the Birmingham district by giving lectures on bells and ringing illustrated by lantern slides and change ringing and tunes on handbells. One at Bearwood on May 4th resulted in a very good collection to start a new fund for a tower and bells. Mr. Walker is to give another lecture on Tuesday.

Visitors to the Middlesex Association meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, to-morrow, are advised to bring their own sugar.

Two or three of our friends have written to us pointing out the absurdity of the permission to ring on Good Friday. Nobody ever does ring on Good Friday, they say, and it is only another example of official ignorance and stupidity. Our friends have been misled by newspaper reports. The order does not say anything about ringing. It forbids the sounding of bells, and that includes tolling and chiming, as well as ringing. Good Friday and Christmas Day are mentioned because they are the two holy days which legally are always classed with Sundays.

The first peal of Clifton Surprise Royal was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on May 9th, 1922.

The Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on May 10th, 1777.

On the same date in 1779, the Braughin Youths rang 12,240 Bob Major.

The Imperial Institute was opened by Queen Victoria and the ten bells rung for the first time by a representative band from all England, on May 10th, 1893. Among the ringers were C. H. Hattersley, C. F. Winney, A. P. Heywood, J. W. Washbrook, G. F. Coleridge and J. W. Taylor.

The first peal of Painswick Surprise Major was rung at All Saints', Wokingham, on May 10th, 1933.

The record peal of London Surprise Major, 14,112 changes, was rung on May 11th, 1903, at King's Norton, by a mixed band which included the three brothers Pye, James Motte, of Ipswich, Gabriel Lindoff, William Keeble, and William Short. Harry Chapman rang the treble.

The first peal of Watford Surprise Major was rung at Watford on May 12th, 1937; and on the same day a peal in seven Spliced Surprise Major methods was rung at Wigston Magna.

Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Double Coslany Court Major, at St. Mary's, Twickenham, on May 13th, 1939. John S. Goldsmith was in the band.

The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes' was one of 6,485 changes by the College Youths on May 14th, 1845, composed and conducted by John Cox.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise Major (Cambridge and Superlative) was rung at Whitley Bay on May 14th, 1924; and on the same date in 1936 the first peal of Leeds Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Reverse Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on May 15th, 1769.

On May 15th, 1837, at All Saints', Fulham, the St. James' Society, with Thomas Tolladay as conductor, rang 12,096 changes of Grand sire Caters. The board says it was the greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only, but 20 years earlier the Painswick men had rung 12,312 changes in the same method single-handed.

What was at the time the longest length of Superlative Surprise Major (8,800 changes) was rung at Loughborough Parish Church on May 15th, 1894. Nathan Pitkew, who composed the peal, rang the treble and conducted; John W. Taylor, the bell founder, rang the tenor, and Canon G. F. Coleridge the second.

The first peal of Spliced Double Norwich and Double Oxford Bob Major was rung at Crayford on May 15th, 1926; and on the same date in 1924 the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Major was rung at Bolsover.

WEDDING OF MR. C. W. DENYER.

The wedding took place on April 28th at St. Alban's Church, Streatham Park, S.W.17, of Mr. Charles William Denyer, eldest son of Mr. W. Denyer, of 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, to Miss Edna Phyllis Page, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Page, of 15, Furzedown Drive, Tooting, S.W.17.

The bridegroom, a member of the Aldershot band, is a lance-bombardier in an anti-aircraft unit. The bride is a lance-corporal in the A.T.S., attached to the Royal Army Pay Corps. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of St. Alban's (the Rev. W. Dodd), and Mr. G. Stafford at the organ played the Bridal March from 'Lohengrin' and Mendelssohn's Wedding March. The hymns sung were 'Bright the vision' and 'May the Grace of Christ our Saviour.' The bride wore a dress of vieux-rose pink with navy blue accessories and a spray of anemones. She was attended by her sister, Miss Doris Page. The duties of best man were carried out by the bridegroom's youngest brother, Mr. John M. Denyer. A reception was held at the bride's home and later Mr. and Mrs. Denyer left for a honeymoon in Dorset and Somerset.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.**

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on Saturday, May 1st. St. Peter's belfry was open for silent ringing, and members attended evensong at the Cathedral in full strength, the address being given by the Rev. David Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourne, who based his remarks upon the Collect for Easter Day. A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £2 13s.

Fifty-two sat down to tea at the Waterend Barn, a 16th century building removed from the estate of Lord Brocket.

At the business meeting the president (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) presided, supported by the Dean, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, the Rev. David Bickerton, Lieut. G. E. Debenham (treasurer), Mr. G. W. Cartmel (secretary), Messrs. Walter Ayre, G. Radley, A. Symonds, R. Darvill (district secretaries), Messrs. A. Lawrence (Hatfield), A. G. Crane (Knebworth), A. W. Coles (North Mimms), E. C. S. Turner, A. Day (Harpden), J. Hobbs (Redbourne), R. G. Bell (Watford), F. Smith, E. Jennings (Bushey), F. W. Elliott (Rickmansworth), Mrs. Fergusson (librarian), Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Radley, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Wolstencroft, Messrs. Brinklow, L. Chambers, T. J. Lock and many others.

The President said how pleased he was to see such a representative gathering, and regretted the absence of Mr. W. H. Lawrence, who had only missed attendance once in 40 years. Mr. Lawrence sent a message to all old friends, and expressed the hope that he would be able to attend on the next occasion.

Lieut. G. E. Debenham thanked the association for their expressions of goodwill on his recent wedding, and, in presenting the balance sheet, said that members' subscriptions were up on the previous year, which he thought very satisfactory in the circumstances. On the expenses side there were several items which would be non-recurring and there was a small credit balance. The Central Council subscription for last year was to be paid, and this would produce a very small loss over the year. The Benevolent Fund showed a balance of £33 16s. 7d., and he thanked the Dean for the collection that day. There had been no claims on the Voluntary Bell Fund, and the slight increase was due to accrued interest.

The accounts were passed, having been subjected to audit by Messrs. Mercer and Hale.

MR. CARTMEL'S REPORT.

The hon. secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel, presented his annual report. It gave an account of the activities of the various branches and was evidence that the life of the association has been well maintained. Fifteen handbell peals had been rung, most of them at Bushey. Reference was made to the losses by death and to the ringing for victory and Christmas.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore was unanimously elected president on the proposition of Mr. E. Jennings, seconded by Mr. R. G. Bell.

Lieut. G. E. Debenham was elected treasurer on the proposition of Mr. W. Ayre, seconded by Mr. Frank Smith.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel was elected hon. secretary on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Debenham, seconded by Mr. A. Lawrence. Mr. Cartmel returned thanks.

Mrs. Fergusson was elected a librarian on the proposition of Mr. Cartmel, seconded by Mr. E. Jennings.

At the suggestion of the secretary, Mr. Walter Ayre was elected assistant hon. secretary on the proposition of Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. A. Symonds.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. David Bickerton for his address at the service. He thought it a good idea that a different preacher should be found each year, so as to get as many of the clergy as possible into touch with the association. The Rev. David Bickerton expressed his appreciation of the ringers' welcome and said he was pleased to come.

Mr. Cartmel proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for the great interest he took in the association, an interest which had always been taken by Archdeacon Lawrence and the Deans of St. Albans since the formation of the association in 1884.

The Dean said the association would always be welcomed at the Abbey so long as he was there. He congratulated the St. Peter's band on the lead taken in ringing as in other spheres of church work. Mr. Watkins, who had been verger at the Abbey for 40 years, was also a friend of the ringers.

The Dean was asked to convey to his verger the ringers' appreciation of his services at their annual service. Afterwards he was unanimously elected as an honorary member.

Mr. Maurice Hibbert proposed that a resolution of good wishes for a speedy and safe return should be sent to members on service, and this was carried.

Mr. Ayre asked what the association could do to help Sunday ringing. He mentioned how they had tackled the matter in the Hemel Hempstead area by combining to ensure sufficient to ring at one church in the morning and another in the evening.

The Rev. A. M. Fergusson agreed with Mr. Ayre's suggestion, and thought that similar arrangements could be made in the St. Albans area.

This concluded the meeting. Many lingered to listen to some beautiful handbell ringing by Messrs. Jennings, Brinklow, Turner and Cashmore.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

According to the usual rota, the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association should have been held this year at Burton-on-Trent, but owing to war conditions that was not possible, and it was decided to hold it at Leicester as being the most convenient centre for the majority of the members.

Accordingly the meeting took place on Saturday, May 1st, when the bells of St. John the Divine (10) and St. Margaret's (10) were available for silent practice. Good use was made of this opportunity and a representative gathering assembled.

The committee met in St. Margaret's Choir Vestry at 4 p.m., and the general meeting followed at 5 p.m. in St. Margaret's belfry, presided over by the president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, supported by the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, the hon. treasurer, Miss I. B. Thompson, and the general hon. secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

All the districts of the association (except Chesterfield) were represented, viz., Burton, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham. Visitors were present from Rugby, Birmingham, Coventry, Warkton (Kettering) and elsewhere.

The hon. secretary explained the reasons for the change of programme as advertised in 'The Ringing World.' The Cathedral bells were not available, therefore St. Margaret's were substituted, also as private individuals may not now cater (the ringers' wives had originally volunteered to do this), tea would be at Arcari's Cafe, and a convivial afterwards at the Globe Hotel.

LOSS BY DEATH.

The Chairman then welcomed the large and representative gathering and voiced the feelings of all concerned in thanking the general and local secretaries for the arrangements made. It was a most welcome concession to have the ban lifted and Sunday service ringing allowed, and he knew from past experience everyone would make good use of the opportunity. He trusted that ere long the ban would be entirely lifted. He recalled how during the past year the association had lost several old and valued members, naming those known personally to him—William E. White, of Cotgrave, a devoted officer of the association for so many years; John Jagger and John H. Swinfield, of Burton, two of the old stalwarts of the early days of the association's activities; Charles Hart, the grand old man of Derby; and John Flint, who did so much for ringers and ringing in the Chesterfield district. On behalf of all members he thanked the hon. treasurer and secretary for their work in keeping things going in face of very difficult times.

Miss Thompson stated that the past year had showed an increase in the working balance, thanks to the local secretaries' energy in gathering in many outstanding subscriptions. The Bell Repair Fund and appropriation account were also in a healthy condition, and the whole most satisfactory.

In committee, Mr. Colin Harrison had thanked Miss Thompson for the excellent way she had explained the various items, and this was reiterated by the president and supported by all. Two auditors, Mr. A. J. Harris and Mr. F. Poole, were chosen.

MANY HANDBELL PEALS.

The General Hon. Secretary, in his report, stated that during 1942 twenty-two handbell peals had been rung from Doubles to Cinques. Nottingham and Hinckley districts had each scored peals, but the bulk had been rung in Leicester. A 'handbell week-end,' arranged by Harold J. Poole, resulted in six peals being scored, and Miss Jill Poole was to be congratulated on ringing Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques before her 14th birthday. The secretary then read over the list of members departed during 1942 and called on all present to stand in silence a moment as a tribute of respect to their revered memory. A brief review of the local district's work showed that meetings had been periodically held in all branches except Chesterfield, and, considering all things, had been satisfactorily carried out and appreciated by numbers of members attending.

The general officers were re-elected en bloc, and in place of the late Mr. W. E. White, Mr. Ralph Narborough, of Nottingham, was elected as a co-trustee with Mr. John Oldham, of Loughborough.

The new members elected were three life, two honorary, four ringing and four rejoins.

The party then adjourned to the Arcari Cafe for tea, at which over 50 sat down. Later on a convivial was held at the Globe Hotel, where handbells were made good use of, practically everything from Grandsire Triples to Stedman Cinques, 'Blue Bells' to 'Cagmag,' being successfully accomplished.

NEWCASTLE.—At the Cathedral on Sunday morning, May 9th, for service, 435 Stedman Caters: G. Pickering 1, C. L. Routledge 2, J. Anderson 3, W. Storey 4, J. E. Keen 5, A. W. Greenwood 6, E. Wallace 7, G. Ballard (Leicester) 8, W. J. Davidson (conductor) 9, Lance Ingledew 10. Rung as a congratulatory message to the Provost, Canon G. E. Bridgestock, and his wife on the coming of a first-born (a son). Under the rules it was impossible to ring out the joy bells except through a service touch.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 206.)

By an easy transition, we may pass from the grey majestic towers of the old Abbey, to the big square-sided pillar with the tall nightcap commonly known as the Westminster Clock Tower.

This top-heavy edifice contains some of the latest specimens of English bell-founding, and I must do it the justice to say that it is better inside than out. On a close inspection the massiveness of the structure is imposing, and it is really surprising that such a huge amount of stone work should be so wanting in external dignity. The walls are of a uniform thickness of between five and six feet, and are little likely ever to be shaken down, like the Pekin towers, by the vibrations of the bells.

There is a wide passage all round the top of the tower between the white enamelled glass clock-face and its illuminating apparatus. The proportions of the four dials are truly colossal, measuring each over 70 feet in circumference. Each is illuminated by a blazing wall of light behind it, composed of five horizontal gas tubes full of jets, of an average length of 17 feet apiece. Thus the four clock discs that can be seen so well from all parts of London at night, owe their lighthouse radiance to a furnace composed of no less than 340 feet of gas pipes.

Outside, the mighty minute-hand swings visibly round, travelling at the pace of a foot a minute. The machinery of the clock, to which a large room is devoted, being on a colossal scale, looks extremely simple. It bears the inscription: 'This clock was made in the year of our Lord 1854, by Frederick Dent, from the designs of Edmund Becket Denison, Q.C.'

Telegraph wires from Greenwich are introduced into the interior of the works in order to regulate the time.

We may select a quarter to twelve o'clock to enter the immense belfry containing the five bells. The iron framework in which they are swung is at once neat and massive, and contrasts with the rough and ponderous timbers of the older belfries very much as a modern iron-clad might contrast with an ancient man-of-war. We feel, in the presence of these modern structures, that we have gained much and lost something. The mechanical element predominates over the human, and in the presence of these cast iron columns, symmetrical girders, and neat bolts, we experience a sense of power, but without the particular dignity which belongs to the heavy and cumbrous rafters of the more ancient towers. The very same feeling is inspired by the massive modern iron-work in the belfry of Cologne Cathedral.

Big Ben hangs in the middle and the four quarter bells at the four quarters. The original big bell was cast by Warner, of Clerkenwell, who is also the founder of the four quarter bells. The bell, having cracked, was replaced by Ben, from the foundry of George Mears. It bears the following inscription:—

This bell, weighing 13 tons 3 qr. 15 lbs., was cast by George Mears, at Whitechapel, for the clock of the Houses of Parliament, under the direction of Edmund Becket Denison, Q.C., in the 21st year of the reign of Queen Victoria, and in the year of our Lord MDCCCLVIII.

The decorations round the top are of the hard Gothic type of the Houses of Parliament. On one side of the

bell is the ordinary raised heraldic grating and on the other are the arms of England. The letters are of the worst possible kind of that narrow Gothic type which makes the despair of the antiquarian. In a couple of hundred years, when the rust and mould, which have already begun to accumulate in our wretched English atmosphere, has clotted the letters together and confused the tops, we may safely predict that this inscription will be entirely illegible.

The largest of the four quarter bells, cast in 1856 by Warner, weighs 3 tons 17 cwt. 2 qrs.; the second weighs 1 ton 13 cwt. 2 qrs.; the third 1 ton 5 cwt. 1 qr.; the fourth 1 ton 1 cwt.

After seeking for some quaint text or solemn dedication, which should convey to posterity some idea of the founder's reverence for his work, or taste for his art, I discovered the following noble and original inscription—John Warner and Sons, Crescent Foundry, 1857. Then follows her Britannic Majesty's arms, and underneath the striking word 'Patent.' I could not help thinking of the Belgian bells, on which the founder—half poet, half artist—has printed the fair forms that seemed for ever rising in his free and fertile imagination. How often do we feel as we note the graceful tracery, and the infinitely varied groups, just sufficiently unstudied to be full of feeling, that the artist has been tracing memories of netted branches, beloved faces, or nature's own hieroglyphics written upon flowers and sea-shells. There is one bell in a dark corner of a Louvain belfry, nearly plain, only against the side of it a forest leaf has, as it were, been blown and changed to iron, with every web-like vein perfect—but, of course, a forest leaf is a poor thing compared to a 'Patent.'

Neither in the Abbey, nor St. Paul's, nor the Clock Tower do we find the bells have any higher vocation than that of beating the tom-tom. They do not call the citizens 'to work and pray.' They remind them of no One above the toiling and moiling crowd; of no changeless and eternal sympathy with man, his joys and his sorrows. They give no warning note of fire, of pestilence, of battle, or any other peril. There are no Peals of Triumph, no Storm-bells, no Salvators, merely Old Toms and Big Bens.

Big Ben is cracked; and his tone grows sensibly worse every year—I might almost say every month. Yet, considering he is 8½ inches thick, we can hardly be surprised that the crack does not go right through him (1871). It is said that the designer of the bell insisted on the metals being mixed on scientific principles and in certain proportions; and it is rumoured that had the advice of the founder been followed and the metals mixed as only a practical founder knows how, the bell would not have cracked. On this subject I cannot pretend to have even an opinion.

Big Ben is not a true bell. He suffers from a flat third. His unhappy brother Patent, who is nevertheless so far in his right mind as to be still uncracked (we allude to the next largest bell, which hangs at one of the corners) is no more true than his magnified relative. If I am not much mistaken he is afflicted with a sharp third. To crown all, I fear it must be confessed (but on this subject I would willingly bow to the decision of Sir Sterndale Bennett or Sir Michael Costa) that none of the bells are in tune with each other. The intended intervals are indeed suggested; but it can scarcely be

(Continued on next page.)

HUGH REGINALD HAWES.

(Continued from previous page.)

maintained by any musician that the dissonant clangour which is heard a quarter before each hour, is anything more than a vague approach to the intended sequence.

The excited citizens of Mechlin or Antwerp would have had these bells down after their first tuneless attempt to play the quarter; but the strength of Old England lies more in patents than tuning forks.

I have before mentioned that one bell in the neighbouring tower of the Abbey on which is inscribed 'John Lester made me' expresses a laudable desire with the rest to agree. We may regret that its aspirations rose no higher, and still more that modest as it is, it was not destined to be realised. But if both the Clock Tower and the Abbey Tower bells are thus discordant in themselves and with each other, it must be admitted that they agree excellently well in disagreeing.

I do not wish to be hard upon English bells, and I confess that I have seen more of foreign than English ones, although since writing the above I have inspected a great many English towers, amongst them Peterborough, York, Lichfield, and Durham; yet such specimens as I have seen have not inspired me with much enthusiasm, and it is with a feeling of relief that I turn even from such celebrated belfries as St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey to the old cathedrals of Belgium, with their musical chimes and their splendid carillons.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the O.U.S.C.R. was held in the Master's rooms, New College, on Tuesday, May 4th. Mr. H. Miles in the chair.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, in his report, spoke of the achievements of the past term, in which five peals were scored, and much good work done. The climax was the annual lunch, which saw the successful inauguration of the new Universities Association. The Master noted with regret the gap caused by the calling-up of Mr. W. F. Moreton, who had proved himself as good a ringer on handbells as tower bells. He spoke of the partial lifting of the ban and the ideal opportunities presented by the many towers in the city of Oxford. Although the society intended to keep up its high level of handbell ringing, it could now turn also to tower bells, and a number of its members had taken part in the ringing on the previous Sunday. There would still be practices on the silent bells of New College.

The Master was unanimously re-elected. Miss Joan Houldsworth succeeded Mr. W. L. B. Leese as secretary, and Miss Margaret Tutti became treasurer in the place of Miss E. J. Macnair.

At the end of the meeting the society presented to the Master a small gift on the occasion of his twenty-first birthday, and to show appreciation of his untiring efforts on behalf of the society and in the cause of ringing generally.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT COLCHESTER.**

A quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester, and 14 ringers attended from eight towers, the lowest recorded since war broke out. Handbells were made good use of both before and after the service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Edward H. Shaw, who expressed his firm belief that on the previous Sunday St. Peter's bells played a great part in filling his church. The organist was Capt. Herbert Ruglys, diocesan reader, from Stratford St. Mary.

The tea and business meeting were held at Crispin Court. In the unavoidable absence of the Master, the district secretary presided. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Leonard's. Mr. W. Chalk proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and everybody who had helped to make the meeting a success.

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.**WHICH WAS THE FIRST PEAL?***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Among the interesting anniversaries recorded in Belfry Gossip, there is mention, in your issue of April 23rd, of the 7,200 Kent Treble Bob Maximus rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on April 17th, 1820. The paragraph concludes with the words: 'It is generally supposed to be the first of Kent Maximus ever rung, but that is more than doubtful.'

In the St. Martin's Peal Book the peal is described as Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (with the Kent Variation) and the footnote asserts that it 'was the most Treble Bob ever rung on Twelve Bells and is the first in the Kent Variation.'

In a peal book compiled by Henry Johnson it is described as 'the longest length up to this date, and the first peal in the Kent Variation.'

Furthermore, the St. Martin's Guild has in its possession a printed sheet (a copy of which I enclose) pasted upon a wooden board, and written in the highly embellished, flowery language of those times, which eulogises the above performance and describes it as 'the first peal of New Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of changes ever rung on 12 bells.'

In view of this evidence, is there still room for doubt that this was the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus?

I am aware of the Cumberland's performance at Shoreditch in 1795, when they rang 5,232 Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus; but it seems to have been the custom of the Cumberland Youths at that time to use the prefix 'Cumberland' to almost any method that they rang.

There appears in Shipway's book among Treble Bob methods variations entitled Oxford, Kent, London and Cumberland Exercise.

Is it not possible, therefore, that Cumberland Maximus differed from Kent Maximus?

GEORGE E. FEARN.

92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

A SUPERLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT ON THE ART OF RINGING.

Birmingham April 17, 1720.

The Society of St. Martin's Youths having for some time contemplated a Peal of Changes on 12 Bells, which should exceed in number any Peal ever rung in the United Kingdom, appointed Monday the 17th inst for the attempt; and although there were very high odds (say 100 to 1) against any Band ringing a plain Peal at that time to onset, yet by an anxious attention to, and a superior possession of, this great science, they succeeded in completing the Herculean task in 5 hours and 8 minutes. The Peal comprised 7,200 Changes of New Treble Bob Maximus; and what eminently combines to enrich this performance is, that it was rung at the first attempt, was the first Peal of new Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of changes ever rung on 12 Bells.

Another generation may rise up to eclipse this, but the present will in all probability suffer it to remain a **STANDING DISH UNTOUCHED.**

The Band, as Stationed.

	The Peal.
Mr. WM. BENNETT.....	Treble 52364
JAMES JARVIS.....	Second 24365
WM. HASSALL.....	Third 23645
THOMAS WORRALL.....	Fourth 32546
ALEX. SANDERS.....	Fifth 45236
HENRY COOPER.....	Sixth 34562
SAMUEL LAWRENCE.....	Seventh 42563
JOSEPH GRAYSON.....	Eighth 45623
JOSEPH RILEY.....	Ninth 54326
THOMAS CHAPMAN.....	Tenth 23456
WILLIAM MARSH.....	Eleventh
THOS. THURSTANS.....	Tenor (and Conductor) Leads 150
Mr. James Dovey, of Stourbridge, and many other	48
Auditors, expressed their high approbation of the	
above performance.	
7200	

The first considerable Peal of Treble Bob Maximus, and which created much emulation in the Exercise, was performed at Norwich, by St. Peter's Company in the year 1778, comprising 6240 Changes. The next by the College Youths, London, in the year 1784, being 7008 Changes. 18 years afterwards, viz in 1802, the Cumberland Youths rung two leads more than the preceding Peal, making their 7104 Changes: 18 years subsequently to this, viz, in 1820, the St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, exceeded this latter Peal by two Leads Making their Peal 7200 Changes.

[There is sufficient evidence that the method rung in 1795 by the Cumberland Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark (not Shoreditch), was

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 Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
 pairs, or Repainting of Dials

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

COMMENTS AND CRITICISM.

In the course of its comments on the lifting of the ban, 'The Church Times' last week remarked:—

'Many readers of "The Church Times" have been expressing concern at the terms of the recent order permitting church bells to be rung on Sundays and on certain other days. The Prime Minister's announcement of the decision in Parliament was not explicit as to the "other special days" on which ringing was to be allowed; but the subsequent order of the Ministry of Home Security, made under its powers for controlling noise, specified only Good Friday and Christmas Day. It is manifestly right to extend the concession to the day on which Christians commemorate the redemption of the world by the Cross and Passion of our Lord, and to that on which they praise God for His entry into the world of men in human flesh. But to omit that day on which He ended His earthly course and was crowned in our common manhood on the throne of Heaven, betrays a striking inability to distinguish between the great feasts of Christendom and the public holidays granted to the banking profession by the English Parliament in 1871.'

'The question has also been raised why, since the church bells are no longer to be utilised to give warning of invasion, their use has not been wholly restored. The answer presumably is that the authorities are properly anxious to cause as little disturbance as possible to the well-earned sleep of workers on night shifts. If our conjecture is correct, the Ministry might well have said so candidly.'

CORRESPONDENTS' OPINIONS.

The journal also published several letters on the subject from correspondents. The Rev. C. E. Goshawk, of Horbling Vicarage, Lincolnshire wrote:—

'I expected to see some comment in your issue of April 30th on the new order with regard to the ringing of the bells. Surely it is an anomalous and unsatisfactory position. The Prime Minister has stated that there is now no connection between the ringing of church bells and invasion. Why, then, is the ringing to be restricted to Sundays and the two days in the year alone recognised by the Government as "special days," Good Friday and Christmas Day? What of other great festivals of the Church, such as Ascension Day, and what of the rubric in the Prayer Book which orders the ringing of a bell before the daily services? It seems a grudging concession. Are the authorities determined, if they cannot silence the bells altogether any longer, to keep up a petty interfering attitude towards the Church?'

'I cannot believe that you will be content to let this pass without a protest in your columns.'

The Rev. Alban E. Russell, of Amport, Hampshire, raised a point which will appeal specially to ringers—how can fresh ringers be trained?

'It was with some surprise that I noticed no mention in your columns of the strange wording of the Government's recent decree on the ringing of church bells. We have been told that the bells may be rung on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday—the latter a day on which tradition is against their being rung at all—but not on great festivals such as the Ascension.'

'Since they are no longer to be used for military purposes, what is the point of keeping the bells silent on weekdays? Can it be that the Government has become so "ration-minded" that even campanology must be subjected to the points system?'

'It means that the ringers can never practise their craft, which may be a gain to the people who live near our churches, but certainly does not make for efficiency, nor can fresh ringers be trained.'

'Perhaps more serious still is the fact that the bell for daily Mass and the offices, with its reminder that prayer is constantly being offered, must not be heard.'

The Rev. G. W. Brodribb, of Horbury Bridge, pointed out that Ascension Day is as important a Church festival as Christmas Day and should have been included. The practical answer would probably be that it has never been possible to have bells fully rung on that day since ringers are not generally available.

'Would it not be possible to try and obtain permission for the church bells to be rung on Ascension Day? It seems an excellent opportunity of stressing the greatness and importance of this festival, which may be lost if no effort is made to bring home to the people that Ascension Day is at least as important a feast as Christmas Day.'

A layman, Mr. E. D. Idle, raises a point which ringers will do well to take into consideration, whether they agree with it or not:—

'A short time ago an appeal was broadcast by the B.B.C. for the control of radio and other "noises" over the week-ends for the sake of those who are on night work and need sleep during the day.'

'Church bells are now to be rung again. Even in the good old days before the war there were numbers of town dwellers who found their Sundays anything but a day of rest on account of the persistent ringing of church bells "across the street."'

'It is essential for the sake of the unusually large proportion of the population—war workers, civil defence personnel, etc.—at present doing night work, that the ringing of church bells should be reduced to a minimum, or, better still, should cease entirely in built-up areas.'

'In making this appeal I shall, I am certain, have the support of very many men and women throughout the country.'

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton on Saturday, May 15th. Tower bells (silent) from 3 p.m., also handbells. Meeting at 6 p.m. Please bring your own food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Meeting at Hallow on Saturday, May 15th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, May 15th. Service in church 4.30. Tea will be arranged if possible.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Church bells (silent) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a charge of 1s. 4d., at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting at Wokingham on Saturday, May 15th. Service at All Saints' Church 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at All Saints' Rectory. Handbell ringing in tower from 3.30.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfield Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 15th. The Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells provided; also cups of tea. A short service at 5.30.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon on Saturday, May 22nd. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards. Numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, May 19th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to be sent to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2 (Tel. Hampstead 4510) by previous Thursday.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Cup of tea for those who notify me by Tuesday, 18th. Bring your own food and sugar.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Halstead on Saturday, May 22nd. Handbells from 2.30 in church. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the school. Please bring own food. —Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 22nd, 3 p.m. Bells available ('silent'). Tea at 'Shoes' 5 p.m. and usual evening arrangements. —Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Malins Lee, Saturday, May 29th, 3 p.m. Silent tower bells, handbells and service. Tea will be provided. —E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 29th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 6 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. —J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. —Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. All requiring tea please notify me not later than May 24th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bowdon and Stockport Branch. —Meeting at Bowdon on Saturday, May 29th (not 22nd as arranged previously). Further particulars next week.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Sawley on Saturday, May 29th. Church bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Meeting in Vestry 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Handbell ringing and social hour after. Names for tea to Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Ditton, Notts, by Wednesday, May 26th. Important business. —T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District. —Meeting at Rainham (Kent) on Sunday, May 30th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4 p.m., followed by meeting in Church Hall. Ringing at 5.30 for evening service. —G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general

sec. by June 4th. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea. —Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, service ringing on first and third Sunday of each month. Meeting 9.40 a.m. (duration of war arrangement). St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 10.15 a.m. on third Sunday of each month. —G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, PUTNEY.—Ringing every Sunday at 10.15. All ringers heartily welcomed.—W. T. Elson.

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Ringing 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings in each month at 10.40 a.m. —C. M. Meyer.

ST. STEPHEN'S, WESTMINSTER.—Ringing 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings in each month at 5.45 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CROYDON.

The annual meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Croydon on May 1st, was attended by over 50 members.

The service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Bishop of Croydon, who paid tribute to ringers for having the bells and themselves ready for ringing at short notice, and said how very much impressed he was by seeing an airman and a couple of soldiers ringing with the local band on Easter Sunday morning and by the hospitable welcome they received. How much better the world would be if everyone would practise the fellowship which exists among ringers when they get together.

At the business meeting which followed, the Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, occupied the chair.

Mention was made in the report by the assistant secretary, Mr. C. de Ste. C. Parks, of the loss by fire at Mitcham Parish Church. The tower was burnt out and it is feared that the bells will have to be recast. The organ has been ruined, and peal boards, handbells and a small ringing library have been destroyed.

Mr. A. A. Hughes suggested that it would be a good idea for the larger centres to put a notice in 'The Ringing World' stating when and where ringing would take place for the benefit of members of the Forces who might be in the vicinity.

Mr. Birt said that the Southern District were hoping to hold a meeting at Reigate, probably in August, at which Mr. A. A. Hughes would give a talk on bells and ringing. Due notice will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. C. H. Kippin proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop and organist, to Mr. Dan Cooper for making the arrangements, and to the ladies for looking after the members at tea.

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.

(Continued from page 217.)

a simple variation of Oxford Treble Bob which would run equally well on eight, ten and twelve bells. It had the ordinary Treble Bob lead ends and the ordinary Treble Bob lengthening-lead bob. It could be rung by a first-class ten-bell band on twelve bells without previous practice, for the Cumberlands had then no twelve-bell tower to practice in. Shipway knew the method, for he rang in one of the peals, and it is not at all likely he would have omitted it from his book if it had been different from one of the standard methods. Kent is the only method which fulfils these conditions.

In 1795 the name Kent had not yet been generally adopted by the Exercise, and it would be quite in accordance with their usual custom for the Cumberlands to give it their own name.

When the Birmingham men rang their peal in 1820 they quite honestly thought it was the first in the method, but they were not likely to have known of the other performance. The statements on peal boards and in peal books that such and such a peal was the first in the method are frequently incorrect.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

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'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's*.

Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

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RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

The problems caused by the reaction of the general public to the ringing of church bells can be divided sharply into two classes, and the classes can be described briefly and clearly by two words—national and parochial.

About any fears we may have felt at one time of the attitude of the general public towards church bells as a whole, we can set our minds at rest. We may be confident that no attempt will be made to suppress or restrict the use of church bells as a whole, after the war, or, if made, would have any chance of success. Only last week the Government asked that the bells should be rung. Nevertheless, there still remain the problems caused by the reaction of individual persons to the ringing of the bells in their immediate neighbourhood, and these are the problems which call for the closest and most careful attention by ringers.

There is nothing new about these problems. The person who dislikes and objects to bellringing is familiar enough. He has probably existed as long as there have been bells. Certainly he has existed as long as there has been ringing. And in spite of him and all he could do, our art has flourished. During the centuries the reason why these men object to ringing has not altered. The monks of Spalding and Wymondham and many other places, who five hundred years ago complained about bellringing, had the same grievance as the present-day suburban dwellers. It interfered, or they thought it interfered, with their comfort. But we must recognise that these opinions have during recent years been considerably strengthened by certain pseudo-medical and scientific ideas about noise.

It is often said that noise is a harmful thing. 'Noise,' says a writer in the 'Manchester Guardian,' in an article referred to on another page, 'is recognised to-day as one of the major ills of modern life.' Opinions which are put forward by people who have, or are supposed to have, scientific or medical knowledge are not easily controverted by mere laymen; but in this particular instance personal experience gives a flat denial to any such opinion. Our towns and cities are far less noisy than they were fifty years ago, and far less noisy than great continental cities like Paris and Brussels. The sad picture of hard-working men toiling all the week in the din and turmoil of London, and fleeing to the calm of suburban gardens on Sundays to enjoy a brief period of quiet and freedom from noise, is mostly fiction. Actually the worker in cities usually is not conscious of any particular noise, and when he takes his pleasure and holidays generally goes where there is plenty of noise and

(Continued from page 222.)

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what is called 'life.' Solitude and absence of noise on the other hand are unnatural, and to most people would be harmful. The plea, rather prominently to the fore just now, that there must be no ringing because the noise of it has a bad effect on the health of people, is largely fudge.

But that does not solve the problem. What we must face is the fact that there are certain people who do not like ringing; and, because they do not like them, the bells can become an intolerable nuisance. These people may sometimes be unreasonable, but not always. They have their opinions, and up to a point they are entitled to them. What ringers should do with them is to give them as little cause for complaint as possible, and there are many ways in which that can be done. What are chiefly needed are tact, Christian charity and careful attention to the avoidance of those things which most jar on people's nerves—such things as ringing single bells promiscuously, pulling up and ceasing bells together without order, clashing and the like.

Every single belfry has its own problems, and things which are possible in one place may be quite inadvisable in another. The future of change ringing in many a steeple will depend on how far the ringers can recognise the peculiar local circumstances and adapt themselves to them. We need not fear that after the war there will be any general restrictions on the use of bells, but we should realise that one or two aggrieved parishioners can, if they make themselves sufficiently disagreeable, secure local restrictions which are not the less irksome because they are not legally binding.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANCES;
CAPT. MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2 | WILLIAM BARTON ... 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 3-4 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8
Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

ROTHWELL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, May 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANCES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | PERCY MASSAM ... 5-6
THOMAS W. STRANGEWAYS 3-4 | ARTHUR G. WOOD ... 7-8
Composed by J. B. WOOLLEY. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANCES;

CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 1-2 | JAMES R. MACKMAN ... 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3-4 | *ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... 7-8
†ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... 9-10

Composed by W. WILLSON. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal of Caters in hand. † First peal in hand.

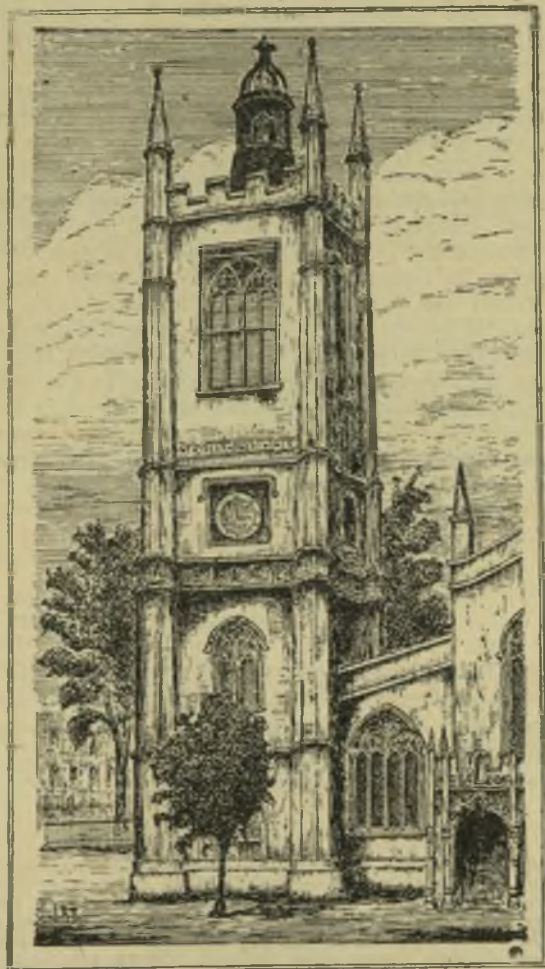
ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, May 16th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes: J. H. Manning 1, S. M. Bristow 2, F. Alderman (conductor) 3, D. C. Enticott 4, W. Stevens 5, J. Bristow 6.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 212.)

WILLIAM SHIPWAY AND EDWARD TAYLOR.

The second peal on the twelve at Shoreditch was one of Treble Bob Maximus, 6,000 changes, on December 9th, 1809. Gross conducted, and the other ringers were Shipway, Hints, Stephens, and the rest of the regular Cumberlands' band, Philip Pilgrim being at the tenor. Two months later much the same band went to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and rang 5,424 Treble Twelve there. It was the first peal by the society in the steeple which,



ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

later on, for so many years, was their headquarters. In 1812 the College Youths were still established there, and the Cumberlands only visitors.

From the time he was elected beadle in 1803 until December, 1813, George Gross took part in twenty-five peals with the Cumberlands, and he called them all. During the same period ten other peals were rung by the society, and the conducting was shared by seven men.

No doubt in thus monopolising the calling, Gross was within his strict right as beadle, and of course he had the support of a majority of the members, but we need not wonder that it was a cause of discontent and friction. There were other men just as ambitious of calling, and one or two perhaps just as capable. John Hints rang in

all the peals from 1800 until the beginning of 1810, and then, significantly, his name drops out of the peal records except for the Maximus at St. Martin's. He was connected with the rather nondescript company which called itself the Westminster Youths. William Shipway took part in all the more important peals by the Cumberlands, such as the Stedman Caters at Shoreditch and Bow, the Stedman Cinques at Spitalfields, the Treble Bob Maximus at Spitalfields and St. Martin's, and the Grandsire Cinques at Shoreditch; and he often was one of the band when the society visited some outlying tower. But it is clear that he was not one of Gross' inner circle of friends. He had his own party at Islington, and he was in touch with the Greenwich company, who then were a very skillful band.

They called themselves the Eastern Scholars, but of course they had no connection with the more famous society of that name which had passed away half a century before. Besides being Eastern Scholars, they were for the most part Cumberland Youths.

One of these men was Edward Taylor, whose keen interest in the problems of composition formed a bond of interest between him and Shipway, for Shipway had none of the selfish and exclusive spirit shown by the elder Gross and probably by his son, who kept their figures and their knowledge to themselves.

On February 7th, 1809, Taylor rang the sixth at Hackney, and called a peal of Grandsire Triples. Shipway was at the fifth, and this seems to be the first performance of Taylor's well-known bob-and-single peal which, though it was admittedly a variation of the composition in the 'Clavis,' was a great improvement, as it was (to quote Shipway) 'rendered less difficult, the singles being more regularly divided, and instead of two extra singles, two are omitted, reducing them to forty-six.'

It is true that as long as forty years before, John Vicars, of Oxford, had produced a variation quite as good and, indeed, in many respects identical, but that does not detract from the merits of Taylor's work, for Vicars' peal had never become generally known, and except for the copy which lay hidden and unnoticed among Dr. Charles Mason's papers at Cambridge, had perished. Taylor's variation was a decided acquisition to the conductors of Grandsire Triples, yet it was some time before it displaced the older Clavis peal.

Taylor produced one or two excellent peals of Bob Major on what was then the novel plan of keeping the sixth either in fifth's or sixth's at the course-end. In one of these, which he called at Greenwich in 1810 for the Eastern Scholars, he used two in-course singles as well as two ordinary singles. Such a device would now be inadmissible, but at the time all singles were looked upon by the older and more conservative men as departures from the strict method, and Taylor's justification was that he was able to get a result which could not be obtained by any other means. In his second peal, which he conducted in 1812 at Deptford for the Trinity Youths, he used bobs Before to move the sixth from in front of the tenor to behind the seventh (as a modern composer would). This increased the length of his peal by two leads and cut out eight leads of the full extent with 6, 7, 8 together.

In an endeavour to get the full extent with ordinary bobs and singles only, he produced a 6,272, which the

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Cumberlands rang at Hackney on February 26th, 1813. The peal evidently was arranged by Shipway, who rang the fifth. Taylor rang the sixth and conducted, and the band was made up of Shipway's friends. Shipway composed and called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Greenwich in 1809 with the local band, and rang in another in 1812 conducted by Samuel Wade.

On February 19th, 1810, George Gross called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Andrew's, Holborn. It was, so far as we know, the first peal in the steeple since 1738, when John Box and the 'Friendly Society' rang 6,160 changes of Bob Major.

It is not difficult to see signs of the existence of different factions within the Society of Cumberland Youths, with Gross and Shipway as the leaders of two hostile parties. For a long time Gross maintained his position, but after 1813 his name disappears from the society's records for some time. His last peal before the quarrel was Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch. Shipway succeeded him as the beadle and principal conductor to the company.

The early years of the nineteenth century must have seemed to the men of the time as a period of prosperity and advancement, and indeed it is not until some years later that we see any very marked signs of decline. Yet a decline was setting in, and one that could not be hidden from the eyes of the more discerning of the contemporary men. As early as 1813, Shipway wrote that he was 'fully sensible that for some years past the practice of ringing had been much on the decline.' He hoped that the publication of his 'Campanalogia' would help to revive it, and the event did in no small measure justify his hope; but we can see now that the real cause of the decline lay in the fact that many of the more potent of the influences which had at first created and then developed the Exercise and the art had worked themselves out and become exhausted.

The art itself was sound enough, and would ultimately show that it had abundant vitality for an indefinite amount of further advance when once those effete influences had been replaced by new and vivifying ones. Both the decline and the revival of the Exercise were slow processes spread over many years.

The first symptoms of decay in London were a lowering of the standards in the character and social status of the members of the leading companies, and the increasing popularity of Grandsire Triples as the method practised in eight-bell towers. It would perhaps be difficult to show that Grandsire Triples, as a method, is inferior to Bob Major, but history teaches the lesson that when bands start from the former their chances of advancement are very much less than when they start from the latter.

During the three years in which William Shipway led the Cumberlands after George Gross' defection, the company rang only five peals, and three of them were Grandsire Triples. The other two were Grandsire Caters in 1814, and Treble Bob Royal in 1815, both at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The peals of Triples were all in 1816. Francis Mathew called one at Croydon, and one rung at Lewisham is of interest as the first performance of Shipway's five-part with triple changes throughout.

All these performances were rung largely by outside members of the society, and it is evident that the com-

pany at headquarters was seriously weakened by dissensions. It was no doubt the reason why, when William Booth, of Sheffield, paid a visit to London, and a peal was arranged for him and rung at Shoreditch on June 16th, 1816, that, though he himself was a Cumberland Youth, the band was a mixed one made up from both the old societies. The peal was 5,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, George Gross conducted from the treble, and the band consisted of William Shipway, William Hall, William Makee, William Booth, Thomas Freith, Thomas Michael, James Nash, Thomas Grainger and Edward Bartell. Makee, Michael Grainger and Bartell were College Youths, and so at the time was Gross. The others were Cumberlands. The ringer of the tenor was not the Edward Bartell whose name we have so often mentioned. He died on July 20th, 1818, at the age of fifty-one and was buried at Whitechapel. This was his son.

The Shoreditch peal was probably an attempt, or the occasion of an attempt, to reunite the Cumberland Youths. Shipway realised that he had not sufficient influence to carry on the society successfully, and he was willing to let George Gross come back on his own terms. The result was that the company had once again a large measure of prosperity. Gross, reinstated in the office of beadle, called three peals in 1817, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Oxford Treble Bob Royal. In the next year the company rang Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major at All Hallows', Barking, and in September they paid a visit to Gloucestershire, where on the 24th they rang 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Stroud, with the sixth twelve times each way in ten courses. It evidently was the well-known one-part peal by Joseph Riley, who at the time was living at Gloucester, and who met the Londoners and stood in the band.

Next day they went to Painswick and, standing in the same order, rang another peal of Treble-ten, this time Reeves' 5,200 in nine courses. Gross called both peals.

Before the year 1818 closed, the Cumberlands rang another peal of Treble Bob Royal—6,360 changes at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

(To be continued.)

CITY OF LONDON BELLS.

Nowhere in England has there been so great a destruction of church bells by enemy action as in central London. In the City itself three rings of twelve, six of eight, and one of six have been completely destroyed. In the districts closely bordering the City, two rings of ten and five of eight are ruined. That does not complete the tale of the loss London ringers have suffered. There are several other churches which have been destroyed, but the towers are still standing. In these the bells hang apparently unharmed, but it is doubtful if in some cases they will ever be rung again. What will happen to St. Mary's, Islington, and St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, no one knows, for the steeples now stand isolated. The tower of St. John's, Waterloo Road, for all that the church has been smashed, looks as if it has suffered no serious damage. St. George's-in-the-Borough was one of the buildings which escaped being hit, though like every other building in the neighbourhood it suffered from blast. Last November the bells were rung for the victory celebrations, but now it has been discovered that the tower and spire are unsafe and at least 20ft. of it will have to be rebuilt. Until then the bells, an interesting ring by Rudhall, must remain silent.

The bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and St. Magnus', Thames Street, have been taken down for safety, and the only ringing peals now left in the City are St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 9th, 720 London Surprise: W. Edwards 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 5, H. Wingrove 6.

BELLS WITH WELSH INSCRIPTIONS.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Some time ago Mr. Thomas quoted one of the few bells with inscriptions in Welsh. It may interest our Welsh friends to know that we have in Leicestershire, at Fenny Drayton, three bells so inscribed.

Originally there were four ancient bells at this historic village (birthplace of Fox the Quaker), one a pre-Reformation bell, 'In honore Michael Archangeli,' the second dated 1596, third 1684, and tenor recast 1710. In 1909 a new treble was added, and the old second and fourth were recast by Carr, of Smethwick. On each of these bells there is now inscribed, 'Go go niant yn y gorughaf i dduw' (Glory to God in the Highest). Also the Rector's name, 'Jenkyn Edwards.' He was a Welshman, and when on August 13th, 1921, I had the privilege of conducting the only 5,040 ever rung here, the following incident occurred.

The tower is at the west end and the base is used as a choir vestry. A ringing chamber floor has been put half-way up the great tower arch, which has been boarded over. The only means of getting to ring is by placing a ladder outside the tower door with the top through the small opening left at the point of the arch forming doorway. On ascending the ladder one literally crawls through the opening.

There being no ventilation and it being a hot August day, we decided to leave the tower door open, but to prevent anyone disturbing the peal we pulled the ladder up into the ringing room. About half-way through the peal some consternation was caused by someone throwing through the entrance two coins. These turned out to be half-crowns, and on my writing later to thank the Rector for allowing us to ring the peal, he replied that it was he who had thrown us the money in lieu of giving us tea afterwards as he had a sudden call to go elsewhere.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

DEATH OF PORTMADOC RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Owen, who passed away on Wednesday, May 5th, in his 71st year.

Mr. Owen was a member of the North Wales Association, and had been conductor of St. John's, Portmadoc, for over 40 years. During this period he instructed a large number of young ringers in change ringing, and had taken part in several peals. He was well known to many visiting ringers, whom he was always glad to welcome to Portmadoc tower. On Sunday evening, May 9th, the bells were rung half-muffled, as a tribute of respect, by the local band.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on May 8th, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope, J. F. Smallwood, G. M. Kilby, G. J. Strickland, R. Stannard, R. F. Deal, C. H. Kippin, F. E. Collins, E. Hartley, E. Owen, C. W. Roberts, W. H. Hewitt, G. E. Fearn and H. Fearn, of Birmingham, Gunner T. Fox and Tel. A. Purdom, R.N. The visitors were Stoker Petty Officer J. W. New, of Wood Green, and A. Edwin Hoare, of Poole, Dorset. One new member was elected, Mr. Norman G. N. Knee, of Warminster, Wilts.

Mr. A. A. Hughes read a letter from the Society of the Friends of the City Churches with an invitation to the College Youths to nominate a member to serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Hughes was elected to serve in the office.

An interesting and useful discussion took place on the necessity of securing the best possible ringing, especially in these days when the Exercise is on its trial.

Mr. J. A. Trollope spoke of a new edition of Snowden's 'Standard Methods,' which Miss Snowden had printed just as the war began and which is now on sale. The book is an entirely new one, written on the most up-to-date lines, and with the experience gained by the great advance of ringing during the last fifty years. The quality of the paper and the printing is pre-war, and the price, 2s. 10d., covers not only the new book, but also the book of diagrams which has proved of such value to ringers. Mr. Trollope said that Miss Snowden deserved the thanks of the Exercise for taking the financial risks involved in having the book printed after war broke out, and he hoped she would be rewarded by a good sale.

Greetings were received from Mr. E. P. Duffield, of Colchester.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham on May 15th. Handbell ringing in All Saints' belfry was followed by the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, who gave an address. Tea was served at the Rectory, followed by the business meeting, at which Canon G. F. Coleridge, the branch chairman, presided. The officers were re-elected, as were also the branch representatives on the Guild Committee, with the exception that Mrs. B. C. Castle succeeds Mr. R. Darvill. Several members took part in further handbell ringing, which included touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Cycling to church on Easter Sunday, Mr. J. W. Wilkins had a narrow escape from a serious accident. His brakes failed, and he was thrown on to the pavement, just missing a crash with a horse and van. Although much bruised on the hands and face, Mr. Wilkins was able after assistance to resume his journey and to take part in the ringing and service at Wycombe and Hughenden.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who will be 78 years old to-morrow.

The first peal of Cassiobury Surprise Major was rung at Watford on May 16th, 1936.

On May 17th, 1735, the College Youths rang at St. Lawrence Jewry a peal of Court Bob Major, being the first that was ever done. The method is given in text books as Double London Court. It is now obsolete.

Ringling history was made at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on May 18th, 1846, when Henry Johnson called Thomas Thurstans' well-known peal of Stedman Triples for the first time.

Thomas Day's long length of Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram-in-Longdendale, on May 18th, 1883, and on the same date in 1929 the Chester Diocesan Guild rang at Liscard the first peal of Loughborough Bob Major.

The College Youths rang 11,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on May 9th, 1777.

On May 20th, 1840, the south-western tower of York Minster was burnt out and the ring of ten bells, which had been cast in 1762, were destroyed. They were replaced by a ring of twelve, which were recast by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, in 1926.

The first peal of Wallasey Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on May 20th, 1939.

The first peal in Scotland, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at St. Mary's, Dundee, by the College Youths, on May 21st, 1873.

On Whit Monday, May 21st, 1888, 13,054 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at St. Mary's, Cheltenham. At the time it was the longest length in the method. Canon Coleridge rang the ninth.

The most splendid failure in the history of change ringing was the 12,675 Stedman Cinques rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on May 21st, 1923. The ringing was by common consent excellent, but a small error in the composition rendered the peal false.

The first peal of Ipswich Surprise Major was rung at Newchurch on May 21st, 1927; and the first peal of Kendal Surprise Major at Bushey on May 21st, 1938.

The first peal of Stedman Triples, which is generally supposed to be true, was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on May 22nd, 1799, and exactly 100 years later Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor and called 17,024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK G. COLES.

REPORTED MISSING AFTER HONOUR.

The sympathy of the Exercise will go out to Mr. Charles T. Coles and Mrs. Coles, who have just received notice that their second son, Captain Frederick G. Coles, is reported missing in North Africa.

A few weeks ago, Lieut. Coles (as he then was) was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field, and promoted to a captaincy. The official story is as follows:—

'On February 26th, Lieut. Coles was an officer in a company detailed to carry out a counter-attack against enemy penetrations south-east of Medjaz el Bab. During the early stages of the operation his Company Commander was killed, and Lieut. Coles took command. He continued the direction of the operation with skill, coolness and without thought of his personal safety.

'The Germans were in considerable strength, but Lieut. Coles pressed home his attack with such vigour that the enemy force was completely destroyed and more than 100 prisoners were taken, as well as a large quantity of arms and equipment.

'Lieut. Coles displayed gallantry and military ability of a high order.'

Captain Coles joined the Gloucester Regt. in March, 1940, serving with them in Northern Ireland, and later in England. In July, 1942, he was given a Commission in the Queen's Royal Regt., and shortly after his transfer to the Lancashire Fusiliers in November, 1942, went to North Africa. He was promoted to lieutenant in January last and captain a few weeks ago.

It will be remembered that more than one ringer, reported missing, has since turned out to be alive and well, and all will wish that Mr. and Mrs. Coles will soon receive similar good news.

Mr. Coles' youngest son, Albert, is a Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. He was on the aircraft carrier 'Victorious' during the action in which the German battleship Bismarck was sunk.

THE MORAL VALUE OF BELLS.

Speaking of the lifting of the ban, the Bishop of Bristol said: 'I am delighted to hear it. It will do a great deal to stimulate and uplift the morale of the people and will greatly increase their sense of the value of what the Church stands for in the present life and future of our country.'

STANDARD METHODS

IN THE ART OF CHANGE RINGING.

A NEW TEXT BOOK.

BY ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

One of the principal causes of the development of change ringing during the present century has been the excellent series of text books known as 'The Jasper Snowdon Change Ringing Series.' Although Jasper Snowdon died over sixty years ago, these books are still standard works, and altogether about 40,000 copies of the books of this series have so far been sold. 'Standard Methods' has long been regarded as a book which every enthusiastic ringer should possess, and many always carry a copy of the diagrams whenever they go ringing.

It is inevitable, however, that such a book should get somewhat out of date; indeed, it has already been revised once, when it was thoroughly overhauled by William Snowdon in 1908. A second revision, undertaken just before the war, by J. Armiger Trollope, is now available to the Exercise. In this book will be found instructions for ringing 5 Doubles, 36 Minor, 4 Triples and 14 Major methods. There must be few ringers who can at a moment's notice ring all these. The letterpress has been entirely rewritten and is practically a new book, and deals with the subject in the inimitable way we have learnt to expect from his writings.

Revision was needed for two reasons. The first is set out in the Preface, where an answer to the question, 'What are the Standard Methods?' is given. 'So far as eight-bell ringing goes, the best answer is that the standard methods are those which a competent and well-equipped ringer may at any time need when he goes to a ringing meeting or into a strange belfry.' These methods have not always been the same, and a number of methods, such as Little Bob Major, Bristol Surprise and Yorkshire Surprise, have during the past thirty years gained a popularity which entitles them to be included in this select group. On the other hand, it is possible that such methods as Oxford Bob Triples, Plain Bob Triples, and Albion Treble Bob Major, have outlived what popularity they ever had. The necessity of using Holt's Singles in peals is no doubt the main reason why Oxford Bob Triples and similarly constructed methods are not rung so much as they might be. Duffield is included, presumably as an example of an even-bell method without a hunt bell. This method has never been practised extensively.

The second reason for revision was due to new ideas in teaching method ringing by impressing on the learner the importance of keeping the treble under observation, and also of having a clear understanding of what is meant by Coursing Order.

Mr. Trollope has had fifty years' experience of writing about ringing, and his articles in the ringing Press have been widely read and much appreciated by ringers all over the country. His knowledge of the history of our art is unsurpassed by anyone, and the material for his technical articles has been derived from his vast practical experience of ringing in all methods. Just over five years ago he revised 'Stedman,' another book in the Jasper Snowdon series. A careful study of this book cannot fail to repay the reader by giving him an added interest to his ringing and increasing his knowledge of this most fascinating and popular method.

'Standard Methods' does not neglect the all-important subject of good striking, and I make no apology for quoting some of Mr. Trollope's remarks on this subject, for they might be studied with advantage by many who would consider themselves sufficiently advanced in method ringing and in no need of a book such as 'Standard Methods.'

'Good striking is a part of method ringing, not merely a desirable quality which may or may not be acquired after the method is learnt. What happens too often is that a beginner attempts to ring a method before he has thoroughly learnt it, with the result that he is far too much occupied in trying to find out where he should be to concern himself with the way he is striking. But good striking should come first. Actually it takes more skill and more practice to ring and strike Treble Bob well than it does to ring Cambridge or Superlative in the way it is often performed.'

It would not be fitting for me to close this little appreciation of 'Standard Methods' without acknowledging the great debt which we ringers owe to Miss M. E. Snowdon, who, although not herself a ringer, takes a keen interest in ringing, and has made available to ringers, through this series of books, the knowledge patiently accumulated by her uncle and father. The fact that this new edition (the tenth) of 'Standard Methods' was printed in 1940 is proof enough of her confidence in the future. This book, the paper and printing of which are of pre-war quality, is now on sale at a pre-war price. It is indeed a happy coincidence that the old edition has recently been exhausted, and now that the ban on ringing has been lifted, a text book such as this should play an invaluable part towards the instruction of new recruits to the Exercise.

Text books are now more than ever essential to learners. Few instructors just now have the time to teach learners the mysteries of change ringing and, since bells are not yet allowed to be rung for practices, the learner possessing a book which reveals the vast scope and interest of method ringing is most likely to retain his initial enthusiasm, even though rounds and perhaps call-changes are all that he can attempt at present.

'Standard Methods' is published in two parts, The Letterpress, price 1s. 6d.; The Diagrams, price 1s. 6d.; or the complete work 2s. 10d. post free, and is obtainable only from Miss M. E. Snowdon, Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs.

BROADCAST KINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As I was unable to hear the broadcast ringing on Sunday morning, I inquired about it on my return home. After giving details my wife made a point which I think is worth consideration.

She remarked that it would be a good idea if the names of methods were announced before any broadcasts of ringing. I pointed out that no one would be interested except ringers. Her reply was that in pre-B.B.C. days a very large number of people were completely ignorant of the meaning of musical terms such as overture, concerto, etc., and regarded any mention of them as 'highbrow.' Through constantly hearing them used in broadcast announcements, almost everyone has a little idea of the meaning of these words, and their appreciation of music has increased as a result.

There has been a big outcry for the ban to be lifted by people of all walks of life, and yet hardly anyone understands the first thing about ringing and the terms connected with it. The time is very opportune to start the practice of broadcasting method names, etc. The educational effect through the almost universal medium of the wireless is likely to be far greater than anything we can hope to achieve by individual effort.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.

The 46th annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, May 15th, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Ringing on the silent tower bells occupied members from 2.30 p.m. until the time of the service. A course of Grandsire Caters on handbells was rung in church by G. M. Kilby, E. C. S. Turner, F. Smallwood, E. A. Barnett and C. W. Roberts.

The service was conducted by the assistant Rector (the Rev. D. Oldaker), whilst the Rev. — Tranter, of St. James, Islington, assisted with the accompanying music. The service was in the nature of a thanksgiving for recent victories, as well as an intercession for final victory. In the prayer for the safety of our forces a special intercession was made for Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., recently reported missing in North Africa. Mr. D. Oldaker, in his address, welcomed the members to Bishopsgate, and referred to the partial raising of the ban as being inadequate for the needs of ringers. The service was concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.

Tea was served in the adjoining hall, over 60 sitting down to a very satisfactory meal.

The annual business meeting followed, with the president, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, in the chair. The names of 14 members who had died since the last annual meeting were read by the hon. secretary, and members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report, read by Mr. C. T. Coles, contained the following items:—

'Despite increasing difficulties in arranging meetings, several were held. These were at Southgate, Cranford, Finchley, Acton, St. John's, Waterloo Road (jointly with the Society of Cumberland Youths), and a practice meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. There is still room for improvement in the attendances.

Ten new members were elected during the year, all in the North and East District. Peals rung numbered 26, all on handbells, and 33 members took part, an increase of 20 on 1941. There were six conductors as follows: E. C. S. Turner (14), J. Thomas (7), Mrs. Fletcher (2), and I. J. Attwater, H. G. Cashmore and W. Williams, one each. H. Harris rang his first peal, and K. Arthur, P. E. Collins, P. A. Corby and H. M. Page their first handbell peals.

'We deeply regret the loss, by death, of E. Brett, C. Charge, C. W. Clarke, the Rev. Dr. Flecker, J. Flint, R. E. G. Geare, A. Gill, J. S. Goldsmith, Miss I. L. Hastie, C. Mee, J. W. Meldrum, A. Nash, W. J. Nevard, W. E. Pitman, the Rev. G. Richardson, G. Saunders, W. Seeley and Sergt. Pilot R. Tinsley. The last named was killed on active service. He was a promising member of the Moncken Hadley band. To the bereaved relatives in each case we extend our sincere sympathy. The death of Mr. Goldsmith, Editor of "The Ringing World," was a great loss to the Exercise.

'Five members have been reported as prisoners of war. They are J. Boomsma (Stepney), D. Brock (Sunbury) and N. H. Manning (Chiswick) in Italy, W. Barlow (Edmonton) in Germany, and H. Ireland (Edmonton) in North Borneo. After having been posted as missing it was a relief to us all to hear of their safety, and we trust that they will soon be safely home and amongst their friends again.

The departure of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher from the county deprives us of the active services of two valued members. Both of them have been loyal members for many years, and the Edmonton band in particular will feel the loss of their services when ringing starts again. Mr. Fletcher has been vice-president of the association since 1934, and has always been active and regular in his duties, especially at meetings. Much of the work done by him and Mrs. Fletcher has been of great assistance to the secretaries, and this we earnestly hope will not be lost to us. We place on record our sincere thanks for all they have done for the association, and trust that they will have a happy and useful life in their new surroundings at Great Yarmouth.'

The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The statement of accounts, showing an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £3 14s. and total assets of £168 6s. 6d., was submitted by Mr. W. H. Oram (hon. treasurer) and adopted.

The Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane was re-elected president, amid applause. The other official positions were filled as follows: Active vice-presidents, Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. A. Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. S. Turner; hon. auditor, Mr. E. M. Atkins; and trustees, Messrs. Oram, Coles and Turner.

In proposing Mr. C. T. Coles as active vice-president. Mr. Oram said that the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, owing to removal from the county, had been considered by the committee, who thought that they should invite Mr. Coles to fill the position, especially in view of his past services to the association. Mr. Lock seconded, and Mr. Coles said he was mindful of the honour, but it was rather unusual for one man to hold two important positions. He was willing to stand until the end of the war, or until such time before then as members were content.

After Mr. Coles had been elected, the President spoke of his long term of office as hon. secretary, and then referred to the great distinc-

tion recently conferred by the King on his son, then Lieut. Coles, with the award of the Military Cross for an act of great bravery in North Africa. Promotion had quickly followed, but they now heard the sad news that Capt. Coles had been reported missing. After congratulating the hon. secretary on the distinction gained by his son, the President expressed the hopes of all present that the anxiety of him and Mrs. Coles would soon be relieved and that they would hear that their son was safe and well.

Mr. Coles thanked the president and the members for their sentiments, especially for their good wishes on behalf of his son.

MR. AND MRS. FLETCHER.

The retirement of Mr. G. W. Fletcher from the vice-presidency, consequent upon his removal to Great Yarmouth, was referred to, and Mr. T. J. Lock proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for their sterling work for the association. Mr. Lock gave details of the many activities of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for the association, and he also proposed that they be elected honorary life members as a mark of appreciation of their long and loyal service. He also wished them happiness and success with the Norwich Diocesan Association, saying, 'Our loss is the gain of that association.' Mr. Cockey seconded, and Mr. Coles supported the resolutions, which were carried unanimously.

Mr. Frank Smallwood, of Kenton, and Sergt. Pilot Brian Wayman, of Teddington, were elected members.

The President proposed a resolution of good wishes to all members serving in H.M. Forces, which was carried.

A resolution of sympathy and good wishes with Mr. G. R. Pye, a loyal and valued member, who had for many years been a regular attendant at meetings, on his long illness, was carried unanimously.

Arrangements for the next annual general meeting were left to the hon. secretary.

Mr. Lock referred to the present difficulties due to shortage of ringers, and urged unattached members to contact with towers for Sunday ringing, and also bands to help each other as far as possible.

Earlier in the proceedings the President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. D. Oldaker for his address, and for his invaluable help in arranging this meeting. This was seconded by the hon. secretary and carried unanimously. The Rev. D. Oldaker thanked the members, saying that the association was always welcome at Bishopsgate.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. — Tranter for his harmonious assistance, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis for their help, especially in connection with tea arrangements, which he said were excellent. He also added thanks for the ladies who helped Mrs. Davis. This was carried with applause.

A vote of thanks to the president concluded the business.

Silent tower bells, and handbells, were in use during the afternoon, and many ringers took part in the ringing of several methods.

SS. PETER AND PAUL'S, ORMSKIRK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In one of his recent articles on Towers and Spires, Mr. Ernest Morris referred to the ancient Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Ormskirk, Lancashire. Whilst living in Southport and also when on holiday in that town, I have paid visits to this church and the neighbouring churches at Halsall, Aughton, Sefton and the ruined Burscough Priory, all of which are full of interest for the antiquarian.

Mr. Morris refers to the rather odd legend concerning the origin of the dominant feature of Ormskirk Church, i.e., the tower and spire adjoining each other and yet separate. A few details may be of interest to your readers. A writer has suggested that the suffix 'kirk' denotes that the origin is Norse dating back to about the year 800. The first reference to Ormskirk is in the foundation charter of Burscough Priory in the year 1189. It is recorded that the church, together with its endowments, were bestowed by Robert, Lord of Lathom, on the Canons Regular of Burscough. Here began a connection which was not severed until the Reformation.

The south-west tower with its spire was added to the church in the year 1430, and this is one of the oldest parts of the church (part of the chancel, containing a Norman window, being older). The upper part of the tower and the spire were rebuilt in 1826, having been struck by lightning. As the priory at Burscough was one of the smaller monasteries, it was dissolved in the year 1536 and demolition began almost at once. All that now remains above ground are the two eastern piers of the crossing, the northern containing a piscina and the jamb of a window. The site has not been excavated, but several large grass covered mounds seem to suggest that quantities of fallen masonry are still on the site. Some of the bells were sent to Ormskirk, and the great west tower housing them was built between 1540 and 1550 with stone from the ruined priory church. One hundred and ten years elapsed between the building of the south-west tower and the great west tower. As the earlier tower was built 241 years after the first mention of the church, the two sisters must have reached a ripe old age by the time their work was complete! For the dates and details relating to Ormskirk Church I am indebted to the writer of a handbook, which is (or used to be) on sale in the church.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

RINGING PRIVILEGES.

WILL PRE-WAR CONDITIONS RETURN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—For the first time in history, church bells have been silenced for three years by Government Order. In the very critical year 1940, when invasion of this country was expected, the defence authorities decided to use the bells as an alarm signal. Let us be generous and say that they honestly believed such a measure was necessary, and that it would effectively spread the alarm.

We now know that the idea was neither necessary nor practical. The opportunity, however, was quickly seized by those who have an antipathy to bells to keep this measure in force as long as ever possible, and it was only after considerable agitation in Parliament, culminating in great pressure in the House of Lords by the Archbishop of York, that the ban on ringing was rather grudgingly lifted so as to permit the ringing of bells for Sunday service and Christmas Day.

The Prime Minister very clearly announced in the House that the use of bells as a warning was now abolished, and surely it is pertinent to enquire on what grounds is the ringing of bells on other days than Sunday or Christmas restricted?

Perhaps it is just as well that some restriction is imposed, as certain irresponsible persons might have commenced an orgy of peal ringing which would have had disastrous effects on the present very favourable general public attitude towards bells and ringing.

NEED FOR VIGILANCE.

We must keep a watchful eye on the position, however, or what is now imposed as an emergency measure might become a permanent regulation.

It seems to me we have got to do some constructive thinking in the near future if we are ever to return to anything like the same ringing privileges we enjoyed before the war commenced.

The bells were originally placed in our steeples primarily for purposes of worship, service ringing and expressions of public joy and sorrow. Naturally, the ringers would need facilities for practice, and out of that custom probably peal ringing came.

Can we make out a good case for the restoration of peal ringing facilities? I suggest that under the conditions at present obtaining in most crowded cities, peal ringing and ringers' meetings are definitely a public nuisance, and that we have no right to indulge in either peals or meetings if by so doing we cause annoyance to those living close to the towers.

In the past, when people have complained, it has in some cases been rather ruthlessly suggested by the ringers or the clergy that as the bells were there long before those who have complained came to live there, the remedy was obvious—let them go and live somewhere else!

Is it expected that this sort of reasoning will work after the war? Leaving out all ideas of Christian charitableness, it is not possible for people to move about easily in these days of house shortage, and it is doubtful whether it would be tolerated, now that the bells have once been silenced by the authorities.

NOISE CONTROL.

We have got to face squarely up to the position and find out how we may retain our ringing privileges and still give no cause for annoyance to anyone. There has been a tremendous amount of research and experiment made in the past, on the possibility of reducing noise in the vicinity of the towers, and I understand that if proper measures are taken it is quite possible to stand outside a tower where a heavy peal is going and hold a conversation quite comfortably. Yet the bells are heard quite clearly in the distance.

Possibly the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council has all this information; if so, let them make it readily available; if not, then they should obtain it at once, so as to be in a position to advise when restorations, etc., are undertaken.

No doubt the bell founders have already realised that the changed conditions will not allow repetitions of the errors of the past. More will be expected of them in the future, and it will not be sufficient to just put in a modern tuned peal of bells and leave it at that. They are the most appropriate people to advise Church authorities on how to quieten the bells in the vicinity of the church, and it is to be hoped they will do so.

Since the ban was imposed, a lot of work in connection with 'silent apparatus' has been done. I do not know whether any perfect scheme has been evolved, but it seems to me that we shall need to know all there is to know about such facilities if we are to be allowed to practise in future.

From the foregoing it will be plain to all that there is plenty of work to be done if lost ground is to be recovered and former privileges enjoyed. Now is the time to get busy, with our Central Council directing and leading. Should they meet? I think so!

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

99, Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Middlessex.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Monday, May 3rd, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, 1,260 changes: H. Wingrove 1-2, D. R. Fletcher 3-4, K. E. Fletcher (first as conductor) 5-6.

THE LATE PHILIP HODGKIN.

TENTERDEN TENOR

Philip Hodgkin, whose death we announced recently, was very well known among Kent ringers, especially as a very strong and powerful tenor man. A couple of years ago he wrote a short account of his ringing career, which included the following:—

'I was born at Aldington, Kent, on April 11th, 1863, and started ringing at St. Martin's Church on June 7th, 1877. We only used to ring in the winter at that time, and there was no Sunday ringing, only on Easter and Whit Sundays, so we did not get much chance to learn very fast. I had to learn on an inside bell and rang my first 720 Bob Minor on December 4th, 1879.

'I used to visit Mersham and Ashford, we soon had some learners and in a few years we managed to ring Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. There was not much Grandsire rung in this part at that time, so we used to ring with open leads, which I always prefer instead of tenor behind.

'In 1891 I shifted to Headcorn on the permanent way. The fine ring of eight bells had just been recast, three of them, and all rehung with new wheels and sliders and stays. There was only a stoney band who used to ring a little bit in the winter and on the first Sunday in the month. But there were several lads who wanted to learn, so they kept on at me to give them a start, and we soon had quite a lot able to ring. We have always practised rising and falling in peal and do it fairly well.'

Mr. Hodgkin was always proud (and with reason) of the peal of Major at St. Mildred's, Tenterden, to which he rang the tenor. For a long time the bell was hung in roller bearings, which were not a success, and the 'go' was very bad.

The first peal of Major on the bells was 5,184 Oxford Treble Bob on May 20th, 1771, by the Leeds band. Thomas Lacy rang the tenor with help.

'The next that I have any account of was William Hobbs, of Aldington, a very able ringer. They used to call him Glorious Hobbs, but he never managed to do it. The next I know of was William Pye, from Chadwell Heath, Essex, and he did not get through a peal. It fell to my lot to have a try on October 7th, 1907, when I had to give up after two hours' first rate ringing, and then had to walk back to Headcorn, a distance of nine miles.

'There had been a lot of rain a day before and the water had run right down the turret, and after making a survey of the tower they found one of the pinnacles near the turret was in a very bad state. They pulled it down and rebuilt it, and then they thought the best thing to do would be to rebuild the other three turrets. So we had to wait four and a half years before we got another chance for a peal attempt.

'It was on April 8th, 1912, and there was no means of getting there only to walk, which I did, starting soon after 5 o'clock from Headcorn. I had a look round the ropes and oiled the bearings, and everything was ready for a start about 10 o'clock, when we started and rang a splendid peal of Bob Major in 3 hours and 15 minutes. Then I had a bit of lunch and walked back home again, not feeling very much the worse for it.'

AFTER THE BAN.

The enclosed letter from the president of the Lancashire Association appeared in 'The Manchester Guardian':—

Sir,—Now that the ban on Sunday ringing has been lifted, may I make a twofold appeal? First, to all Service men and women who are ringers to give what help they can at the nearest tower where there is a ring of bells; secondly, to all tower captains to train young ringers; this will have to be done during the week with lashed clappers.

Unless an effort is made in both these directions it will be found that in few towers will the bells be fully manned, for during the last three years the English art of change ringing has received the most serious setback in its history.—Yours, etc., F. F. Rigby, President of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers. Ashton-under-Lyne. April 22nd.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—Mr. A. P. Cannon, in his interesting letter published in 'The Ringing World,' May 7th, mentions that the tenor of the peal of five at Felmersham, Beds. weighs 26 cwt. I measured the diameter of this bell in 1919 as 4ft. 0½in. and its note is approximately E flat. North, in his 'Church Bells of Bedfordshire,' gives the diameter of the bell as 47¼in. I should say it is very doubtful whether the bell weighs more than a ton. I thought Mr. Cannon, to whom I send best wishes, might be interested to have this information.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—On May 2nd, at Holy Trinity Church, for evening service, 1,260 changes Grandsire Triples: A. J. Print 1, H. Brookes 2, Cpl. A. H. Rainey, R.A.F. 3, F. C. Lyne 4, Sgt. N. Goodman, R.E. 5, A. Price 6, V. B. Hunt (conductor) 7, W. Cockings 8.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

While the ban was on there were many demands in newspapers for its abolition, both in editorial leaders and in letters from correspondents. Now it has been partially lifted we must expect some expressions of opinion on the other side. Ringers will not agree with them, but they should take note of them.

Here is a letter from a correspondent in 'The Daily Telegraph':—
 "As one who lives exactly opposite a church that has a 'peal of bells,' may I answer your correspondent who is anxious to have practice ringing in addition to Sunday ringing?"

"In this age of nervous tension and noise is it really necessary to peal bells for one hour to summon people to worship at a service which lasts one hour? People who wish to attend divine worship require no summoning by bells or other extraneous methods. Chapels (which have no peal of bells) are probably the most filled churches in the country.

"It is impossible to hear one's self speak during this pealing, air raid warnings cannot be heard, many night workers, who are obliged to sleep during the daytime, have their rest broken by this noise of bells. If practice ringing is to be allowed, it will add to the surfeit of din caused by the present conditions of life due to the war.

"I submit that bellringing is only a hobby of a certain section of the community and is not an adjunct to religion or an incentive to church going. It would be interesting to know how many bellringers attend the divine service they advertise by their ringing."

'THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.'

'The Manchester Guardian' printed the following from the Rev. J. C. Hardwick, Vicar of Partington:—

'The lifting of the ban on the ringing of church bells is a legitimate cause of delight in so far as it is a sign that the danger to our country is less imminent, but in no other respect does it seem to me to be fortunate.

"I suppose the original purpose of the jangling of bells was to drive away evil spirits, and certainly one cannot imagine a method more likely to be effective. The present use of these bells is ostensibly to summon people to public worship in church. But your Sunday hiker dreaming over the stile has no intention of attending divine service, and in point of fact bells are quite redundant as summoners to church when every house, however humble, has a clock and the wireless. If the people wish to attend service they will do so without all this noise being made to remind them of the hour. Cinemas do not ring bells, but they are better filled than churches which do.

"The quiet sound of distant church bells" may be very delightful, but as one who for more years than he cares to count has lived near to a church I can assure you that contiguity takes away all the charm. One cannot say that this war has bestowed many benefits upon us, but the relief from a distracting and irritating noise during the past three years has been a godsend."

This was followed by several letters in much the same strain. A Mr. W. Tyldesley wrote:—

"I feel very grateful to the Rev. J. C. Hardwick for his protest against the ringing of church bells and to you for publishing his letter. The ringing bells are a hideous, nerve-shattering din when near: in the distance they are the most melancholy noise known to man. Why should churches be privileged to destroy the Sabbath quiet, not to mention their weekday occasions and practices? If I arranged a meeting and jangled bells outside the doorway for ten minutes I should undoubtedly be prosecuted.

"This mechanised age has proved how destructive of health and temper noise can be, and our aim should be to reduce it as far as possible. Let us have an end to this stupid practice of bellringing, and let us at the same time silence the public clocks that noisily toll the passing of time."

AN EXTRAVAGANT LETTER.

That was addressed from Hereford. The following, which defeats itself by its extravagance, was from London:—

"On one of the last occasions when I was in Italy before the war the church bells of Tivoli were rung furiously to frighten away a thunderstorm. As Mr. Hardwick says, bells were originally used to drive off evil spirits, and their use to-day is as unnecessary as it is distracting and irritating.

"But if bellringing is to be permitted let us at least hope that Mr. Rigby's wishes are not granted, but that "change ringing" in a populated district will be prohibited. Cannot those who find bellringing amusing be limited to practising it on small bells out in the fields?"

(Continued in next column.)

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD MEETING AT SEDGLEY.

A meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. The attendance was somewhat small, a welcome visitor being Mr. W. Saunders, of Coalbrookdale. The bells, with tied clappers, were rung to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, with Doubles and Minor on handbells. At the service the Rev. C. H. Barker read the prayers and the Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn (Vicar) gave an interesting address.

Cups of tea and an assortment of home-made cakes were kindly provided by Mrs. Fullwood in the Schoolroom. Four new members were elected. It was provisionally arranged to hold the annual meeting at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 26th. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, to Mr. B. Fullwood for seeing to the bells, etc., and to Mrs. Fullwood and her lady helper for arranging the tea was passed with applause. The Vicar replied.

Handbells were then brought into use, and the methods included Grandsire Triples and Caters and a course of Bob Major.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

"I was once living in a house very near to a church with a large peal of bells. One afternoon suddenly a most hideous clangor arose. Changes were being rung by competing ringers. The very house seemed to rock. The deafening, stunning, shattering reverberations clashed and clanged mercilessly. It was impossible to shut them out; impossible to read, write, do anything but run to the nearest bus and escape. To the sick and aged, unable to get away, the din must have been torture.

"Such practices cannot popularise the Church or promote Christianity. Away with them."

More important than these letters was an article in the paper signed 'Artifex,' a nom-de-plume which conceals one of the best known clergymen in Lancashire. The article is a long one and an extract will be sufficient to show its nature: "I am surprised and I will confess disappointed that the letter of the Rev. J. C. Hardwick on the subject of church bells has called out so little support. For the matter seems to me one of real importance. Noise is recognised to-day as one of the major ills of modern life. Yet the magistrate who will protect us against barking dogs and crowing cocks would almost certainly refuse to interfere if the complaint were about the worse nuisance of church bells. For brain workers, night workers, invalids and children, and many other classes quiet is not merely a question of comfort; it may well be a matter of health.

"What need is there to call people to church? Most people over sixteen have watches. If the bell is not loud enough to wake everybody in the district it fails in its object, and if it is loud enough to do so it is an intolerable nuisance to many who do not in the least desire to be awakened."

A REFRESHING LETTER.

It was very refreshing to read the following from a lady:—

"Not everyone feels the same dislike of church bells as your correspondents the Rev. J. C. Hardwick and Mr. W. Tyldesley. Yesterday I was visiting a woman who has been bedridden for five months. She said to me: "Wasn't it lovely to hear the bells on Easter Sunday? My daughter opened the window so that I could listen to them."

"The Church Times' continued to publish letters on bells and ringing. A very sensible one signed 'Padre' contained only one short sentence, 'Some are never satisfied.'

One correspondent made the not very wise or practical suggestion that the clergy should set the Control of Noises Order at defiance:—

"I suggest that on May 30th incumbents should have on their notice boards, and give out in church, a notice that on Ascension Day their bells will be sounded, and that they should be ready to take the consequences, if any. No one would then be deceived."

We must expect to have a lot of ignorant nonsense talked about bells, but the following would be hard to beat:—

"Bells were never meant to be rung in the fashion they are rung in some places to-day—standing so many hours and ringing so many changes of different methods. Nowhere but in England is this method adopted, and at what a price!"

"I know numbers of churches whose towers have fallen, bells cracked, frames dislocated, and the cause has been traced to this costly amusement. I have stood outside the Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, and listened to the chiming, not ringing, of those bells. There was no vibration to speak of on the tower, no complaints around of the loud clanging noise, but only the sweet mellow and subdued tones which the bells throw out."

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon, Sat., May 22nd. Service at St. Mary's Church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Bring your own food and sugar.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Halstead on Saturday, May 22nd. Handbells from 2.30 in church. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the school. Please bring own food.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 22nd, 3 p.m. Bells available ('silent'). Tea at 'Shoes' 5 p.m. and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. All requiring tea please notify me not later than May 24th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Sawley on Saturday, May 29th. Church bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Meeting in Vestry 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Handbell ringing and social hour after. Names for tea to Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Ditton, Notts, by Wednesday, May 26th. Important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Apsley End, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3.30. Short service 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at the 'Woodbarners.' Those requiring tea must let me know by May 26th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 29th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 6 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Bowdon, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, at a small charge for all who send to Mr. D. Vincent, 6, Stanway Drive, Hale, Cheshire, by May 26th. Handbells after tea.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Meeting Saturday, May 29th. Silent ringing at St. John's 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.30 p.m. As the business is of special importance, it is hoped that all members will make an effort to attend.—W. G. Emery, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Rickmansworth Saturday, May 29th. Handbells at British Legion Club, Ebury Road, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Oasis Cafe, near L.M.S. Station, 5.45. Names for tea to F. W. Elliott, 48, Talbot Road, Rickmansworth, by May 27th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Batley on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells in tower from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in local cafes. Business meeting 7 p.m. All towers are requested to send a representative to consider Mutual Assistance Schemes.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham (Kent) on Sunday, May 30th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4 p.m., followed by light refreshment and meeting in Church Hall. Ringing at 5.30 for evening service. Those requiring tea must advise me by not later than May 25th.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 5th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting at the Church House. Names for tea by May 31st.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general sec. by June 4th. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST, LEYTONSTONE.—Ringing on second and fourth Sundays in each month at 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

ST. NICHOLAS' CATHEDRAL, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Sunday ringing (12), 10.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Members of H.M. Forces especially welcomed.—J. Anderson, Hon. Sec., 3, Salters Road, Newcastle, 3.

DEATH.

WOOD.—On May 14th, at 4, Stanley Villas, Queenborough, the dearly loved wife of William J. Wood, aged 65.

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INSTRUCTION.

One of the most important of the problems which face the Exercise is the supply and training of recruits, and it is a problem to which at the present no satisfactory solution can be found. At the best of times, the number of recruits is small. To-day, when they are needed more than ever, if they could be had, it would not be possible to deal with them. Not only is the number of available instructors limited, but the opportunities for instruction are practically non-existent.

The problem would be a formidable one if it stood by itself, but it does not. It is much complicated by the necessity of ensuring that the small amount of ringing now possible should be of the best possible quality. Ringers are somewhat in the position that a choirmaster would be if he could only give his choir practice and instruction during the actual church services.

Anything like turning service ringing into a practice for teaching beginners should not be allowed, yet, provided care is used, much can be done to give learners an opportunity of improving their ringing.

It probably would be true to say that what is most needed at the present time is a better understanding of the most efficient methods of instruction. There are many men in the Exercise who are willing and anxious to do everything they can to form new bands and to strengthen old ones. They do not spare themselves in their efforts; but self-sacrifice, patience and enthusiasm are often wasted because they are not accompanied by the use of correct methods. These men are fully deserving of all the thanks the Exercise can give, but it is only due to them that the essential principles of the problems of instruction should be more widely known and understood.

One of the major difficulties of teaching is that the beginner usually expects to learn during the very limited time in which he actually has hold of a bell rope, and it would hardly be incorrect to say that many men think they can only give instruction when their pupils are pulling a bell. That is quite wrong. The art of change ringing is far too complex to be learnt properly in that way. If the beginner is to make rapid and satisfactory progress, much of his knowledge, perhaps most of it, must be acquired outside the tower.

This is especially true of all that is comprised in the term "method ringing." It is a clumsy and largely futile plan to try to teach a beginner plain hunting by standing behind him and telling him which bells he must strike over. The proper way is to make him understand,

(Continued on page 234.)

before ever he tries to hunt a bell, what hunting is, and when he takes his place in the steeple his task will be to put into practice what he already understands in theory. In a similar way a beginner should thoroughly understand a method before he attempts to ring it.

It is a common experience that whenever a beginner takes pains to find out for himself all he can about ringing outside the belfry his progress inside is rapid and satisfactory. He is little trouble to his instructors, and he quickly becomes a valuable addition to the band.

Anything which aids beginners to gain knowledge of ringing is of value to the Exercise. The instructor who devotes a little time to his pupil outside the tower and with the aid of pencil and paper patiently tries to make some point or other clear, may get better results than he could by many lessons in the belfry.

There is far more interest and pleasure to be got out of change ringing than what is included in the actual ringing. Beginners should be encouraged to try to find out everything they can about it, and for that the use of text books is essential. It is a happy coincidence that with the lifting of the ban has come the new edition of 'Standard Methods.' There is, of course, far more in that book than a beginner can hope to put into practice for a long time to come. But there is nothing that he cannot try to understand or that should not interest him. And when he ceases to be a beginner and can take his place as a competent ringer, he will find the book a safe guide in his progress to the highest stages of method ringing.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. Oldham mentions in his letter published in 'The Ringing World,' May 21st, that the diameter of the Felmersham tenor is 4.4 inches and its note approximately F flat. From these particulars, the calculated thickness of the sound bow and the weight of the tenor, taking the vibrations per second for F flat as 79.2, are as follows:—

$$\text{Thickness} = \frac{D^2 \times V}{58000} = \frac{48.5 \times 79.2}{58000} = \frac{2352.2 \times 79.2}{58000} = 3.22 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{Weight} = .0026 \times D^2 \times T = .0026 \times 48.5^2 \times 3.22 = .0026 \times 2352.2 \times 3.22 = 19.7 \text{ cwt.}$$

i.e., 19 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb.

Mr. Oldham thought the weight to be not more than a ton. I thought this information might be useful to ringers for calculating doubtful weights of tenor bells.

ARTHUR L. COLEMAN.

Aylmerton, Norfolk.

'STANDARD METHODS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have before me the tenth edition of 'Standard Methods,' and I think it should be emphasised that the diagram section has not been revised.

With regard to the 'letterpress,' it is the best text-book on a number of methods I have seen, and the section on Surprise Major alone is more than value for money. This is indeed an entirely new work, and the explanation of London Surprise places a vivid picture of the method in one's mind in the clear way it is written.

That such a work should be produced in war time puts a great trust in ringers.

49, Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon.

F. G. BALDWIN.

HANDBELL PEALS.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 16 in B.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY... 1-2 | ALBERT ROUGHT... 3-4

WALTER C. MEDLER... 5-6

Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

The peal was specially arranged for the ringer of 1-2, now serving in H.M. Forces and home on leave.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, W 1,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN H. LEWIS... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT... 5-6

JOHN THOMAS... 3-4 | EDWIN BARNETT... 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL.

Conducted by E. H. LEWIS.

The conductor's 50th peal on handbells. A compliment to Mrs. E. A. Barnett and the ringer of 5-6 on the birth of a daughter.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT 32, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST STONE... 1-2 | FRANK E. PERVIN... 3-4

JOSEPH H. W. WHITE... 5-6

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

A golden wedding peal for Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Roberts, of Coventry. Their marriage took place at the Church of St. Mary-de-Lode, Gloucester, on May 22nd, 1893.

CATTERICK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE OFFICERS' MESS, MARNE, Lincs.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

*LIEUT. J. HINDSHAW, Royal Corps of Signals... 1-2

REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, R.A.Ch.D... 3-4

*CAPT. D. H. FENDER, Royal Corps of Signals... 5-6

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, C.F.

* First peal.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Three Houses Inn, Sandal, on May 15th, and members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

At the business meeting, which followed the tea, the Vicar of Sandal, the Rev. A. Walls, presided, and on the motion of Mr. W. Moxon, seconded by Mr. H. Spencer, was elected an honorary life member.

Best thanks were given to the Vicar and to the local company for the arrangements made.

The Vicar said he was pleased to welcome the society once more and felt proud to be elected a member of the society.

The next meeting will be held at Barnsley on June 15th in conjunction with the Yorkshire Association.

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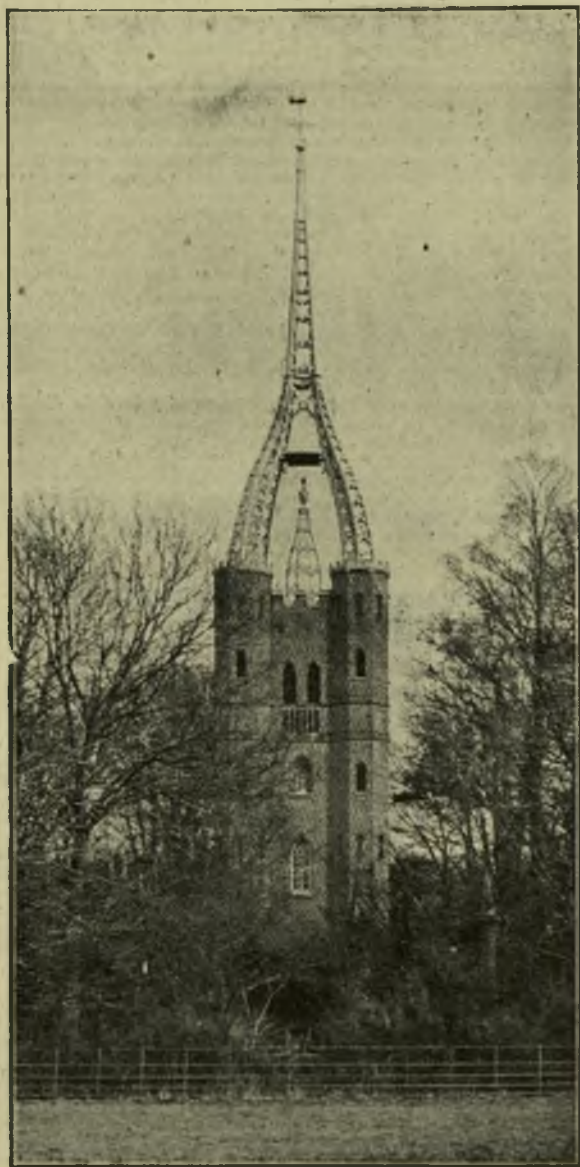
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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 224.)

JOHN POWELL POWELL.

John Powell Powell was a wealthy man who had a great love and enthusiasm for change ringing. He was a belated successor of Henry Smyth, Henry Brett, William Fortrey, Theodore Eccleston and the other gentlemen patrons of the art, and, like them, he spent money



BELL TOWER, QUEX PARK.

freely in the pursuit of his hobby. He probably learned to ring at Fulham, where he had a house, and with which parish his family had been for some generations connected. His country estate was at Birchington, near Margate, in Kent, and at Quex Park, his seat, he built a special bell tower, and in it installed a ring of twelve bells from the Whitechapel foundry with a tenor of 15 cwt.

The opening took place on August 4th, 1819, and was

a more or less public event, being attended by a 'considerable concourse of fashionables' from Margate. Both the societies of College Youths and Cumberland Youths were invited to send bands to the opening, and each in turn rang a touch of about 900 changes of Cinques.

The Cumberlands then rang the first peal in the steeple—5,213 Grandsire Cinques in 3 hours and 39 minutes. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, and the band was made up of James Nash, William Shipway, John Hints, Peter Jones, James Blacklock, Thomas Freith, Thomas Ovenden, James Stichbury, Joseph Riley, Thomas Grainger and Francis Mathew.

The College Youths did not attempt a peal, which shows that many of their leading men had now reached the stage when they did not care to face the ordeal of standing for three and a half hours. Instead, they contented themselves with two or three touches of an hour's duration. Between May, 1816, when George Gross called a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and March, 1820, when John Povey called one of Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the society rang only four five-thousands, and all were by the members who lived in the villages of West Middlesex and the Thames Valley.

Powell's intention was, of course, to form a local band at Quex Park, and he had some measure of success. The men on his estate were induced to join, and William Shipway was engaged as instructor. In the year 1820 he called Holt's ten-part on the back eight.

Powell himself did not attain to much skill as a practical ringer, and the most that he did was to ring the tenor behind. He had, however, large ambitions to be a composer, and especially of Stedman Triples, to which method Shipway was devoting a lot of attention. In 1828 he published a folio of twenty pages, giving the result of his and Shipway's investigations up to date. It contains nothing of real value, but is an interesting landmark in the development of composition.

Powell joined the Society of Cumberland Youths and for some years was a member, but before his death both he and Shipway went over to the rival company. Shipway remained in Kent for some time, but he soon got homesick for his old associations and friends in London, and he ultimately went back to them.

Soon after the peal at Quex Park, one of Treble Bob Major was rung at Bethnal Green. It was 'by particular desire of Mr. Malachi Channon, it being the last he intended to ring.' He was then 72 years of age, and had been a member of the society for 52 years.

I have now given a detailed account of the Society of Cumberland Youths from its foundation down to the time when a general decline in London ringing had set in. This was the point at which I intended to conclude the history of London ringers and ringing I set myself to write. My account of the Cumberland Youths is largely taken from that history, and I must now bring it to an end for want of further information, for under the present circumstances research work is impossible, and much has to be done before the story of ringing in the nineteenth century can be properly told.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, May 9th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. G. Wareham 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, W. C. Shute 4, H. White (conductor) 5, G. Wareham 6.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Tuesday, June 1st, is the first anniversary of the death of John Sparkes Goldsmith, for 31 years proprietor and editor of 'The Ringing World.'

St. Paul's Cathedral bells were rung last week for the thanksgiving service attended by the King and Queen. It was the first time since the ban that bells have been rung on a weekday, and a special order signed by the Minister of Home Security was necessary.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. C. Limpus, of Vancouver, British Columbia. He tells us that Mr. J. B. Cherry, who lives not far from him, is still alive. Now that John Martyn Routh has passed away, Mr. Cherry is undoubtedly the oldest member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. They were elected in the same year. Mr. Cherry is 88 years old. Last year he visited the belfry and rang the tenor.

The first peal of Leicestershire Surprise Major was rung at Wigston on May 23rd, 1936, and the first peal of Hitchin Surprise Major at Hitchin on May 24th, 1938.

On May 24th, 1837, the first peal of Albion Treble Bob Major was rung at Liversedge. Many good things have been said of this method, but it has never been popular among ringers.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first and only peal of Canterbury Pleasure Maximus at Canterbury Cathedral on May 24th, 1930.

The first peal of Little Bob Maximus was rung at Newcastle Cathedral on May 26th, 1923.

The record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 15,264 changes, was rung at Hornchurch on May 27th, 1912. Mr. Reuben Sanders, who rang the treble, and Mr. George R. Pye, who rang the second, are the only survivors of the band.

The first peal of Sandringham Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on May 27th, 1936.

The first peal of Stedman Caters was rung by the 'ancient' Society of College Youths at St. John's, Horsleydown, on May 28th, 1787.

On the same date in 1901, John S. Goldsmith called the first peal of Surprise Major rung outside England.

The Ashton-under-Lyne band rang 10,075 Grandsire Cinques on May 29th, 1896.

The first handbell peal in four Spliced Surprise Major methods was rung at Bushey on May 29th, 1936.

On the same date in 1934, the first peal of Truro Surprise Major was rung at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon; and in 1937, the first peal of Langley Surprise Major at Aldenham.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK G. COLES.

The hopes expressed last week have unfortunately not been realised, and definite news has come that Capt. Frederick G. Coles has been killed in action. All ringers will join in an expression of sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles on the death of their gallant son.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on May 22nd, and was supported by the treasurer, the hon. secretary and Messrs. E. A. Young, W. H. Pasmore, J. F. Smallwood, J. H. Shepherd, A. W. Brighton, R. Stannard, G. N. Price, H. Hoskins, E. Pye, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts, C. M. Meyer, E. Hartley, R. Spears, F. Coles, W. H. Hewitt and John Austin, of Gloucester. The visitors were Mr. J. B. Davis and Driver W. Grice, R.A.S.C., of Maidstone.

Mr. A. A. Hughes reported on a meeting of the Friends of the City Churches. He represents the College Youths on the Executive Committee.

Congratulations were expressed to Mr. E. A. Young on his 78th birthday. In a cordial reply Mr. Young said he was specially delighted to spend the afternoon with the College Youths. He had a visit in the morning from Mr. Isaac Emery, who sent his good wishes to the members.

The meeting heard the sad news of the death of Capt. F. C. Coles, son of Mr. C. T. Coles, and the secretary was asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Coles.

CO-OPERATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that the ban has been lifted we must get out of the old way of sticking to our own tower each Sunday, and make local arrangements to meet at different towers and give the depleted hands a chance of having a decent ring. How can some local people be expected to support ringing societies if all they hear is rounds and call changes on about half of the bells? We must endeavour to keep the interest alive so that when our ringers return and more material is available we can try and pick up the threads, dropped some three years ago.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

HAYES, KENT.—On Sunday, May 23rd, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Keech 1, G. F. James 2, Miss H. Oakshott 3, J. Lyddiard 4, P. Spice 5, I. Emery (conductor) 6.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES.

A society has been formed under the name of The Association of the Friends of the City Churches with the object of securing that as far as possible all the London City churches damaged in the course of the war shall be restored to use, and that in any case their sites and churchyards shall be preserved.

The Council of the association is a strong one and includes many prominent and influential persons, including Professor A. E. Richardson, Sir Banister Fletcher, Sir Edwin Lutyens, and the Deans of St. Paul's and York Minster. Mr. A. A. Hughes has been appointed as the representative of the Ancient Society of College Youths on the Executive Committee. Lord Faringdon is the president.

In the statement of policy the association expresses the opinion that wherever possible the twenty-one City churches which were destroyed or damaged in the heavy air raids of 1940-41 should be rebuilt on their original sites and re-used. If in any instance full reconstruction is found to be impracticable, the association urges that the tower, together with any spire or steeple that may have been destroyed, should be restored and preserved, and the site of the church, together with the churchyard, kept as an open space in perpetuity. When a decision has to be taken for or against rebuilding, the association will endeavour to secure that in each case full and proper regard is paid to spiritual, architectural, historical, civic and even imperial considerations which it believes ought, in this matter, to carry at least equal weight with those of a purely monetary or administrative character.

Speaking of the spiritual value of the churches, it is pointed out that their number is not excessive if considered in relation to the numbers whose daily lives are spent in the parishes they serve. Their potential influence for good is so great that all of them, damaged and undamaged alike, can be, and ought after the war to continue to be, used where they are, as they stand, for the worship of God and the teaching of the Christian faith.

The churches are essential to the architectural and civic dignity of the City of London. In no other city in the world is there so noble a group of late 17th century churches to be found. The quiet beauty of the towers and the soaring majesty of the spires and steeples are a precious enrichment of the London scene.

To ringers the best known of the churches are St. Andrew's, Holborn; All Hallows', Barking; St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Dunstan's-in-the-East; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Olave's, Hart Street; and St. Mary-le-Bow.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

Ringers from Bexley, Bromley, Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Deptford and Woolwich attended the quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association at Shoreham on May 8th.

Handbell ringing in the afternoon was followed by a short service with an address, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. Ford, who extended a warm welcome to the members.

After tea a business meeting was held, Mr. W. J. Jeffries (trustee) in the chair.

A silent tribute was paid to the memory of W. Haigh, F. Ring (Swanscombe), W. S. Lane (Swanscombe), P. Hodgkin (Headcorn), F. Belsey (Chatham) and W. Latter (Tunbridge Wells), whose deaths had been announced during the last two months and whose aggregate membership totalled over 300 years, and also of F. Dawe, a very old friend to the association.

It was suggested that in the present circumstances of travel restriction the established rota of visits to the different districts for the annual meeting be waived, and a central venue, e.g., Maidstone, be chosen. This suggestion was forwarded to the general secretary for the consideration of the Management Committee.

News of various members on active service, both at home and abroad, was thankfully received, and arrangements made that each should be accorded the meeting's good wishes.

Bexley was chosen as the place of the next meeting, to be held on Saturday, July 17th.

Cordial votes of thanks to the Vicar and the lady organist concluded the business.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LINES.

The death is announced of Mr. George Lines, who for nearly 50 years had been a ringer at Burton Latimer. During the funeral service on May 14th, which was conducted by the Rector, a course of Bob Minor was rung on handbells by W. Perkins (Irthlingborough) 1-2, B. J. Saddington (Burton Latimer) 3-4, B. P. Morris (Warkton) 5-6. Among the many floral tributes was one from the local band.

Mr. Lines had rung 80 peals. Forty of them were Minor, 4 Triples and 33 Major. He had conducted 10.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On May 16th for matins, 720 York Surprise Minor, and for evensong 720 Durham Surprise Minor: J. Ryles, J. Jolley, W. C. Corfield, J. E. Wheeldon, J. Walley, W. P. Deane, W. C. Lawrence, S. B. Bailey, C. S. Ryles and G. E. Lawrence.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

'The Manchester Guardian' printed a letter from 'Mass-Observation' giving the result of a sample opinion census on the subject of church bells. How far these polls accurately represent public opinion we should not like to say, but in this case the result is pretty much what we should have expected from our own knowledge and observation.

'The recent correspondence on the subject of the ringing of church bells suggested to "Mass-Observation" that it would be pertinent to ascertain how feeling was actually distributed on the subject. A representative London sample was questioned, and results were as follows:—

View held.	Percentage.	
	Men.	Women.
Like ringing of bells	59	66
Indifferent	23	7
Dislike ringing	9	3
Miscellaneous and vague	7	14
Unaware that bells were rung ...	2	10

'Dislike of the ringing of bells is centred among the unskilled working class, though even here feelings were—Likes 50 per cent., indifferent 19 per cent., dislike 15 per cent., miscellaneous 11 per cent., and unaware 5 per cent.—thus showing that a three to one majority like the bells even in the most critical class.

'The following random selection of verbatim comments gives a good indication of the general tone of feeling:—

'I thought it was very pleasant. I was away for Easter, and they sounded quite charming across the fields—they made one feel positively sentimental. (Man, 50, upper class.)

'I enjoyed it very much; it was delightful. Silly, of course, but it made one feel the war was as good as won. (Woman, 40, middle class.)

'It's quite a good thing, I suppose. (Man, 45, middle class.)

'I didn't know they were ringing again. (Woman, 40, artisan class.)

'I think it was a very good idea. They do cheer people up. (Woman, 40, artisan class.)

'I don't like the things. Never did. (Man, 35, working class.)

'The sample used was of such a size that the probability of the majority in favour of bellringing being due to chance sampling errors is of the order of one in four hundred million.'

NEED FOR PRACTICES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The members of St. Mary's Youth Fellowship, Cheshunt, have been learning to ring the bells since last December. We were thrilled when the ban was partly lifted and we could share the honour of ringing Easter bells and Victory bells.

We are very much handicapped, however, by having only silent practices and were therefore glad to read opinions on this matter in your correspondence column. In our parish, and doubtless in others, this is resulting in a much lower standard of bellringing than is necessary, even in these difficult days.

We are also grateful to those who have spoken so forcibly about Ascension Day.

We, too, find it hard to believe that the Government should ignore the ancient tradition that bells are always silent on Good Friday, thus giving us a useless concession, while withholding one for the Coronation Day of the King of Kings.

In this parish we are making special efforts for the wider celebration of Ascension Day, and, therefore, sincerely hope that every possible effort will be made to get permission for the bells to be rung on June 3rd.

E. M. ROBINSON, Secretary, St. Mary's Youth Fellowship.

CLERICAL OPPOSITION.

Dear Sir,—As a newcomer to the art of campanology, I am amazed to read that such opposition exists to pealing of bells, especially amongst the clergy.

Generally speaking, I should say the public at large are not worried either way. Could not the dislike of bellringing by certain sections be attributed not truly to the alleged 'jangle,' but to the reason that pealing of bells is usually a reminder of the Sabbath and all that day implies?

I should like views and hints on chiming bells by hand. At the Parish Church there are eight bells and I am interested to learn the correct way to chime these.

ALBERT C. WEBBER.

3, Hearn Road, Romford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Dear Sir,—It has made interesting, if not amusing, reading of Press comments about the lifting of the ban on ringing for Sunday services. A notable divine in the North is not pleased with the ringing of a single bell for early celebrations, whilst another prominent gentleman is annoyed by the pealing of bells because, as he says, it disturbs his morning nap, I suppose because of a late and hectic preceding night.

One gentleman in the far west says the sirens could not be heard when the bells were ringing. What a blundering statement to make! Whoever heard of bells ringing when alerts were sounded? The three years' ban on ringing must not have been a known fact to him.

I don't know whether the same thing has happened anywhere else or not, but the authorities have placed a siren on the top of our church tower (again making it a legitimate target for the enemy), and I would challenge anybody to be able to hear the sound of the bells at the same time as the siren was sounding. If you heard it you would never forget it. It is unfortunate to us, as ringers, that even a limited amount of time has not been granted to perfect our ringing and train new recruits by open practice ringing.

If we are to understand the restrictions are because of so-called noise, then bells cease to be a musical instrument. Personally I shall need more persuading to believe it is, and has not been an attempt and largely successful, by those who have no love for England's valued treasure. Take bells out of the life of the people and the poet becomes an impoverished soul. Until more favourable times come, let us bear as cheerfully as we can our disappointments, which always seem to be the lot of struggling ringers.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

A RIDICULOUS ARGUMENT.

Dear Sir,—In your collection of extracts from the rather ridiculous letters that appeared in 'The Manchester Guardian' against bells, you left out one beautiful example.

The gist of 'Artifex's' argument was that bells must be injurious to health even when heard in small doses because they are fatal in big doses, and as proof he quotes Dorothy Sayers: 'As all readers of Miss Dorothy Sayers' book, "The Nine Tailors," know, anyone shut up in the bell chamber during a peal dies a horrible death. By the same kind of argument I have expected Mr. Middleton to warn gardeners in all seriousness not to let stray beans drop near the kitchen door, for, as all readers of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' know, beans dropped near the kitchen door grow to an enormous height, and there is a real danger of young children climbing up them and being caught by giants, etc., etc.'

HUGH BENSON.

Sneyd Vicarage, Stoke-on-Trent.

ST. DUNSTAN'S, CRANFORD.

On Easter Sunday, the newly-restored and augmented ring of bells at St. Dunstan's, Cranford, Middlesex, were rung for the first time.

For some years past a careful and thorough restoration of this ancient church has been in progress, and this included the strengthening of the tower and the addition of three bells to make a ring of six. The present treble is one of the oldest in the country. It was cast, probably by William Burford, of Aldgate, about the year 1380, and is inscribed XPE PIE FLOS MARIE. The third was cast by Bryan Eldridge, of Chertsey, in 1636. The new bells and the hanging are by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

Those who took part in the opening ringing were G. Orford and A. Chesney (of Cranford), J. Thomas (Enfield), T. Price and M. Beauchamp (Feltham), E. G. L. Coward (Mere, Wiltshire) and W. H. Coles (Hillingdon).

The Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child, in an address at evensong, outlined the history of bells and ringing. He referred to the old bells which hung in the church before the restoration. This is probably the only church bell restoration in the whole country carried out in the last three years.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAWKHURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Hawkhurst on May 15th, and was attended by several members, who received a very hearty welcome from the Vicar. One honorary member was proposed by the secretary. During the afternoon and evening several touches were rung on the handbells. The next meeting will be at East Peckham on June 26th.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

Besides those churches which possess both tower and tower with spire separately, there are a number also which have two towers—not always identical in structure or architecture like Westminster Abbey or say Worksop Priory, but sometimes quite distinct in every feature of style, shape and height. The fascinating feature in the study of church towers is—like that of the churches themselves—no two examples are ever alike, though occasionally they may be similar.

In taking the subject of twin-towers one naturally turns to Westminster Abbey as the most famous, it being the burial place of many Sovereigns and other illustrious personages, the scene of the Coronations of Kings and Queens since Harold, and that of innumerable other national ceremonies. Officially it is the Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster. Its early history and that of the Benedictine Monastery associated with it are shrouded in legend. The first church of which record exists stood in the 8th century to the west of the present structure, and was dedicated to St. Peter. It has been rebuilt and reconstructed many times in the succeeding centuries. From 1540-50 the abbey was a cathedral with a bishop. The present church is cruciform with an extreme length of 530 feet, the nave being 166 feet long and 101 feet 8 inches high. There is a lantern tower at the intersection of and transepts which rises to 151 feet. The main entrance is at the west end, and here are the twin towers, each 225 feet 4 inches high. They are in the pseudo-Gothic style, completed in 1739 from designs left by Sir Christopher Wren, and in the north tower is a ring of eight bells, tenor 28 cwt. Originally Westminster Abbey had a detached bell-tower situated a little distance north-west of the building near the old Sanctuary, on the site now occupied by the Westminster Hospital. From an old engraving (reproduced in my book 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' p. 580) it appears to have resembled the old campanile of Salisbury Cathedral, which was demolished about the end of the 18th century. How many bells the Westminster bell-tower contained at the time of its demolition has not been ascertained, but the 3rd, 5th and 7th bells of the present ring must have hung there originally.

Dean Stanley, in his 'Memorials of Westminster Abbey' (quoting from an old record), remarks with regard to the bells and campanile, 'here hung the Abbey bells, which remained there till Wren had completed the Western Towers (i.e. 1739) and which rang for coronations, and tolled for royal funerals. "Their ringings," men said, "soured all the drink in the town."' The bells must have been removed to their present position in the north-west tower some time between 1739 and 1750, the sanctuary and the old bell-tower being demolished at the latter date.

There was a ring of six here until 1919, when two new 'Peace' bells were added, and the actual casting of these was witnessed by the King and Queen at White-chapel Foundry. It is of historic interest also to note that the same foundry placed one of the bells in the original tower in 1583, and all the other bells from time to time since the days of Robert Mot. The old six bells were dated (1st) ascribed to Richard de Wymbish about

1310, (2nd) 1743 T. Lester: (3rd) 1583 R. Mott: (4th) 1743 T. Lester: (5th) 1598 R. Mot: (Tenor) 1738 R. Phelps & T. Wester. The 2nd, being cracked, was recast, but the treble was replaced by a new bell; the old one—a wonderful 14th century relic—was happily preserved in the Abbey.

Thus the four front bells are new, and the four back ones are old. The old wood frame was removed and a new steel frame erected, and all the bells fitted with new stocks, bearings, etc. The new octave was dedicated on June 3rd, 1919, and on July 5th of that year the first peal, 5,040 Stedman Triples, was rung in 3 hours 18 minutes by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, conducted by the late Challis F. Winney.

Inverness Cathedral (St. Andrew's) also has twin towers at its west end, both identical in design and height. It is the cathedral of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and was erected 1866-9. In 1877 eleven bells, comprising a ring of eight and three semitones, were installed by Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry. These were rehung in new fittings after being retuned, and a chiming apparatus fixed by the same firm in 1914.

Similarly Worksop Priory Church, Nottinghamshire, has twin western towers of identical design. Formerly an Augustinian Monastery founded in 1103, it is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Cuthbert. To reach the ringing chamber one ascends first one tower, then crosses over to the other. It is thus described:—Access is through a door in the south aisle wall under the south tower, from which a spiral staircase leads up 26 steps to the triforium level. Just before reaching this level a door on the right leads to the lower clock chamber. The passage then opens out at the base of the great west window with a fine view eastward down the church. Crossing over to the north tower a similar passage leads through a door forward to the spiral staircase for the ascent to the bell chamber and the top of this tower. A door to the right—before the ascent—up two steps leads to the ringing chamber. Here is a ring of eight bells by J. Warner and Sons, 1883, with a tenor approximately 15 cwt. In 'Dukery Records,' by Robert White, it is stated that certain moneys were collected 'in the thyrd and iijth yerres of the Reynes of our souereyne lorde & lady kyng Phyllype & Quene Mary' for casting the bells and making the bell frame.

(To be continued.)

HANDBELLS WANTED.

REQUIRED TO PURCHASE, Set of 8 Handbells in scale. State weight and price.—Rev. H. Thomas, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Tunbridge Wells.
Golden Wedding

GOLDEN WEDDING.

ROBERTS—TALBOYS.—On May 22nd, 1893, at the Parish Church of St. Mary-de-Lode, Gloucester, by the Rev. H. M. Loy, Adolphus Roberts, of Pershore, Worcestershire, to Emily Talboys, of Gloucester. Present address, 30, Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry.

DEATH.

KNIGHT.—Olive Edith, on May 14th, at the County Hospital, Chatham, the dearly loved wife of William A. J. Knight, Gillingham, Kent.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. A free tea at 5.0 p.m., business meeting to follow.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Sawley on Saturday, May 29th. Church bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Meeting in Vestry 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Handbell ringing and social hour after. Important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Apsley End, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3.30. Short service 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at the 'Woodbarners.'—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 29th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 6 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Bowdon, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Handbells after tea.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Rickmansworth Saturday, May 29th. Handbells at British Legion Club, Ebury Road, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Oasis Cafe, near L.M.S. Station, 5.45.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham (Kent) on Sunday, May 30th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4 p.m., followed by light refreshment and meeting in Church Hall. Ringing at 5.30 for evening service.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Woolton Saturday, June 5th. Silent bells until 5 p.m. Tea and handbells at Sunnyside, Mossley Hill. Send names for tea before Wednesday, June 2nd.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphil Road, Liverpool 17.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Guild and Guildford District at Guildford on Saturday, June 5th. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meetings at Ayers' Cafe 5 p.m. Numbers for tea by June 2nd.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kingsley on Saturday, June 5th. Handbells in tower from 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided. Bring own sandwiches.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 5th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting at the Church House. Names for tea by May 31st.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Woodbridge on Saturday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. Handbells and eight silent tower bells. Tea shops near the tower.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting on Saturday, June 5th, in the Clergy House, Doncaster. Committee meeting 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Plenty of cafes near the church. Handbells available.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden Saturday, June 12th. Silent tower bell and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea, in Manor House Cafe, for those notifying Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by Wednesday, June 9th. Moderate charge. Business meeting at 6 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. Silent tower bells (8) from 3 p.m. Handbells also. Festival service at 5.30 p.m. Tea in St. Peter's Hall at 6 p.m. Canon Hedley Burrows, Vicar of St. Peter's, will preside.—George Preston, Winchester and Portsmouth Guild; Rev. C. A. Phillips, Salisbury Guild; Arthur V. Davis, Tower Captain.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford on Saturday, June 12th. Service in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting in the Chapter House. It will not be possible to arrange for tea.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec. (pro tem), Boones Farm, High Garrett, near Braintree.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, on June 12th, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver. Please send post card.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general sec. by June 4th. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.—Ringing every Sunday 9.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Practice Tuesdays 6.30 to 9 p.m., silent tower bells and handbells. When cathedral is closed, entrance by north-west door.—W. H. Southard, Penkeard, Bodmin Road, Truro.

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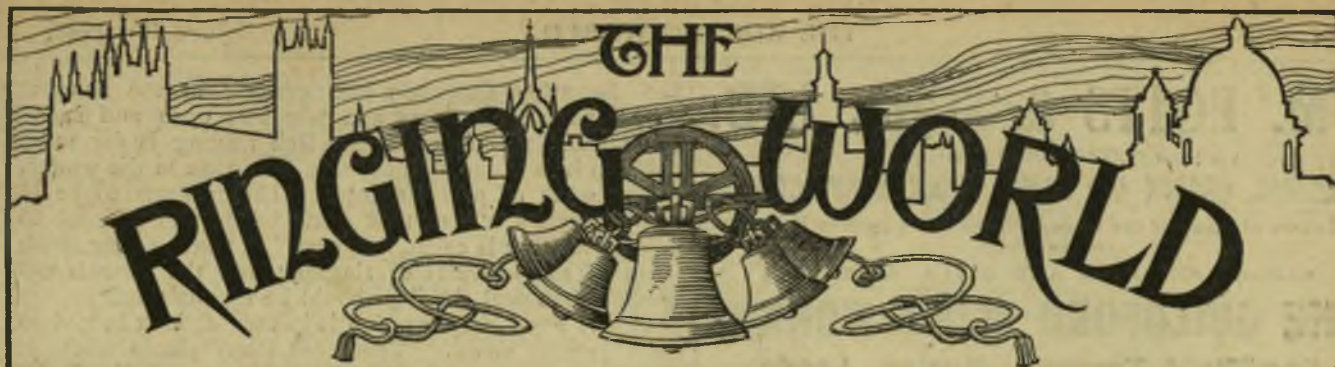
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THE END OF THE BAN.

The ban on the ringing of church bells has gone at last. It was high time, for whatever justification there may have been for it in the first instance, at the end it was little more than a rather stupid bureaucratic interference with liberty of action. So long as there was any chance that church bells could serve a purpose in the grim struggle against the national enemy there was ample justification for reserving them for that only; but when the Prime Minister announced that 'the significance of invasion no longer attaches to ringing,' the moral right of a Government department to say how far and in what ways church bells should be used entirely vanished.

The authority under which the ban was laid down is strictly limited and conditioned by war circumstances. Parliament, acting for the nation and with the full assent of the nation, has given responsible ministers the powers to issue orders necessary for the carrying on of the war; but, apart from that, Parliament never intended to sanction departmental interference with the rights and customs of the people, especially the customs like the ringing of church bells which has more than ten centuries of history behind it. We do not say that in no circumstances must old customs like ringing be modified or controlled in the interests of the public; but such action should be taken by Parliament itself, not by a Government department, especially when the persons concerned have the haziest ideas of what they really intend to do. The War Office and the Ministry of Home Security are fully competent to say whether the bells are wanted for use as warnings. They are not competent to discriminate between Sunday ringing and week-day ringing, between service ringing and practices, between chiming for Matins and ringing for the Consecration.

We have recovered our liberty of action and it is for us to decide what use we shall try to make of it. That it will be welcomed by ringers and be a great help in the struggle to keep the Exercise alive is obvious. Now that open tower bell ringing is possible at meetings the attendances should increase considerably. It will also be possible in many places to hold practices and to give some amount of instruction to beginners.

In these things everyone should use restraint and moderation. The recovered privileges should not be stretched to the limit. It is very pleasant to have tower bell ringing at a meeting; it may not be so pleasant to the people who live near the church if the ringing lasts for the whole afternoon and evening and is but indifferent in quality. Ringers should remember that on a

(Continued on page 242.)

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fine Saturday afternoon and evening in the summer people have their doors and windows open and spend much time in their gardens. Bell ringing is far more likely to be a cause of annoyance then than in the winter.

And what of peal ringing? There seems to be in many quarters a fear that some bands will proceed to indulge in what is called an 'orgy' of peals, to the great harm of the interests of ringing; and the view is expressed that peal ringing should be discouraged.

This is a subject on which it is very difficult indeed to form general views. There are many places where it would be foolish to ring for three hours even if permission were obtained from the authorities, but there are also places where peal ringing would not only do no harm, but would give pleasure to those who heard it. The quality of the ringing in a peal is usually far higher than at a meeting. We can find little justification for the opinion some men appear to hold, that there is something in peal ringing itself which is out of place in these days of war. Every case must be judged on its own merits and here, as always, there is great need for restraint and moderation. There are many factors which make much peal ringing unlikely. Bands are dispersed. Travelling facilities are scanty. Men's time is largely occupied in other things. Permission to ring will not be easy to obtain. What may be called the 'natural checks' on peal ringing will probably suffice to keep it within strict limits, and there seems no need for any special discouragement.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS	...	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...	5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	...	7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Thursday, May 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall)	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College)	...	5-6
MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville)	...	3-4	MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall)	...	7-8

Composed by J. BARKER (C.C.C. No. 162).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on an inside pair. A birthday compliment to the ringer of 3-4.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The effects of the sound of bells upon people of different temperament was summed up in the early years of the last century by one English bellfounder, or his patrons, who placed on a bell the inscription: I sound the sound that dolefull is/To them that live amiss/But sweet my sound is unto such/As live in joy and bliss.

Judging by recent Press correspondence, conditions have not greatly changed during the last 120 years.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

ITS TOWERS AND BELLS.

The great abbey church which King Edward the Confessor built on the Isle of Thorney had a tower at the crossing and two at the west end; and one of the latter (probably the northern) contained bells. In the year 1245 Henry the Third pulled down the eastern part of the church, and by 1269 the choir and one bay beyond had been rebuilt as we see it now; but the old nave and its towers stood for many years longer. In 1375 the reconstruction of the nave was begun, but it was not until 1505 that it was completed.

It is very remarkable that, though the rebuilding was spread over so long a time, the original design was adhered to; and before the nave was completed in almost the earliest Gothic style, Henry the Seventh's Chapel, at the east end of the building, was being erected in almost the latest Gothic style.

The lower part of the north-west tower was finished in 1523 by John Islip, the last of the pre-Reformation abbots, who carried it up to the top of the clerestory; but it seems that the Norman towers were still standing until shortly before that time and contained the abbey bells. In 1492-3 the chief carpenter, Richard Russell, was employed 'about the repairs to the great belwhele in the small bell tower.'

From the time of its foundation the Abbey possessed bells worthy of its importance, and Simeonis Simon, a travelling monk, who visited London and Westminster in 1322, remarked that 'here are two bells, the first in the world for size and of admirable sound.'

The first definite account we have of bells is in the Close Rolls of Henry the Third for the year 1230, which record instructions given to Edward Odom or Odson, to provide for the Abbey Church of Westminster a bell bigger than any previously cast at his foundry. In the following year a further commission instructed Edward of Westminster (probably the same man) to make a small bell that shall be in tune with the great bell. Twenty years later he was instructed to cause a great bell to be hung to celebrate the eve of the approaching Feast of St. Edward.

Two entries in the Liberate Rolls of about the same date refer to the casting of new bells: 'Sep. 29, 1249. Windsor. To the Sheriff of Devon. Contrabreve to bring 4000 pounds weight of tin in his baliwick and carry it with all speed to Westminster for delivery to the keeper of the king's works for the king's great bell and other works.'

'August 24. Woodstock. Computate to Richard de Ponte the king's baliff of Kenyton in the issues of that manor of the last year 10l 8s 4d for 100 quarters of barley imprested to the Abbot of Westminster and assigned of the king's gift in aid of the purchase of two great bells for Westminster Abbey.'

The importance attached to the bells is shown by an illustration by Matthew Paris in an illuminated manuscript in the British Museum, where four great bells are shown in front of the church; and also by a grant dated March 8th, 1255, to the Brethren of the Guild of Westminster appointed to ring the great bells of Westminster, that they and their successors shall receive yearly 100s at the Exchequer for the ringing until the king provide for them in land or rent to that yearly value. And that

they have all the liberties and free customs which they had from the time of Edward the Confessor.

It is a pity we have no further information about the guild. Evidently from the last sentence it was an old one, though perhaps we need not take it as conclusive evidence that it was founded as far back as Edward's reign. It has been assumed by writers that it was one of many such guilds, but that is very doubtful. I have found no evidence of any other guild whose duties or privileges primarily included ringing. The privilege granted to the Guild of Saddlers of ringing the bell of St. Martin-le-Grand at the obsequies of a deceased brother was a different thing altogether, for though the members probably rang the bells themselves on those occasions, they were not otherwise interested in ringing. It was rather as if a modern club was allowed the free use of the organ of a parish church at the funeral of one of its members.

There are several instances of regulations in churches for the ringing of bells, but they concern persons who were the servants of the parish or monastery. We have been told that in medieval times the bells were regarded as such sacred objects that only men in minor clerical orders were allowed to ring them; and that sometimes the ringers had to be vested in surplices. There is no evidence for this view, and it is not at all likely.

In the fifteenth century the general custom was for the clerk to be responsible for the ringing of the bells at the proper times. He or his assistant performed that duty at the daily services. He looked after the bells, oiled them, saw to the ropes and baldricks, and engaged the ringers when the bells had to be rung in peal. Later on these duties were shared by the sexton. In status and duties there was practically no difference between these men and their successors, the parish clerks sextons and steeple keepers of later times.

We have no information about the custom before the fifteenth century, but we may assume that it was not dissimilar. In the monastic houses the ringing would be done by some of the monks or lay brothers, and neither in abbey, cathedral, nor parish church was there any need or room for a special guild of ringers.

It was of the essence of a guild that it should have a corporate and independent existence, and be subject to no authority but its own rules. We may assume, therefore, that the Westminster Guild was unique, that it was not part of the ordinary monastic establishment, but arose and existed in peculiar circumstances. Most likely it had nothing to do with ringing the bells for the abbey services, but was a royal foundation, paid by the king's exchequer, and was concerned solely with ringing done to celebrate royal events, triumphs, coronations, funerals, obits, and the like. It may even be that it had nothing whatever to do with the Abbey bells, and that the 'great bells of Westminster' were those which hung in the clochard or bell tower which once stood on the site of what is now the Middlesex Guildhall. But all is guesswork. We do not know when the guild was founded or how long it lasted; what its duties were or who were its members. There is just this one entry in the Patent Rolls and the rest is silence.

Writers generally have assumed that the clochard was part of the Abbey buildings and contained the Abbey bells until they were removed to the north-west tower

(Continued on next page.)

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

(Continued from previous page.)

by Abbot Islip. But the fact appears to have been otherwise. The bells which hung in the clochard to the north-east of St. Paul's belonged not to the cathedral but to the Jesus chapel; and similarly the Westminster clochard and its bells, though they were within the Abbey precincts, belonged to St. Stephen's chapel, and were, in effect, appurtenances of the royal palace.

Stow says that King Edward the Third, in the year 1347, rebuilt and endowed the chapel and also built to its use, 'though out of the palace court, some distance west in the little sanctuary, a strong clochard of stone, and timber covered with lead, and placed therein three great bells.'

The tower, however, was older than that, though Edward probably reconstructed it. According to W. R. Lethaby, the great authority on the history of the Abbey buildings, it was completed in 1253. It is mentioned in a Charter of the first Edward, dated December 3rd, 1290, and may be assumed in an entry in the Close Rolls of Henry the Third, where an order is given to Edward of Westminster to make four bells out of the metal remaining from the great bell of Westminster for the chapel of Windsor. Two of the bells were to be similar to two in the royal chapel of St. Stephen's and two larger. The great bell mentioned had evidently just been cast by Edward the bell founder, and was the lineal ancestor of the present great bell (the clock bell) of St. Paul's.

A description of the belfry has survived, though the reconstruction of the upper part and the spire is conjectural. It was a most massive structure, seventy-two and a half feet square and only sixty feet high. It was divided into two stories, the walls in the lower being twenty-five feet thick, and in the upper, three feet. At the top was a wooden structure, lead covered and surmounted by a spire; the whole something like the old bell-tower at Salisbury. There was but one door and four windows in the upper storey.

Here, according to Stow, Edward the Third hung three great bells which were usually rung at coronations, triumphs, funeral of princes, and their obits. 'Of those bells men fabled that their ringing soured all the drink in the town,' and that about the biggest was written:

King Edward made Me
Thirtie thousand three,
Take me downe and wey me
And more shall ye find me.

'But,' says Stow, 'these bells being taken down, indeed, were found all three not to weigh twenty thousand.'

No doubt, as Stow suggests, this was all largely fable, but there certainly were some big bells in the tower, and John Norden (A.D. 1593) says that the biggest was taken down and sold by Henry the Eighth before his expedition to Bouogne in 1544. 'A very ancient and old building and strong, now made a dwelling place. Sometime a tower, wherein was a bell of wonderful bigness, weighing as is reported, 33,000 wt. and was rung only at coronations, which bell King Henry VIII. employed to other uses at his going to Boulogne.'

Here again there must be some fable, for, whatever happened to the smaller bells, it seems certain that the

big bell (either that cast by Edward of Westminster in 1250 or its successor) remained in the clochard until 1698, when it was sold to the commissioners for building St. Paul's.

On its way to the City it was broken by a fall and was recast by Philip Wightman. Its inscription was—**TERTIVS APTAVIT ME REX EDVARDVS VOCAVIT.** Wightman's bell was a failure, and in 1709 a new one was supplied by Richard Phelps, of Whitechapel. It was cast of new metal and delivered to the Cathedral before the old one was taken away. It, too, was not a success, and seven years later was recast by Phelps into the present bell which weighs five tons and four hundredweights.

About the great bell of Westminster several legends were told. 'Call to mind,' wrote Anthony Munday in 'Sundry Examples, 'the grievous and sudden earthquakes hapning heer in London. The great bell of Westminster tolled of itself. Whitehall shook. A piece of Temple Church fell downe.' And John Gee, in 'The Foot out of the Snare,' 'When Father Campion came an apostle into England there was an earthquake. Nay the great bell of Westminster tolled of itself.' But he adds, 'that, I think, is a loud ringing lye.'

In the reign of William the Third a soldier on sentry duty was charged with sleeping at his post at Windsor Castle. His defence was that he could not have been asleep because he heard the Westminster bell strike thirteen instead of twelve at midnight. Evidence was produced that the clock did strike once too many, and the man was acquitted. It is pointed out that though the truth of the story has often been doubted, the striking thirteen is mechanically quite possible. But whether it is easier to believe that a bell at Westminster could be heard at Windsor than that an earthquake could cause a bell to sound without laying the steeple and every building in the district in ruins is another matter.

The belfry was pulled down in 1750. The upper structure and the spire which Alexander the carpenter and William the plumber had erected in 1248 had long since gone, and the building had degenerated into a store for a tavern. Just before it was destroyed William Stukeley made a survey of it and his description is printed in the first volume of 'Archæologia.' 'They were,' he says, 'a long time demolishing it with great labour and expense. It consisted mostly of rag-stone from Sussex. The mortar made of the same burnt into lime. No rock could be harder. And sometimes they attempted to blow up parts of it with gunpowder.'

When the Middlesex Guildhall was built the foundations of the belfry were laid bare.

(To be continued.)

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.

Mr. B. T. Jeanes informs us that many years ago he met one of the Huntsham ringers, C. A. W. Troyte's band, and he told him that Squire Proctor's ringers used to ring 'crank' methods. He asked him if he knew how they learnt them, and he said they had a long piece of board and drew eight lines with chalk on the board and placed small stones on them so as to form a diagram of the method they were trying to learn, and little pieces of chalk to mark the treble where they pass her, or dodge with her.

Proctor's band were the first to ring peals in all three Surprise Major methods. They worked on the land and could neither read nor write, so the tale is probably a true one.

AMERSHAM.—On Sunday, May 30th, 720 each of Surfleet and Norwich Surprise Minor: Miss D. Fletcher 1, E. O. Ayres 2, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Edwards 5, Corpl. E. C. Coward, R.A.F. 6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SAWLEY.**

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Sawley on May 29th, and 20 members attended from Beeston, Breaston, Daybrook, Derby, Greasley, Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Nottingham and Sawley.

Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Duffield were rung until the members adjourned to the vestry for the business meeting.

Mr. J. A. Barratt was elected to the chair, and the election of district chairman and one committee member resulted in the re-election of Mr. R. Narborough as chairman and the election of Mr. C. Hutchinson, of Sawley, to complete the committee.

The district secretary, Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., spoke in favour of holding meetings monthly instead of quarterly during the light evenings, and the following towers were decided on for the next three months: Greasley, June 19th; Bottesford, July 17th; Barton, August 21st.

It was decided that, for the present, the district secretary should take charge of the ringing at meetings, and the question of a short service was left for arrangement between him and the local officials.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rector of Sawley for the use of the bells and the vestry, and to Messrs. Dawson and Hutchinson, of the local band, for their wholehearted co-operation in the arrangements for the meeting and the tea.

As the bells were available till nine o'clock, it was decided to cancel the social hour and handbell ringing, which had been arranged at Long Eaton, and after a somewhat rushed tea, the bells were kept going for the full period.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' by Messrs. A. P. Cannon, A. L. Coleman and J. Oldham regarding the tenor bell at Felmersham, Bedfordshire, in order to complete the details, I would be greatly obliged if any of your readers could favour me with a record of the founder's name and date of this bell, and also state whether she has canons. It would also be interesting to learn if Mr. Coleman's formulæ apply to 'Old Standard' or 'Simpson Tuned' bells.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There was originally a ring of eight at Winchester Cathedral, which were increased to ten in 1892 by Mears and Stainbank. In 1922 two trebles were added by Gillett and Johnston as a war memorial to those members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild who lost their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. Since then they have all been recast and rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co., thanks to the generosity of the Barron Bell Trust.

The following is a list of the peals rung on them.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

June 13th, 1885, Grandsire Triples, F. E. Dawe.

April 21st, 1891, Grandsire Triples, H. White.

November 30th, 1895, Grandsire Caters, W. H. George.

September 27th, 1899, Stedman Caters, G. Williams.

October 17th, 1900, Grandsire Caters, F. W. Hopgood.

December 26th, 1903, Kent Treble Bob Royal, G. Williams.

December 9th, 1905, Stedman Caters, J. R. Sharman.

October 21st, 1911, Stedman Caters, G. Williams.

August 10th, 1912, Stedman Caters, A. H. Pulling.

June 1st, 1914, Stedman Caters, H. Law James.

September 8th, 1923, Stedman Cinques, F. E. Dawe.

May 7th, 1927, Stedman Cinques, G. Williams.

September 15th, 1928, Stedman Cinques, G. R. Pye.

October 26th, 1929, Cambridge Surprise Maximus, W. Pye.

September 5th, 1931, Stedman Cinques, A. Walker.

September 17th, 1938, Stedman Cinques, G. Williams.

The first peal was rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths, all the rest by the Winchester Diocesan Guild. The Stedman Caters in 1914 was a Central Council peal.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.—On Saturday, May 29th, at the Church of St. John, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1,232 changes: A. E. Laker 1, K. Hart 2, E. Barnett 3, F. Bennett 4, E. A. Barnett (conductor) 5, F. I. Hairs 6, R. G. Cross 7, P. A. Corby 8. A compliment to Jean Frances, daughter of the conductor, who was christened at the above church on the following day; to Michael Paul, son of R. G. Cross, whose first anniversary was on May 26th; and to S. E. Armstrong, general secretary of the Sussex County Association, on the birth of a son on May 15th.

HOOLE, CHESTER.—On Sunday, May 30th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: A. Weetman 1, R. Sperring (conductor) 2, F. Fox 3, H. Cousins 4, L.-Cpl. A. Goddard (Lincoln) 5, A. Newall 6.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On May 30th, 1741, the College Youths rang at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. It was the second in the method ever accomplished and one of the very few in which Benjamin Annable rang, but did not conduct.

The first peal of New Cumberland Surprise Major was rung at Burton-on-Trent on May 31st, 1886. Mr. John Austin, who rang the treble, and Mr. Joseph Griffin, who rang the fourth, are happily still with us.

On June 1st, 1912, at Guildford, Mr. A. H. Pulling called 14,031 Stedman Caters on handbells. It was at the time the longest length rung in hand.

The first peal on the twelve bells at St. Martin's, Birmingham—Grandsire Cinques—was rung on June 3rd, 1773.

The ten bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, were rung for the first time on June 4th, 1762.

On the same date in 1794 the Birmingham men rang 8,000 Grandsire Major at St. John's, Deritend.

John W. Taylor died on June 4th, 1919.

What was probably the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at Leeds in Kent by James Barham's band on June 5th, 1774.

The first peal of Erin Triples was rung at Gateshead on June 5th, 1909.

The longest peal of Bob Major on handbells (13,440 changes) was rung at Pudsey on June 5th, 1911, and the longest on tower bells (18,144 changes) at Bennington on the same date in 1933.

Sixty years ago to-day Dr. John Symons called at Penzance the first peal rung in the county of Cornwall. It was one of Grandsire Triples.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.

WELL-KNOWN CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Last week the Church of All Saints, Isleworth, which is one of the best known among ringers in the Greater London district, was completely destroyed by fire. The nave and chancel were gutted, but the tower is said to be intact, and we hope that the fine ring of ten bells is safe.

The tower dates from pre-Reformation times, but the nave was rebuilt in the early years of the eighteenth century. It was an interesting and pleasing building without any great claims to architectural excellence. The chancel was nineteenth century Gothic of no merit.

The church stands on the bank of the Thames opposite the Old Deer Park, and alongside Sion Park. There are comparatively few houses in the immediate vicinity and the conditions are excellent for meetings and peal ringing. The people of the district are generally proud of their bells, which are very musical.

ON PEAL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I don't want to put the cat in with the pigeons becoss I ain't a person of no consequence in ringing, but now as that there silly ban has been took orf I reckon us might do a bit of thinking about peal ringing.

Us gets a main o' pleasure out of our ringing, apart from the sound it makes, but us a got to remember as people outside only goes by the sound, and to a good many people it's a rare old chackie. If us overdoes it, us'll get in the wrong, and however keen people was to hear the bells again they don't want to hear 'em going on and on if they be a bit noisy. Like the bloke wot was praying for rain for his garden and it come a downpour.

I expects I shall get a rub or two about this, but I don't know as there's much need for all these 'ere peals. Five thousand ain't no special figger; you might as well make it one thousand, and to my way of thinking you can get settled down to a good beat and see your way about and how the bells come up, just as well in a quarter-peal as you can in a three hours do. People be more like to say 'That were good' arter three-quarters of an hour than arter three hours or more.

Course there be some places where it don't matter all that much, but us a got to remember as it's service ringing as matters. Us can still get an artemnoon's pleasure when us can use motor-cars again, by going round to half-a-dozen places and giving them a bit of a touch for half-hour, and not be no annoyance to people, and us can hold our meetings and have a ring, and this'll keep us together.

Wot do 'ee say, Zur, becoss us looks to 'ee for a lead in this 'ere 'YOKEL'.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Sunday, May 16th, for Home Guard parade, 600 Grandsire Doubles: A. Gentle 1, K. Wilton 2, S. Gravestock 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters 5, J. Mayes 6.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—On Sunday, May 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Sawyer 1, F. Abbott 2, K. White 3, B. Brown (conductor) 4, E. Robey 5, A. Webb 6, T. East, jun. 7, W. Goodenough 8.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

A FAMOUS PAMPHLET.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that during the last half century the art of bellfounding in this country has been revolutionised, with the result that English bells are now recognised as the best in the world.

This has been brought about largely by two things. One has been the adoption of new ideas and standards of tuning. The other the introduction of high precision instruments and machinery which have made it possible to put those ideas into practice.

To a very large extent these changes were part of the normal development of the craft. The last quarter of the nineteenth century saw a great increase in the general interest taken in bells; the writings and activities of men like Lord Grimthorpe and H. R. Haweis, mistaken and erroneous though they were in many respects, excited public curiosity; and the tones of bells had been analysed on scientific lines and the conclusions published by learned men like Lord Rayleigh. All this would have naturally influenced the bell founders, who, like other manufacturers, were to an increasing extent able to make use of new machinery, and new tools and instruments. The old style of bell founding and bell hanging, with its traditional and rule-of-thumb methods, was passing away.

It was in the year 1897, when the time was ripe for changes, that a little book of forty pages was published which probably did more than anything else to influence public opinion on the question of bell tuning. It was written by the Rev. Arthur B. Simpson, Rector of Fittleworth in Sussex, and was a reprint of two articles from the 'Pall Mall Magazine,' of October, 1895, and September, 1896. The writer's object was to stress the importance of the overtones of a bell and the necessity of controlling and tuning them. There was actually little he had to say which was not already known to experts, and though the book had over thirty years' investigations and experiments behind it, it would hardly have been likely to attract much attention, still less to have exerted any great influence, if it had not appeared at exactly the right moment. As it was, the new ideas of tuning which it heralded are very generally known by the name of Simpson.

Most ringers have heard of Canon Simpson and his book, but few, we fancy, have ever had an opportunity of seeing it, and our readers will, we think, be glad of the opportunity. It will probably strike them as being rather slight and superficial, but it should be remembered that its success was due not so much because it stated anything startlingly new, but because it stressed truths which were vaguely known, but more or less ignored.

Some of the statements in the book will not command universal assent. We do not ourselves, for instance, think it is true that the traditional form of bells was originally worked out by men who were aiming at get-

ting perfect octaves in the overtones; and we are quite sure that the shape of English bells was never modified for the sake of convenience in change ringing. But it will be best to leave comment until we have heard Canon Simpson himself. He called his book, 'Why Bells sound out of Tune and How to Cure Them.'

I have nothing to say, he writes, on the ancient history of bells, nor shall I attempt to make any addition to the many pretty things which have been said as to their sentimental power. My object is more prosaic. It is simply to place on record certain facts which have come under my notice during a course of observation extending over many years, and which I have reason to think would prove interesting to many.

We have the bells with us everywhere and few people with musical ears have not at one time or another amused themselves and (I will venture to say) puzzled themselves, in attempting to determine accurately the notes of their own church bells.

Many of us, also, have been struck by the apparent want of harmony in the famous carillons of Bruges and other Belgian towns; and some few have been at great expense to set up carillons of their own, and have been reluctantly driven to the vexatious conclusion that they are painfully out of tune.

To all these I think I have that to say which will interest them. And I am not without hope that, through their influence, our bell founders and tuners may be roused to study their work more closely, to try to understand better what was the purpose of the original designers of the present form of bell, and endeavour to fulfil that purpose more nearly than they have done in the past.

I begin by boldly asserting, as the result of a pretty wide experience, that there is hardly a bell in England that is really 'in tune with itself,' and most certainly not a single peal of bells that are properly in tune with each other.

I do not say that there are not many peals which are in excellent tune as to the most important note in each, and their general musical effect very pleasing. But I do assert that the best of these might be much better; and in the majority of cases, the irregularities I complain of are such as seriously to mar their musical effect, and such as ought to be and might be avoided by more intelligent founding, or (in most cases) rectified by more intelligent tuning after founding.

Now, this whole matter turns on the expression 'in tune with itself.' Most people have an idea that every bell has one prominent unmistakable note which characterises it, and as to whose pitch no two people with musical ears could differ. Thus, in the article on 'Bells' in the latest edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' we read the following: 'A good bell, when struck, yields one note, so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is.'

(Continued on next page.)

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

If for 'a good bell' we may read 'a bell in good tune,' this statement is true; but, as it stands, it condemns as 'not good' some of the finest and best bells in the world.

One example and that a notable one, will suffice at present to support me in this.

In 'The Times' of July 20th, 1887, there is an account of the inauguration of the great bell 'Gloriosa' made out of French cannon and hung in the Cathedral of Cologne. The account concludes thus: 'The opinions of experts are divided as to whether the note which the bell sounds is C sharp or D.'

I feel sure that many of my readers have felt a similar difficulty in determining the note of a familiar bell.

Now to account for this and to clear the way for further observations, we must understand what is the true 'theory' of a bell, if I may be allowed the expression.

It would surely be unreasonable to suppose that the very peculiar form of bell which (with slight modifications) has been preserved for so many hundreds of years both here and on the Continent was adopted without the deliberate purpose of ensuring that the various tones and sub-tones of each bell should be in some fixed musical relation to each other.

What is that relation?

I make bold to suggest that it is this: Every true bell should give out, when fairly struck, a fundamental note or 'tonic,' its third, fifth, and octave above, and its octave below, thus sounding a full chord—do, mi, sol, do, with the bars do below.

This in the 'theory' which was, I am satisfied, before the minds of the original designers of the present form of bell. Almost forgotten (if ever realised) by many of their successors, it is still recognised by some, and irresistibly forced upon the acceptance of those who, like the present writer, have made a study of the tones of bells as they are.

The following extract from the article on 'Founding of Bells' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' 5th edition, 1815, though misleading in several respects, is of importance as showing that such a theory was recognised in this country not so very long ago, though, it is true, there is no reference to the lowest note we have spoken of. 'The height of the bell in proportion to the diameter is as 12 to 15, or in the proportion of the fundamental sound to its major thud: Whence it follows that the sound of a bell is principally composed of the sound of its extremity, or brim, as a fundamental—of the sound of the crown which is an octave to it—and that of the height which is a third.'

But now, to bring this paper within reasonable limits, we must dismiss all consideration of thirds and fifths and confine our attention to the three more important notes—i.e., the tonic, the octave above, and its octave below. For convenience sake, and for reasons which will appear further on, let us call the first of these the 'fundamental,' the second (or octave above) the 'nominal,' and the third (or octave below) by the name by which it is known in English foundries, the 'hum-note.'

If, then, a bell corresponded to its 'theory,' these three would sound the same note, in three consecutive octaves, and the bell would, so far, be 'in tune with itself.'

But, alas! where shall we find such a bell? Whatever the cause may be—whether founders, in ignorance or indifference as to the importance of having these notes in accord, have (1) for the convenience of ringing altered the original proportions of bells, or (2) to obtain greater power, put more metal into them—certain it is that it is quite the exception to find any two of these notes in unison, and rare indeed to meet with one in which all three are in accord.

By far the commonest state of things is this: The 'fundamental' is almost always the flattest of the three—irrespective, of course, of octave. The 'hum-note' is almost always the sharpest, and the 'nominal' generally between the two. Thus, if the nominal of a bell is C, the fundamental will probably be somewhere between C and B in the octave below, while the hum-note will probably be between C and C sharp in the octave below that. (It is not unusual for the hum-note to be much sharper than this.)

In support of this statement let us take a few examples. 1. Take first the peal at Terling in Essex, which consists of five bells in the key of F sharp, by five different makers, and of various dates, covering a period of 240 years. This is an excellent example, as from the variety of makers and dates, any general characteristics we may observe cannot be considered as peculiarities of time or foundry. And it has further this great value, that the tones of these bells have been carefully analysed by Lord Rayleigh, and tabulated in his most valuable paper, 'On the Tones of Bells,' printed in the 'Philosophical Magazine' for January, 1890. An examination of these tables gives the following results.

In the first three bells, including the oldest and newest, the tones follow just the rule which I have called the common one—i.e., they are nearly in octaves, but the fundamental is the flattest, the nominal sharper, and the hum-note the sharpest. In the fourth bell the fundamental and the nominal are true octaves and the hum-note sharper by a long semitone. In the tenor, the fundamental and the hum-note are true octaves, and the nominal a semitone (very unusual).

I claim this peal as a powerful witness to the truth of my position—(1) that the fundamental, nominal, and hum-note were meant to be in octaves, and (2) that, as a matter of fact, it is the exception to find a bell in which any two of them are in accord.

(To be continued.)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KILBURN.

Despite the fact that only five affiliated towers were represented at the meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association held at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd, over twenty ringers and friends attended and showed more than usual enthusiasm in ringing the tower bells silent. A good deal of interest was created in the handling of the treble and second bells of the light peal of eight, and the majority of the ringers ascended the full extent of the many steps to make an inspection of the bell chamber and its contents.

At the business meeting the hon. secretary (Mr. T. J. Lock) read a letter from Mr. C. T. Coles, which conveyed the sad news that his son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., had been killed in action. On a motion of the chairman, Mr. E. M. Atkins, it was agreed to send a message of condolence to Mr. and Mrs. Coles.

The Hon. Secretary announced that he hoped the next district meeting would be in company with the Royal Cumberland Youths at Clerkenwell early in July.

Thanks were accorded to Father Woolley for conducting the service, to Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, lady ringers and other helpers for ensuring the success of the meeting.

Further ringing took place on both tower bells and handbells.

THE BELLS OF ISLEWORTH.

The Edwardian inventories for Isleworth have not survived, and we have no account of the bells until the year 1767, when Lester and Pack hung in the mediæval tower a ring of eight with a tenor of 18 cwt.

In the following year the College Youths rang the first peal, one of Bob Major. It was conducted by Joseph Monk, and Robert Holmes, who was the most influential man among the ringers of the district, rang the fourth.

At the time there were many skilful ringers at the neighbouring towers of Twickenham, Richmond and Mortlake. In 1770 they rang 6,400 changes of Treble Bob Major, which no doubt was one of several peals, and the records of the rest are lost. Robert Platt, who rang the sixth, was the first of a family which in the following years produced several good ringers. Four years previously he had rung the tenor at Richmond to a peal of Double Grandsire Triples, which was called by Charles Burt, who rang the second to the Isleworth peal. The conductor of the latter was also in the Richmond band.

In 1785 a band of College Youths, with John Povey as conductor, scored a peal of Oxford Treble Bob at Isleworth. John Cole, who rang the third, seems to have been the father or elder brother of George and James Cole, whose names appear on several peal boards. George was afterwards for long the leading conductor in the district, and, indeed, for some time in the Society of College Youths. It seems probable that the families of Platt and Cole both lived in the parish of Isleworth.

William Walker rang the fourth in the 1785 peal, and the name raises a difficult problem. As early as 1742 a William Walker rang the seventh to a peal of Richmond Triples by the Richmond Society, and probably called it. He was one of the men whom Theodore Eccleston took down to Suffolk to make a band for his new ring of ten at Stonham Aspell. In 1751 he took part in a 5,040 of Double Bob Major there, and in the following year he called Holt's Original. This was the second time it had been performed, and Walker followed the example of Holt and sat in the tower and called the peal from manuscript. A little more than a week later, the same band rang 6160 Bob Major, Walker ringing the tenor, but John Sharp calling the bobs.

In 1761, Walker had returned home and was now the conductor and leading ringer at Mortlake, Eccleston's Surrey residence. There he composed and called a peal of Bob Triples. In 1767 he took part in the Double Grandsire Triples at Richmond. In 1775 the name appears in the records of peals of Bob Major by the College Youths at Mortlake, and in 1785 of peals of Treble Bob at Mortlake and Isleworth. Two years later, in 1787, William Walker rang the sixth to a peal of Grandsire Triples at Ealing; in 1812 and 1813 he rang two peals at Twickenham; and in 1816 a peal of Real Double Bob Major at Richmond.

The dates of these peals cover a period of seventy-five years, and so there must have been at least two and probably three men called William Walker; but when we try to distinguish between them there is nothing to guide us. Usually, when a man and his father are both ringers, their careers overlap and they appear together in the same peals, but this does not happen with the Walkers.

The most probable explanation is that William I. was the conductor and leader at Richmond; that he had a clever son who, as a young man, was taken to Suffolk by Theodore Eccleston, and who settled at Mortlake, still through the influence of Eccleston, to become the leader of the band there; and that for many years he was one of the best-known ringers in the Thames Valley. William II. may have rung in all the peals from the Bob Triples at Mortlake in 1761 to the Grandsire Triples at Ealing, when he would be about sixty years old. William III. was probably the grandson of William II.

Of the later peals at Isleworth, the most interesting is one of Stedman Triples, conducted by George Cole and rung in 1825. In the previous year Cole had called a peal in the method at Richmond with a band which contained six of the same men, and another at Whitechapel for the College Youths. These were the first peals of Stedman Triples rung in the metropolitan area since Charles Barber called Edwards' composition at Kensington in 1803.

The peal rung at Isleworth is said to have been the composition of Joseph Clark, of Kingston-on-Thames, and to have 'consisted of 240 singles, 158 bobs, and 22 doubles, being the first ever rung with the least calls in this system.'

We know nothing of Clark which would lead us to suppose that he was capable of composing an original peal of Stedman Triples or even of producing an improved variation of an old peal. This evidently was the transposition of Day's peal, which is given in Shipway's broadsheet.

Clark's name appears on several boards at Kingston, and he composed and conducted two or three peals of Grandsire Caters there.

After the first quarter of the nineteenth century, ringing began to decline in the Thames Valley towers, and very few peals were rung for many years. But there probably never has been wanting a band of some sort at Isleworth. For some time the Coles and the Platt's still belonged to the tower, and as late as 1853 George Cole rang the treble to a peal of Grandsire Triples with a band made up partly of local men and partly of visitors from London. Cole must by that time have been a very old man.

About this time it was a common thing for publicans to provide a set of handbells on which their customers amused themselves by playing tunes and lapping changes. The Isleworth men seem to have been experts in lapping, and in 1848 they lapped a peal of Grandsire Caters at the London Apprentice, a house on the riverside opposite the church. For this they put up a tablet on the wall of the room in which they rang it, and there it remains to this day.

During the last half-century, many peals have been rung on Isleworth bells in all the standard Triples and Major methods. In 1931 two trebles were added to make a ring of ten. The scheme was started in 1925 by the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, and was carried through mainly by that body with the co-operation of Mr. H. Edgley, who was for many years churchwarden. The eight bells had been retuned soon after the opening of the present century, and retuned on Simpson principles and lowered in pitch by Messrs. Taylor and Co. They were well suited to form

(Continued on next page.)

TWIN TOWERS.

(Continued from page 238.)

At Kings Lynn, Norfolk, St. Margaret's Church also possesses twin western towers, both 86 feet high, but not identical in design or dimensions. One of these western towers once had a spire which fell in 1741, destroying the nave and top of the central lantern. There are many memorials here, including the two largest Flemish brasses in England, one to Adam de Walsoken (d. 1349) and the other to Robert Braunche, Mayor of Lynn (d. 1364). In 1552 there were five bells here of 10, 14, 18, 22 and 28 cwt. Mackerell tells us that the great bell was called 'the Margaret and was for her curious sound one of the finest of that kind, and might be heard (the wind favouring, as I have been assur'd) full ten miles distant. Others had likewise their distinct names as the Trinity, the St. Thomas, etc., so christn'd, I suppose, as was usual before the Reformation. But the biggest and the least of these was purposely broken, and with some addition cast into others, to make a Ring of Eight, which was affected in the year 1663, as they remain to this day.' He also tells us that the 4th bell was new cast in 1627 by Draper, of Thetford, yet in 1673 the two great bells were called the Margaret and Thomas, as appears from the churchwarden's accounts for that year. As late as 1752 the 7th and 8th bells still went by those names. There is now a ring of ten bells with a tenor 30 cwt. in C.

The inventory of 1552 gives, 'Item sexe belles.' There remained six until 1747, when T. Lester added two trebles and recast the then 5th bell. These bells are now replaced by the glorious ring of ten with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in C, which hang in the north-west tower, while in the south-west tower hangs the bourdon 'Great John,' weighing 7 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb., with a diameter of 7ft. 3in. Note G. In this tower also are the ancient bells, 'Peter' (the Prayer Bell), and 'Brithunus,' by Johannes de Stafford about 1330, and the inscription rings of two other bells of 1663 and 1747. The Yorkshire Association Report, describing these bells, says:—

'The reader will wonder when he reads that a bell of such a weight as this Bourdon is raised and rung with ease. The hanging of it must be truly magnificent. The tenor of the ring of ten in the north tower is something, we may suppose, like the back ten of St. Peter Mancroft and St. Michael's, Cornhill. All the bells, as well as "Great John," are from the Loughborough Foundry, and are held to be among Messrs. Taylor's greatest triumphs.'

Yorkshire has another glorious church with twin western towers—that of the priory church at Bridlington. Here the towers are quite different in height and architecture, that on the north being finished with a flat cornice, whereas the south tower goes on much higher and is crowned by open battlements and four tall crocketed pinnacles at the corners with four smaller ones in between. Of bells here, we read that at the

inventory of Ed. VI. (1558) there were at 'Birdlington . . . Item iij belles and ij handbells.' There remained three bells until 1902, when Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. installed a new ring of eight in an iron frame. The old bells had these interesting couplets inscribed on them:—

- (1) To songs of praise, to wake ye village round:
For light restored, is heard my silver sound.
- (2) Nor joy nor grief employs my peaceful voice,
Mine 'tis in consort only to rejoice.
- (3) To speak a parting soul is given to me,
Be trimm'd thy lamp, as if I toll'd for thee,

THE BELLS OF ISLEWORTH.

(Continued from previous page.)

a ring of ten, and are a very musical peal. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank supplied the trebles.

The augmented ring was dedicated by Dr. Maude, Bishop of Kensington, on June 13th, 1931. A fortnight later the first peal, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung by the officers of the Middlesex County Association, William Pye conducting. The bells were muffled in memory of Thomas Beadle, who for long was the captain of the local band and for a time a vice-president of the association.

The first peal of Royal was one of Kent Treble Bob in February, 1932, conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles. Later in the year the first peal of Cambridge Royal was rung muffled for Henry Edgley, who had done so much for the bells. Mr. G. R. Pye called it. Many peals have since been rung of Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Kent Treble Bob Royal, Bob Royal, Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Royal, and Isleworth Bob Royal. The last, of which only one peal has been rung so far, has claims to be the most musical method possible on ten bells.

DEATH OF TWO CHELTENHAM RINGERS.

The deaths of two Cheltenham ringers are announced. They were Mr. William Hale, who was buried at Cheltenham Cemetery a fortnight ago, and Mr. Sidney Hayward, whose remains were cremated last week.

Mr. William Hale many years ago was a Painswick ringer and captain of the local band. He was a mechanic by trade, and it was due to his attention that the bells went so well. At the end of the last war his work took him to Cheltenham, where he carried on his ringing activities, more particularly at Prestbury. Since the death of his wife he had not been so regular at meetings and service ringing, but his interest continued to the end. He was a vice-president of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and was 79 years of age.

Mr. Sidney Hayward was a native of Fairford, Gloucestershire. In his youth he was apprenticed to a butcher at Cirencester and belonged to the local band. He went to Cheltenham some time before the last war and joined the Parish Church company, of which he had been a keen member ever since. He excelled as a tenorman, but was able to fill a gap on an inside bell to Grandsire Caters. He could always be relied upon to be in his place at Sunday service ringing and prompt to time. The funeral service was held in the Parish Church on May 26th, and, owing to the weekday ban, the bells were rung half-muffled on May 30th. He was 61 years of age.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. — On Monday, May 17th, at 88, Grainger Street, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Ernest Wallace 1-2, Sergt. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 34, Pte. G. Ballard, R.A.O.C. 5-6. Non-conducted. A first birthday compliment to Miss Gillian Green, niece of the ringer of the tenors.

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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).

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—Meeting at Woolton on Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided. Bring own food. Mossley Hill visit postponed.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Guild and Guildford District at Guildford on Saturday, June 5th. Bells of the Cathedral Church available from 3 to 4 p.m., and S. Nicolas' available from 3 p.m. and probably in the evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe 5 p.m.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 5th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting at the Church House.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Woodbridge on Saturday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. Handbells and eight tower bells. Tea shops near the tower.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting on Saturday, June 5th, in the Clergy House, Doncaster. Committee meeting 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Plenty of cafes near the church. Handbells available.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea in Manor House Cafe, for those notifying Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by Wednesday, June 9th. Moderate charge. Business meeting at 6 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford on Saturday, June 12th. Service in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting in the Chapter House. It will not be possible to arrange for tea.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec. (pro tem), Boones Farm, High Garrett, near Braintree.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Newhall, Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 4.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells (8) from 3 p.m. Handbells also. Festival service at 5.30 p.m. Tea in St. Peter's Hall at 6 p.m. Canon Hedley Burrows, Vicar of St. Peter's, will preside.—

George Preston, Winchester and Portsmouth Guild; Rev. C. A. Phillips, Salisbury Guild; Arthur V. Davis, Tower Captain.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, on June 12th, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver. Please send post card.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at North Marston on Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Long Sutton on Whit Monday. Bells from 2 o'clock. Service 3 o'clock. Bring food, tea for drinking will be provided.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general secretary. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Countesthorpe on June 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Tea, at King William IV., for those who notify me before June 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley and District Society, Doncaster and District Society, and Sheffield and District Society, at Barnsley on Saturday, June 19th. A room available at the Royal Hotel from 2.30 p.m. for handbells, etc. Tea at same place 5 p.m. Plain tea, 1s. 6d.; meat tea and chips, 2s. 6d.—Notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by June 16th, stating which tea. Business meeting after tea, followed by social evening.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Diss on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2. Service 4. Preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea and meeting in Coffee Tavern 4.30. Names for tea by June 12th, please.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Service ringing, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, first and third Sunday, 9.40 a.m. St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 10.15, third Sunday.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices will be resumed on Wednesday next at 7.45. Please inform friends.—W. T. Elson.

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Open practices second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

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Last November, when any hopes that we should be able to ring again while the war lasted were faint indeed, we were looking forward to the return of peace and speculating on what best to do to restore ringing to its old prosperity. We suggested that it would be a good plan for the bands of neighbouring towers to pool their resources and to combine for service ringing, so that instead of two depleted bands vainly trying to carry on the ringing at two separate towers, one fairly competent band could serve alternately at both churches.

We are glad to know that this has been adopted in several instances and so far is proving a success.

To some extent this is a reversion to the older custom of the Exercise. Not, indeed, in service ringing, for regular ringing before divine service is a custom which has become common during living memory; but on the special occasions when the bells were rung to serve the public, as well as on the occasions when the ringers rang to serve themselves. In towns where there were more than one peal of bells there was usually but one company of ringers who visited the various belfries as suited their purposes. Where there were two bands it was generally on account of rivalries and quarrels.

One important result was that the ringers had little or no connection with the church authorities. They stood entirely outside any parochial organisation. The parsons, as a rule, did not bother about them, and they themselves would have resented and resisted any interference. It was a state of affairs which was good neither for the Church nor for the ringers, and not the least of the factors which during the last sixty or seventy years have improved the conditions of ringing has been the formation of bands definitely connected with particular churches and working in co-operation with the clergy and the parochial authorities.

There is not the least doubt that the future of ringing and of the Exercise depends on how far ringers can co-operate with the Church authorities. The life and strength of the Exercise depend ultimately, not on the great associations, not on the Central Council, not on expert peal ringing bands, but on the parochial companies. The problem of the rehabilitation of the Exercise is really the problem of the restoration of separate parish companies, each definitely connected with one particular church.

We must not lose sight of that ideal, but we must also face facts. In these difficult times it is a question not so much what we should like to do or even what we

(Continued on page 254.)

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ought to do, as what we can do. The only reason for which bands exist is that the bells should be rung properly, and since in so many towers at the present time there are not enough ringers to ring the bells properly, co-operation with other and neighbouring bands is almost a necessity. It is better that the bells of any church should be well rung at rather wide intervals than that they should be badly rung every Sunday, or not at all. When normal conditions return and the depleted bands are once more filled up by the members who have come back from the King's service and by suitable recruits, it will be possible for the combined bands to separate, and all the more so because in each there will be a nucleus who have retained their skill and their high standards. In the meanwhile every ringer should consider himself as belonging to one particular church to which he owes loyalty and which claims his service.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

ORAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

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

JOHN WHEADON 1-Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 6
JAMES E. BAILEY 3	EDWIN BARNETT 7
PHILIP A. CORBY 4	GEORGE H. CROSS 8-Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT 17A, THE BROADWAY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
*CHARLES H. KIPPIN 3-4	*FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

ANOTHER PEAL OF EIGHT FOR HAMPSHIRE.

DEDICATION OF SHEDFIELD BELLS.

On Sunday, May 30th, two new trebles were dedicated at Shedfield, Hampshire. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was opened in 1875, and the bells, a ring of six by Taylor's, were opened by the Winchester Diocesan Guild in November, 1891. The weight of the tenor is 12½ cwt. in G, and the whole peal was the gift of a well-known parishioner.

The new bells, to complete the octave, were added by Messrs. Taylor during the ban, and were given by a legacy left by Mr. Daysh (a former parish clerk for over 50 years) in memory of his wife.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. W. Martin) and the bells were dedicated by the Rural Dean, Canon L. S. Etheridge.

Before and after the service the bells were rung in the standard methods by ringers from Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, North Stoneham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bishopstoke and several of the local company. The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild were represented by the Master (Mr. G. Williams), general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter) and Messrs. R. J. Stone and G. Pullinger (secretaries of the Portsmouth and Southampton districts).

The ringers were entertained at tea by the local branch of the Mothers' Union, and the Vicar welcomed and thanked the Guild for organising the ringing. The Master responded and congratulated Shedfield on possessing a first-class ring of eight. All present were unanimous that Messrs. Taylor had made an excellent splice.

It was decided to reopen the Portsmouth District with a quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 3rd, when the bells will be available and an opportunity given for all ringers to attend.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**ITS TOWERS AND BELLS.**

(Continued from page 244.)

To return to the bells in the Abbey itself. In 1388 an inventory was taken and it shows that there were two bells called Saint Dunstan's bells. They evidently were not hung in the tower with the ringing peal, but were used as sacring bells, and, since they are said to have been made of latten, may have been large hand bells. Latten is an old name for brass. In 1540, when the monastery was dissolved, there is a record—'solde ij bellys calld Saynt Dunstanys bells.'

Until the last restoration of the peal in 1919 the second of the ring of six was a bell cast by Richard Wymbish about 1300, and so was one of the ring that hung in the Norman tower of Edward the Confessor's church. When the octave was completed it was found impossible to tune it to the new bells, and it was taken down from the tower and placed in the Abbey museum in the Undercroft. It bears the inscription—XPE : AUDI : NOS.

Richard Wymbish was one of a family of founders who lived at Aldgate. He cast bells for the Holy Trinity Priory in the reign of King Edward the Second.

Abbot Islip completed the lower part of the west front in 1523. The southern tower was built only to the height of the aisle roof, but the northern to the height of the clerestory, the bell chamber being below the pitch of the nave roof. To this day the windows of this bell chamber (which is below the present ringing floor) have louveres.

Henry the Seventh's chapel was finished in 1519, and except for the western towers the whole fabric of the church was completed about 1530. Ten years later the monastery was dissolved and its treasures seized by the Crown. A year before the blow fell an agreement was made 'between William Abbot of Westminster of the one partie and John Whyte and John Saunder of Ryding bellfounders of the other partie for the new casting ij belles of the ryng of the said monasterie that ys to say the thirde belle and the fyfthe belle of the same ryng.' Evidently there was already a ring of six in the tower.

During the Reformation period nothing seems to have been done to the bells, but when the great revival of bell founding came in Elizabeth's reign, the Abbey, under Dean Goodman, employed Robert Mot to put the bells in order. Mot recast Saunder's two bells (if the contract had been carried out), the third in 1583 and the fifth in 1598. In the following year he supplied a new tenor, and this bell had a rather curious history. It was recast in 1738 and now bears the following inscription copied from older bells, 'Remember John Whilmell Isabella his wife and William Rus who first gave this bell 1430. New cast in July 1599 and in April 1738. Richard Phelps T. Lester fecit.'

William Rus was a citizen of London, and alderman and goldsmith. He was a special benefactor to the church of St. Michael, Cornhill, and the bell which he gave to that church in 1430 was called after his name and was the pride of the parish. How did it get to Westminster Abbey? We are told that there is a mystery about the whole matter, and no light can be thrown on it from the documents in the Abbey archives; but the explanation is quite a simple one, only we must look for it not at Westminster, but in the parish records of St. Michael's, Cornhill.

St. Michael's has long been famous for its bells. In 1421 a new steeple was built and in it was hung 'a fair ring of five bells,' which evidently was tuned to the minor scale, for about ten years later William Rus added a tenor to make a ring of six. Who cast it we do not know, but it weighed somewhat over 30 cwt. and was a noble bell, the pride and treasure of the parish. It was called Rus after the donor. The whole ring was accounted 'the best ring of six to be rung by six men that was in England, for harmony, sweetness of sound, and tune.'

Whoever made the frame and hung the bells did his work well, for Stow specially states that they were rung by six men only and for the space of one hundred years Rus was not only rung singlehanded for curfew and knell, but also in peals. But in the year 1587 a disaster occurred; Rus was cracked. A founder named Lawrence Wright was employed to recast it, but whether through misfortune or incompetence, his work was badly done, and when the bell was hung it gave great dissatisfaction and generally 'was not liked of' in the parish. Wright's charges were low, but in the end they turned out pretty dear for the parish. The churchwardens seem to have been undecided as to whether they should accept the bell and pay for it, and the matter was discussed in vestry. In the end it was decided to pay Wright £3 17s. for new metal supplied and £9 6s. 9d. for the recasting. That was as much as 'his due is to be accounted justly,' but the parish made the sum up to £14 out of benevolence, and promised 'to consider of him better, if the bell hold and be better liked of than it is now.'

As time went on Wright's bell was not 'better liked of.' The parish was proud of its bells, and the new tenor spoilt the ring, so in the following year, 'upon further advice of the parishioners,' the vestry 'agreed that our bell Rus shall be new cast.'

The work was entrusted to Robert Mot, who was making a name as the leading bell founder of his time, and establishing the reputation of the famous Whitechapel firm. On November 8th the bell was taken to Mot's house and there weighed, and two days later an agreement was signed for the recasting. When the new bell was ready the churchwardens and other leading men of the parish went to Whitechapel to view it, and they took with them a musician to sound the bell.

Everything seems to have been done this time to ensure that the tenor should be in tune. The 'waites of the city' 'took pains to take the note of our bells and to go to Mr. Motts to take the note of the new bell then cast,' for which they received eighteenpence; and a shilling was paid to 'a company of other musicians to take a further note of the same bell.'

It rather looks as if the parish refused to accept the first bell cast by Mot, for it was inspected on the first of December, 1588, and it was not until the twenty-second of the following June that Mot was paid £17 17s. 'for the new tenor bell called Rus which was last cast weighing 33 cwt. 42 lbs.; and not until July 25th that the trial was made in the steeple, when the ringers received three shillings and fivepence.

In the year 1598 Rus was again broken. The vestry had lately spent a lot of money on the bells, and when a motion was made for the new casting, it was decided 'to rest awhile and use it as it is until we see further

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

(Continued from previous page.)

occasion.' But a cracked Rus was a disgrace to the parish, and so at a vestry holden on February 2nd, 1598, it was agreed that 'Mr. Mott shall have for the casting of the bell, £18, hangst and set up and taken down all at his charges.' When the new bell was hung in the tower with the others it proved a failure, and on the first of November it was agreed 'that it shall be notified by the churchwardens to Mr. Mote that the bell is not according to his agreement, neither in weight nor goodness and therefore they will have a bell in the place or else have his bond.'

Mot had to submit and undertook to supply a new bell, and so on August 29th the vestry decided that he should hang it up in the tower, but if it did not agree with the rest of the bells to the liking of the parish then he should have forty shillings to cover the cost of taking it down, and should go on casting until he did produce a bell that should satisfy the parish.

The broken bell weighed 33 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs., the bell finally accepted in its place weighed 30 cwt. 3 qrs. 28 lbs., so from the contract price of £18, £7 19s. 2d. was deducted for the difference of metal and £1 0s. 4d. added for the cost of a new clapper. That made the amount £12 1s. 2d., 'and we are content to make it up to £13 by reason he casted it so often.'

That is the story as told by the St. Michael's parish records. Robert Mot's final tenor and all the rest of the ring perished in the Great Fire of London in 1666. How, then, did it happen that the tenor of Westminster Abbey bears the inscription which quite certainly belonged to the tenor at St. Michael's, Cornhill?

The answer is not a difficult one. At the same time Mot was working for St. Michael's he was doing work for the Abbey. He had just recast the third and the fifth there, and when a new tenor was wanted, instead of recasting the old bell, he took one of the rejected by St. Michael's and used that. No doubt the Dean and Chapter were less critical and more easily satisfied than the City parish. But it was not a good bell. Laughton heard it in 1734, and says it was 'dull and melancholy.' It was recast in 1738 by Lester and Phelps and the inscription, copied more or less from the first Rus of all, was reproduced.

The inscription on the present bell says that it was new cast in July, 1599, and in April, 1738. The St. Michael's vestry agreed to give Mot the order for a bell in February, 1599, and on November 1st the churchwardens were ordered to notify him that the bell was not according to contract and to demand a new bell which he, in course of time, supplied. It was fortunate for him that he was able to use the rejected bell for the Abbey, for his transactions with St. Michael's can have brought him little financial profit. The present tenor at the Abbey was never hung anywhere else, though it is often said that it came from Cornhill.

Throughout the seventeenth century the ring, as left by Robert Mot, hung in the unfinished Abbey tower. A manuscript, dated about 1685, by W. Boghurst, says, 'Of Bells in ye Abbey Steple 6 belles, ye bigest is 5 yards in compas wanting 2 inches.'

In the early days of the eighteenth century extensive repairs to the whole church had to be undertaken, with

Sir Christopher Wren as architect. Wren wished not only to complete the western towers, but also to add a central spire, and a wooden model made to his designs is preserved in the Abbey museum. His actual work, however, was confined to thorough repairs to the vaulting and the practically entire recasing of the exterior.

William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple in 1734, and he wrote his impressions of it. He said that 'they are about to case and raise the towers above the roof if they can find money enough.' It was strange that for such a space of years they should have stood unfinished. The bells were an ancient peal of six, the fifth ranting and jolly, the tenor dull and melancholy, and some of the other bells very dull and as bad as the tenor. But when the towers had been raised higher they were to be recast and made into a ring of ten.

The Ramblers rang 720 changes of Plain Bob and eighteen-score of College Single. They attempted Treble Bob, but the fifth rope broke. Until the bells were put in order, Laughton declared, he did not intend to go there again.

Most likely that was the only change ringing done on the bells for many a long year, but they were regularly rung, for there was plenty of paid ringing.

(To be continued.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BATLEY.

The May meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Batley on May 29th. Method ringing started at half-past three with Bob Major and continued, except for a break for tea, until 7 o'clock, when the business meeting was held. Other methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, Superlative Surprise and Stedman Triples.

The ringing, on the whole, was good considering that the majority present had not had the privilege of ringing anything other than Doubles and Minor at their own towers.

At the business meeting members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Rothwell and the local company, as well as Bbr. Woolley and Pte. R. Davison, of H.M. Forces.

One new member, Pte. R. Davison, was elected.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Batley and the local company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, who referred to the unexpected pleasure of open ringing at meetings. Mr. T. W. Strangeway seconded.

The next meeting will be jointly with the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association at Shipley on June 19th.

DEATH OF MUCH HADHAM RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank Miles, who passed away suddenly on May 19th. He had been a ringer at St. Andrew's, Much Hadham, for fifty years.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MALINS LEE.

About thirty members attended the meeting of the Shropshire Association at Malins Lee on May 29th. Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Little Bob and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were rung on the six bells, and a fair use was made of the handbells.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, and Mrs. Hobbins played the organ. At the meeting eight new members were elected, two from Malins Lee and six from Coalbrookdale, all young people.

An excellent tea was provided and served by the local ringers, their wives and friends.

WINCHESTER.—At 6, Cathedral View, 720 Grandsire Doubles, six different callings: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice 3-4-5-6.

BLACKPOOL.—On Sunday, May 23rd, in St. John's belfry, a quarter-peal of Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Major, 1,292 changes: *John H. Crampion, R.A.O.C. 1-2, Harold Chant, R.A.F. 3-4, *Arthur Hague 5-6, †Thomas W. Lewis, R.A.F. 7-8. *First quarter-peal of 'Spliced' in hand. †First quarter-peal of Major in hand. A birthday compliment to Mr. W. Lewis, father of the ringer of 7-8.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir, — In 'The Ringing World' for May 28th, Mr. A. C. Webber asks for hints on chiming. This, I think, would be interesting, as at the present time there is no doubt there will be more chiming than ringing owing to the scarcity of ringers.

Like everything else, this becomes easy with practice, and it seems to me that is all there is in it. But tune playing may be different. I do not think ringers as a rule take much interest in chiming. I was told by a Devonshire ringer that it did not matter much about chiming. But there are plenty of the general public who would rather hear chiming than ringing.

Tune playing is one thing at home and another in the belfry. I find it easiest to number the tunes up the scale, tenor being 1 and always 1. Tunes cannot be played from a hymn book, as a tune may be written in three sharps or flats, and the bells may be in C. So my advice is try a tune on the white keys only. If it goes below C, as many tunes do, or above the treble on 6, 8, 10 or 12, leave it alone.

Some of our best tunes cannot be played on an ordinary octave. Take hymns A. and M., 'Fight the good fight,' 'The King of Love' and 'Alleluia, sing to Jesus,' cannot be played. In the English Hymnal these hymns are set to Duke Street, St. Columba and Hyfridol, all good tunes, and there are many others.

Time is very important. I heard 'God moves' being played with a break between the lines, which was wrong. This tune, like many others, starts on the fourth beat, the first and second lines being played as one line then three beats on the last note. Third and fourth lines as one, three beats on the final note. The fourth starts the next verse. 'Conquering Kings' and many others are altogether different. I mention this for the benefit of those who do not understand music as written.

I hope someone will add to this. I should be pleased to help anyone who requires it in my own way.

F. SMITH.

16, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

CRANFORD.—On Sunday, May 23rd, at the Church of St. Dunstan, for the patronal festival, 720 Bob Minor: A. A. Hughes 1, H. Belcher 2, Mrs. J. Thomas 3, J. Thomas (conductor) 4, F. G. Baldwin 5, W. H. Coles 6. The first 720 on the bells.

NETHERTON.—On Saturday, May 29th, 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor: Andrew Round 1, Harry Hill 2, Alfred Davies (conductor) 3, Harold J. Shuck 4, Thomas Townsend 5, Sergt. Stanley Prestidge, R.A., 6.

WEDDING OF MR. REGINALD DARVILL.

On Saturday, June 5th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, the wedding took place of Mr. Reginald Darvill and Miss Kathleen West. The bride wore a white satin dress and carried a bouquet of yellow and pink roses. There were two bridesmaids dressed respectively in pink and blue. The Rev. K. Davis (Swindon) officiated, and Mr. Frank Lufkin (Southend) was the best man. This was the first wedding in the city at which bells were rung since the removal of the ban. The local band was assisted by several of the guests (including Miss Edna Bedford, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Botham and Mr. E. Hartley). Touches of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal and Stedman Caters were rung before and after the ceremony, as well as rounds by learners who had been taught recently by the bride and bridegroom.

The reception was held afterwards at 34, Holywell Hill, at which about 60 of the many guests who had been at the church spent a most enjoyable time. Handbells were rung calling forth much appreciative comment from the non-ringing guests. The bridal couple left afterwards for a honeymoon in London and Gloucestershire.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WOOLTON.**

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association held at St. Peter's, Woolton, on June 5th, ringers were present from Liverpool, Southport, Ormskirk, Halsall, Waverton, West Derby, Huyton, Sefton, Farnworth, Childwall, Halewood, Garston and the local company.

The tower bells were made good use of before and after the meeting. Mr. T. Hesketh presided, and apologies were read from the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Messrs. P. W. Cave and T. R. Butler, the latter being in hospital recovering from the effects of a serious operation. Reference was made to the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Howson, for long warden of the Liverpool Guild.

A letter was read from Mrs. Gardner thanking the members for their letter to her on having heard that her husband, Mr. J. W. Gardner, of Halewood, was safe although a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

Nominations were made for association and branch officers, which will come up for election at the meeting at Halewood on July 10th. The meeting expressed appreciation of the efforts of members of both Houses of Parliament to have the ban completely removed. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and providing tea.

The secretary informed the meeting that permission had been given by the Dean for members to visit the tower of Liverpool Cathedral on January 26th.

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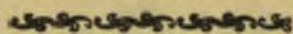
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. George Williams tells us that the peal of Stedman Caters at Winchester Cathedral in 1914 was not a Central Council peal, as the ringers of the seventh, eight and tenor were not members. It was rung on the occasion of the visit of the Council to Winchester. The mistake was not Mr. Williams'.

Mr. F. E. Pitman, of Bromley, has had to go into hospital and does not expect to be able to do any ringing for two months.

Last week a paragraph in Mr. Ernest Morris' articles on Twin Towers was printed out of its correct place. This week it reappears in its right context.

Mr. James George is now living at 9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

The anniversaries of three long lengths of Treble Bob Major fall in this week. On June 6th, 1892, a band, made up from Ipswich and East Suffolk, rang Thomas Day's 16,608 in the Oxford Variation at Debenham. Mr. Frederick Tillet, who rang the tenor, and Mr. Robert Brundle, who rang the fifth, are happily still with us. James Motts conducted.

On June 8th, 1906, at Mottram in Cheshire, a new record was set up by ringing 16,800 changes in the Kent Variation. The composition was by Edwin Timbrell and was a fine performance, but the quality of the ringing did not escape criticism.

It was also at Mottram on June 10th, 1922, that 18,240 Kent Major was rung. Here, too, there were reports of false ringing, but any discussion of them was rendered superfluous when it was discovered that the composition itself was false.

The first peal of Wymondham Bob Major was rung by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild on June 6th, 1937.

The first peal of Manchester Surprise Major was rung at Norbury on June 7th, 1934; the first peal of St. Blaise Surprise at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on June 8th, 1927, and the first peal of Rochester Surprise at Leiston on June 9th, 1924.

Squire Proctor and his band rang 6048 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at Bennington on June 9th, 1855. It was the first time that the extent of the method with the tenors together had been accomplished.

On the same date in 1883 the last peal on the old ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, was rung. At one time those bells were generally esteemed one of the best rings in the country, but opinions change and standards alter. It was no longer considered safe to ring in the steeple, and bells which sound well when rung do not always sound well when chimed. The old ten were therefore replaced by a chime tuned on modern principles.

John Carter called the first (and, we believe, only) peal of Handsworth Major, at Handsworth, on June 11th, 1910.

Two years later, on the same date, the Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Little Bob Royal on handbells.

A definite stage in the development of peal ringing was reached on June 11th, 1927, when Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of Spliced Surprise in the four standard methods. It was at Warnham, and John S. Goldsmith was in the band.

The first peal of Irthlingborough Surprise Major was rung at Irthlingborough on June 11th, 1932.

The Birmingham men rang a peal of Grandsire Maximus at St. Martin's on June 12th, 1815. They thought it was the first in the method, but it was not.

ALL SAINTS' ISLEWORTH.

BELLS AND BELFRY SAVED.

As we announced last week, the Church of All Saints, Isleworth, was completely destroyed by fire during the night of Friday, May 28th. We are glad to hear that the tower with the bells and ringing chamber are unharmed though badly blackened.

The building was well alight before a passer-by, between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., saw the flames and gave the alarm to the fire station.

By the time the brigade arrived the whole building was so enveloped in flame that it was not possible to save it.

Efforts were concentrated on the vestry, and under great difficulties the parish registers were saved though scorched, and the valuable Communion plate was also got out unharmed except for blackening.

The fire-fighters were able to pump plenty of water from the river, but even so late as 10 o'clock in the morning firemen were still playing on the pile of ruins. The large quantity of woodwork provided plenty of fuel for the flames.

Only the walls are now left standing. The beautiful stained-glass windows, of which there were many, have gone, and some of the valuable marble memorial tablets to old inhabitants, some of them well-known personages, are cracked with the heat and blackened, while the war memorial chapel was destroyed as the galleries fell.

The fine old organ, a Father Green instrument, has also gone. The flames, once they got hold, were well fed, and the blaze was visible for many miles round.

Following inquiries by Scotland Yard, two boys appeared before a juvenile court accused of causing fires in churches in the Hounslow district.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Leeds on Saturday, May 1st, and was attended by some 40 members and friends. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. Lewis, J. W. Addison and F. W. Dale.

As no invitations had been received, it was decided to try and arrange the next meeting on September 18th, the venue being left for the officers to decide upon.

The President announced that the printers had not been able to complete the printing of the annual reports, but as soon as they came to hand supplies would be despatched to the district secretaries. Copies of the committee's report and the balance sheet were available.

Presenting the committee's report, the President said it was another war-time report, and to economise paper certain items were omitted. Regarding membership, the position was far better than might have been expected, the number of fully paid up members being higher than in the previous year. Actually, the membership now stood at 1,127. Two honorary members and five ringing members had been elected.

LOSS BY DEATH.

Twenty members had passed away. Special mention should be made of George Barraclough, of Leeds, who was one of the original members of the association, and had rung peals with their first president, the late Jasper W. Snowdon; Albert Nash, of Rotherham, and Arthur Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, both not only accomplished ringers, but very loyal members of the association. They took part in and Albert Nash conducted the peal of 10,800 Surprise Minor in 15 Surprise extents, which was rung at Rotherham Parish Church on January 1st, 1931, and which remains the record length of Minor by the association. John Flint, of Bolsover, had been very closely connected with the association for many years, and was one of the pioneers of Surprise ringing. John S. Goldsmith was a household name among change ringers, and the Yorkshire Association would be behind none in acknowledging the debt owed to him for all he had done for the Exercise and in particular for his editorship of 'The Ringing World' for so many years. F. E. Dawe, of Woking, had been a member since 1880 and was associated with their first president. Throughout his life he had been a most active and enthusiastic exponent of the ringing exercise.

Three general meetings had been held during the year. The annual meeting was at Leeds, as being the most central place. The June meeting took place at Selby, where the association was glad to make the acquaintance of the new Vicar, Canon A. E. M. Glover. The autumn meeting was at Barnsley, and two important business items were transacted. It was decided to change the financial year to coincide with the calendar year, and a new rule was made enabling permanently disabled members to become honorary members of the association, if accepted by the committee and by the members at a general meeting.

PEAL RINGING.

The peal secretaries' report showed that 20 peals had been rung between October 1st, 1941, and December 31st, 1942, and the variety was very encouraging. The checking of peal compositions rung by the association was progressing and nearing completion. Nearly 2,000 had been proved and a further 11 false ones had come to light.

The committee desired to express the debt of gratitude the association owes to Mr. W. Barton for his report and undertaking the gigantic task of proving all the peal compositions rung by the association. It entailed a vast amount of labour and a very high degree of skill.

The balance sheet showed a gain of nearly £28. The total assets of the association now stood at £385 6s. 4d. This result was most satisfactory, and the committee desired to place on record their gratitude to the treasurer.

The committee's report was accepted on the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall. Mr. G. Horner moved and Mr. F. Cryer seconded that the balance sheet be accepted. This was carried. Moving a vote of thanks to the treasurer, Mr. E. Hudson paid tribute to the painstaking manner in which he had fulfilled his office. This was seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall and carried. Moving a vote of thanks to the hon. auditors, Mr. P. J. Johnson said that in these extremely busy days it was difficult to find people who were able and willing to devote the time necessary for the purpose, and their best thanks were due to Mr. Talbot and Mr. Sherwood. This was seconded by Mr. D. Smith and carried.

(Continued in next column.)

SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on May 8th, and was attended by members from Ipswich, Grundisburgh, Ufford, Rushmere, Sudbury, Lavenham and Mistley. Mr. C. J. Sedgley presided.

Mr. C. E. Fisher, the treasurer, presented his accounts, which showed a credit balance of £14 4s. 4d. and total assets of £54 7s. 5d.

The three representatives on the Central Council were re-elected—the Rev. H. Drake, Mr. C. J. Sedgley and Mr. S. H. Symonds.

During 1942 the following members had passed away: F. J. Smith (St. Mary-le-Tower), J. Smith (St. Margaret's, Ipswich), G. Whiting (Helmington), W. G. Crickmer (Earl Soham) and E. Rivers (Sproughton).

The trustees of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson's gift of handbells reported that 15 had been lent to Mr. C. W. Pipe, of Grundisburgh, and 13 to Mr. C. E. Fisher, of Ufford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RAINHAM.

A meeting of the Kent County Association, arranged before the total lifting of the ban, was held at Rainham on Sunday, May 30th, and was attended by no less than fifty members and friends.

Ringing began at 3 o'clock, and at 4 o'clock the ringers' service was conducted by the Vicar of Rainham. The collection, amounting to £1 9s. 6d., was appropriated to the Rainham 'Wings for Victory' effort.

A first-class tea was kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. C. Belsey and family in the Church Hall.

At the meeting which followed reference was made to the loss by death of the following members: W. Haigh, Gillingham; W. Lane and F. Ring, Swanscombe; F. Belsey, Chatham; J. Harris, Halling; W. Hunt, Rochester; H. Poulter, Gillingham; J. Atkins, Frindsbury; and G. Ambrose, Milton, Gravesend.

The next quarterly meeting which it was hoped to hold in July, was fixed for Tunstall.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

In reply, Mr. F. G. Sherwood said that the task had been made very simple and straightforward by the careful manner in which the treasurer kept his accounts.

Mr. H. Lofthouse moved the re-election of Mr. S. F. Palmer as treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. S. Briggs and carried unanimously. In reply, Mr. Palmer thanked the members for their continued confidence and support, and said that he would do his best to maintain the traditions of the association.

Reporting that the General Committee had unanimously re-elected Mr. W. Barton as peal secretary, the President spoke of Mr. Barton's skill and qualities and again drew attention to the great debt owed to him. Mr. Barton said that he regretted he had had to reduce the peal totals of some members, but he had largely completed the work of proving and he hoped all the false ones had been found.

The President announced that the committee had considered an application for transfer to the list of honorary members from a member of the Mirfield company and recommended that the transfer be made. Mr. J. F. Harvey moved and Mr. J. Moxon seconded that the committee's recommendation be endorsed and it was carried. On the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood, Lieut. J. Hindshaw, Capt. F. F. Rawcliffe, Mrs. F. Rawcliffe, H. E. Ellis, Capt. D. H. Fender, G. R. H. Smith, the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith and Mrs. D. M. Weddall were elected as members.

The President read a letter from the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith, C.F., who had done fine work among his colleagues at Catterick, and it was unanimously agreed to send a congratulatory note to Mr. Smith.

Mr. E. Hudson moved that a letter be sent to Dr. Garbett, Archbishop of York, expressing the appreciation of the association on his efforts to secure the removal of the ban on ringing. This was seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. Barton to Canon Marshall for presiding, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson and carried with applause. Canon Marshall suitably replied.

An adjournment for tea was then made, after which those who were able to stay returned to enjoy a delightful social evening, the programme including an excellent conjuring show, musical and vocal items, interspersed with handbell ringing.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS, F.R.HIST.S.

(Continued from page 250.)

Another church with twin western towers, both different in style, is that of St. German's, Cornwall. The south tower is square, but the north tower is octagonal in its upper stages. The former contains a ring of eight bells, six cast in 1775 and two added by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1913, when all were rehung in a new steel and iron frame, this work being carried out by Mr. John Thomas. It is said that in ancient times there was a ring of bells in the north tower, but to-day there are none. Ringing here is done from the ground floor, and as the tower is 'built in' and on the corner of the church it is open on two sides, standing on these sides on two great arches, thus exposing the ringers to the view of the congregation.

The glorious Minster of Beverley, Yorkshire, has twin towers at its west end as well as the beginning of a central tower at the crossing of the transepts. Although Beverley is not a cathedral, its minster is certainly worthy to be ranked as such. Maybe some day, when our dioceses are again divided, it may have a Bishop of its own. The west front is one of the finest examples of the Perpendicular style in England, and consists of two towers flanking a large window, above which is a high gable, and, below, a deeply recessed door. Many have sung the praises of Beverley Minster, and Sir Gilbert Scott declared that 'it is the finest Gothic church in the world.' The foundation of the minster is traditionally ascribed to Lucius, the first Christian king, in the year 157, but its reliable history commences in the year 690. Soon after this, the church on this spot, dedicated to St. John-the-Evangelist, was rebuilt by St. John of Beverley, who lies buried in the nave, together with Brithunus, the first abbot. It was destroyed by the Danes in 800, and later, after rebuilding, was partly destroyed by fire in 1188. From this time the present stately structure dates, and occupied about 200 years in reconstruction.

Of the early bells, it is stated in 'Beverlac,' by S. Poulson, 1829: 'A.D. 1050. Kinsius, Archbishop of York, the next Prelate, who became a benefactor to the church, was a man of great austerity who walked barefoot in his parochial visitations. He built the high tower to the church of Beverley, and placed two great bells in it.' (He gave two bells of the same mould to Southwell and two more to the Church of Stowe. . . . Drake, page 41.)

The inventory of 1552 gives, 'Item sexe belles.' There remained six until 1747, when T. Lester added two trebles and recast the then 5th bell. These bells are now replaced by the glorious ring of ten with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in C, which hang in the north-west tower, while in the south-west tower hangs the bourdon 'Great John,' weighing 7 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb., with a diameter of 7ft. 3in. Note G. In this tower also are the ancient bells, 'Peter' (the Prayer Bell), and 'Brithunus,' by Johannes de Stafford about 1330, and the inscription rings of two other bells of 1663 and 1747. The Yorkshire Association Report, describing these bells, says:—

'The reader will wonder when he reads that a bell of such a weight as this Bourdon is raised and rung with ease. The hanging of it must be truly magnificent. The tenor of the ring of ten in the north tower is something, we may suppose, like the back ten of St. Peter Mancroft

and St. Michael's, Cornhill. All the bells, as well as "Great John," are from the Loughborough Foundry, and are held to be among Messrs. Taylor's greatest triumphs.'

Wimborne Minster, Dorset, has two separate towers placed in an unusual position. The church is cruciform in plan, and one tower is in the centre, while the other, built three centuries later and containing the bells, is at the west end. The height of the central tower is 84 feet, while that of the west one is 95 feet. The length of the Minster is 193 feet, breadth of nave 54 feet, and across the transepts it is 106 feet.

The central or Norman tower, with its interlacing arches on its faces is worthy of notice. The corbels above are very quaint, one showing the head of a man gnawing a bone. Until 1686 Wimborne had but five bells, but in that year a sixth was added, and 170 years later—in 1856—they were increased to eight.

The two small bells (in addition to the peal) in one of the windows of the north wall of the western tower, upon which the military or 'jack' strikes the quarter hours in connection with the clock, having been found to be cracked, were recast in 1911 in correct harmony with the peal. The figure itself, which apparently was made in 1613, an entry in the church accounts of that year recording 'Item to one of Blandford for carving the Jacke 10s.,' was also repainted in the uniform of the Grenadier Guards of a century ago.

At the same time, i.e., in 1911, the ring was increased to ten by the addition of two trebles by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, who also recast the old bells, reproducing the ancient inscriptions. The whole were rehung in a new iron frame with all new fittings. The tenor is 29 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lbs. and the old inscription (in Latin) reads 'Mr. Wm. Loringe first made me in honour of St. Cuthberga. I was recast at the expense of the parish by Anthony Bond in the year 1629.' The original date of the bell is not known, although surmised to be about 1385, as Mr. Loringe was (according to Hutchins) one of the canons of the Minster in the 8th year of Richard II., which was 80 years before the west—or bell—tower was built, and in all likelihood it hung in the lantern—or central—tower. It was recast in 1530 and again in 1629, the last time in the garden of Henry Allen near the churchyard, where a pit was dug and furnace constructed by Anthony Bond.

The old 3rd had the apt phrase (in Latin) 'I am the least bell here but to each little one is its own charm.' On the two new trebles (also in Latin) are inscriptions to this effect, (1) 'May Lioba's bell sound forth for many years,' (2) 'We render thanks to God for the Lady Margaret, foundress of the school and benefactress of this church.'

St. Lioba, it may be noted, was the eminent Saxon saint who was educated here, and who rendered such material service to St. Boniface in the 8th century in the evangelism of Germany. Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII., originally founded the Grammar School. Her parents' tomb is of marble, situate on the south side of the chancel, and bearing the effigies of John de Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and his Duchess, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp. To the presence of this tomb, it is said, Wimborne was no doubt indebted for much of its old endowment.

(To be continued.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

CANON A. B. SIMPSON'S PAMPHLET.

(Continued from page 248.)

At the end of the quotation from Canon Simpson's book, given in our last issue, he had begun to analyse the overtones of several rings of bells in order to prove his contention that the fundamental, nominal, and hum-note were meant to be in true octaves; but, as a matter of fact, it is the exception to find a bell in which any two of them are in accord. Almost always the fundamental is the flattest of the three (irrespective of octave), the hum-note is almost always the sharpest, and the nominal generally between the two.

He goes on with his examples—

2. Take next the little peal of six bells in the church of Fittleworth, Sussex. Of these, three are new, the fourth is about fifty years old, the fifth and sixth very ancient. In each of the six, without exception, the nominal is a quarter of a tone, more or less, sharper than the fundamental. And in all but one, the hum-note is a trifle sharper than the nominal; the exception being the tenor, a very ancient bell, in which the hum-note and the nominal are in unison. Can we help feeling that the general small defection from perfect octaves is an error from a *design* which is fulfilled in the exceptional case?

3. In the tower of Eastry, in Kent, are five bells, the tenor about a ton in weight. In all these the common rule, as stated above, holds good, with the exception that in the fourth bell the nominal is a shade flatter than the fundamental—an unusual case, but still tending to confirm the theory that these notes were meant to be true octaves.

4. There is a very fine peal of six bells in the tower of Stoke-by-Nayland, in Suffolk. Every one of these, with possibly one exception, follows the same rule: the nominals, fundamentals, and hum-notes being nearly in octaves, the hum-notes being the sharpest, the fundamentals the flattest, and the nominals between the two.

5. One of the finest peals of eight in the kingdom is that at Lavenham, in Suffolk. Here also every one, with one notable exception, follows the same general rule of slightly imperfect octaves between the three principal notes; the errors in each bell being of the same kind—i.e., all the hum-notes a little sharper, and all the fundamentals a little flatter than their respective nominals. The one exception is the tenor, a marvellously fine-toned bell, which has indeed the reputation of being about the finest in England. In this the fundamental and the nominal are apparently in perfect octave—a very noticeable fact taken in conjunction with the reputation of the bell.

6. These are all instances of English bells. But, to guard against the supposition that these coincidences or irregularities are peculiar to our bells, I will mention next a peal of eight bells cast at Louvain about eight years ago (i.e., about 1887) and placed in the tower of Lower Beeding, near Horsham, in Sussex. I had an opportunity of examining these bells on their arrival in this country. There was much to learn from them, which I may hereafter refer to. But with respect to the point now before us—viz. the relative positions of the three principal tones—there was nothing to distinguish them from an ordinary English peal. There was the usual approximation to octaves, but I only noticed one

instance in which the relation was true. In the seventh bell the fundamental was a true octave below the nominal. But it was evident that this bell has been greatly altered, and I have reason to feel sure that originally the fundamental had been flatter than the nominal, as in most English bells, and as was, and is, the case with the tenor bell by its side.

7. To give one more instance, and this time of a French founder. There are four bells by Messrs. Paccard, of Annecy in Savoy, in the church of St. John, St. Leonards-on-Sea. They are remarkably good and sweet-toned, and are in much better tune with themselves than the generality of bells that I have examined. But still the same general errors are apparent. In three out of four the nominals are a little sharper than the fundamentals, and the hum-notes decidedly sharper than the nominals. In the fourth and smallest bell the hum-note and the fundamental are practically in unison, but the nominal is notably sharper than either.

If now I have carried my readers with me so far they will no longer be surprised at any difficulty they may have experienced in determining the note of any particular bell. For here we see that in the majority of bells we have three notes, very near to each other in pitch, though in different octaves, all struggling for the mastery, and each able—let me say here—under given circumstances, to assert its supremacy. Is it any wonder that even a skilled musician, if not learned in bell tones, should be in doubt as to the true note of a bell submitted to him. Is it so very surprising that 'experts' differed as to whether the note of the Gloriosa bell was C sharp or D?

I have not a doubt that the explanation of this is that the sharper tone heard was the nominal, and the flatter the fundamental: this great bell following, in this respect, the common rule which we have so fully illustrated above.

'But'—I imagine my musical readers exclaiming—'if this be so, how is it that the sounds of bells are even tolerable? Any other instrument which gave forth simultaneously, e.g., C with a rather flat C sharp above and a rather flat D below would be unbearable—and the succession of a series of bells of this imperfect character would surely produce nothing but a hideous noise.'

So one might think; but it is not so. For reasons which satisfy the learned in acoustics, the differences in quality of these sets of tones is such that they do not interfere with one another, so as to give the sense of discord which we should expect. The tones of nominals, fundamentals, and hum-notes seem to move, as it were, in three separate spheres. And though any discord between at least the nominal and fundamental in a bell cannot but seriously detract from the purity and fullness of its tone, it does not produce 'beats' nor affect the ear painfully. Consequently there are thousands of bells, having their principal tones quite out of tune with each other, which, considered individually, are good and pleasing. They might be made much better perhaps; but as long as they stand alone, no alteration is necessary in order to satisfy the ordinary musical listener. You may listen to whichever tone you like—sometimes to one, sometimes to another; all are pleasing and no one interferes with another.

But when it comes to peals and carillons the case is

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6 o'clock. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford on Saturday, June 12th. Service in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting in the Chapter House. It will not be possible to arrange for tea. — L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec. (pro tem), Boones Farm, High Garrett, near Braintree.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. — Meeting at Newhall, Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 4.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables. — J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells (8) from 3 p.m. Handbells also. Festival service at 5.30 p.m. Tea in St. Peter's Hall at 6 p.m. Canon Hedley Burrows, Vicar of St. Peter's, will preside. — George Preston, Winchester and Portsmouth Guild; Rev. C. A. Phillips, Salisbury Guild; Arthur V. Davis, Tower Captain.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Long Sutton on Whit Monday. Bells from 2 o'clock. Service 3 o'clock. Bring food, tea for drinking will be provided. — W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck.

IPSWICH. — Whit Monday, 2 p.m., St. Mary-le-Tower, for 8, 10 and 12 bell ringing. St. Matthew's and St. Clement's for 6 bells.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

different. In order to get any really musical effect it is absolutely necessary that some one at least of the sets of tones in the series of bells should be properly in tune with itself—i.e., all the nominals in tune with each other, or, similarly, all the fundamentals, or all the hum-notes. This, it is evident, is the very least that can be attempted. And, as a matter of fact, the choice is more restricted than this; for, important as are the hum-notes—far more important, as we are prepared to maintain, than either foreign or English founders seem to think—we are quite ready to allow that, unless all three sets are to be made to move in true octaves (which is devoutly to be wished) the hum-notes must be neglected, in comparison with either of the other two.

At this point therefore—again to 'lighten the ship'—we drop all reference to the hum-notes for the present and confine our attention to nominals and fundamentals.

(To be continued.)

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, Stepney, June 20th, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Countesthorpe on June 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Tea, at King William IV., for those who notify me before June 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Southern District. — Joint meeting with Barnsley and District Society, Doncaster and District Society, and Sheffield and District Society, at Barnsley, on Saturday, June 19th. The tower bells of the Parish Church will be open for ringing from 2 p.m. to 3.15 p.m., and again from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. A room available at the Royal Hotel from 2.30 p.m. for handbells, etc. Tea at same place 5 p.m. Plain tea, 1s. 6d.; meat tea and chips, 2s. 6d.—Notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by June 16th, stating which tea. Business meeting after tea, followed by social evening.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Diss on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2. Service 4. Preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea and meeting in Coffee Tavern 4.30. Names for tea by June 12th, please. — Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — Meeting at Yatton on Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. — Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Daventry, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (approximately) 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Important: notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Nuneaton Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, June 19th, at 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at a moderate charge. Bring own sugar. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. It is hoped to provide cups of tea. Bring own food. Bus from Hounslow West to Berkeley Arms.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Colchester, on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. — L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Lavenham on Saturday, June 19th, jointly with the ringing anniversary there. Bells (8) 2.30 till 7.30.—H. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Quarterly meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and social evening to follow.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District. — Meeting at Tring on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must let me know by Wednesday, June 16th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch. — Meeting at Abbotsbury on Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30, followed service and business. Convenient train service. Notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3 p.m. No arrangements will be made for food.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at Todmorden Unitarian Church, Saturday, June 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30. Bring own food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Western Division and Leeds and District Society at Shipley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Ramble arranged to start from Church Schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) at 5.30 in Schools, only for those who send names to Mr. E. H. Simpson, 53, Fairbank, Windhill, Shipley, not later than Wednesday, June 23rd. Business meeting in Schools at 6.30 p.m.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Meeting at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th. Details later.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (12) 3. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in the Girls' School 5.30. Bring food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts, East Peckham, Saturday, June 26th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Bus service No. 7 from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. Get out at Forge Gate. Ten minutes' walk. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid. A cup of tea for those who let me know by June 22nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to Mrs. J. E. Beams,

4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, by Wednesday, June 30th.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

HIGH WYCOMBE. — Twelve bells. Practice every Monday, 7.15 till 9. Special practice on last Saturday in month, 9.30 till 9. Sunday ringing, 10.10 till 10.55 morning, 5.50 till 6.25 evening.—R. Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—Ringing arrangements: St. John's (10), 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays in morning, 2nd and 4th in evening. Practice on alternate Wednesdays, commencing June 9th, at 7.45 p.m. St. Andrew's (8), near R.A.F. Depot, 2nd and 4th Sundays in morning, 1st, 3rd and 5th in evening. Practice on alternate Tuesdays from June 1st, at 7.45 p.m.—F. G. Goodfellow and F. Corke, Tower Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Will any men in H.M. services who are in this district get in touch with Mr. T. Groombridge, Dornock Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham?

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Open practices second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. C. W. Roberts is now 5, Monkswood Avenue, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

DEATH.

BREEZE. — On May 28th, 1943, at 24, Elmside, Onslow Village, Guildford, May Gertrude, the beloved wife of Sidney Breeze, aged 51.

THE HEAVIEST RING OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—About three years ago I raised the question of the lightest and the heaviest peals of five. I believe it was Mr. Pearl Inskip who replied to say that Felmersham was the heaviest five and gave the weight of tenor as 26½ cwt. The letter of Mr. Oldham goes to bear out my own belief and that told to me by ringers at the neighbouring village of Sharnbrook once—that the tenor of Felmersham was 20 cwt.

I queried the point because I wished to know if there were a heavier five than Castle Ashby, Northants, whose tenor has always been reputed to be 23 cwt. (although the Rev. E. S. Powell in his Northants inventory states it to be 20 cwt., the same as Felmersham). Both tenors are E flat, but there is a difference of 2 inches in diameter, Felmersham being 48½ inches and Castle Ashby 50½ inches, which leads me to believe that the last named is heavier than the first. It is not possible, however, to always go on the note as a guide to weight. Now does anyone know of a heavier five than Castle Ashby?

P. AMOS.

Northampton.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—On Friday, May 21st, 720 Double Bob Minor: Pte. G. Ballard, R.A.O.C. 1-2, W. H. Barber (conductor) 3-4, E. Wallace 5-6.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 23rd, for evensong, 1,191 Stedman Caters: F. Haves (conductor) 1, F. West 2, F. H. Hicks 3, E. Markham 4, A. J. Hoing 5, R. Coles 6, G. R. Goodship 7, S. T. Goodchild 8, C. A. Smith 9, W. H. Plumridge 10.

BUSHEY.—On Friday, June 4th, at 50, Rudolph Road, 1,664 Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. J. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8.

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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.

TEACHING.

One of the major problems before the Exercise to-day is the teaching of beginners, as it always has been. It used to be said that the proportion of learners who eventually made good was less than one in twenty, and, though this seems a very pessimistic estimate, it is not far from the truth. But think what a lot of wasted time, disappointed hopes, and useless annoyance to outsiders it means.

One of the greatest boons the Exercise could enjoy would be to find some means by which this could be avoided and the many willing instructors spared the waste of their labour and enthusiasm. But how it can be done is not easy to say. Change ringing is not a pursuit for everybody. Only comparatively a few have the qualifications necessary to make good ringers, and to find them there must be some process of sifting and selection.

But one thing at least should be attended to, and that is to seek the very best methods of instruction, and to put them into practice. As important as knowing what to do is to know what not to do. But we fear far too many instructors do not stop to consider these things.

The first important thing is that the beginner should learn how to handle his rope and be complete master of his bell. Until he has reached that stage, he should not be allowed to attempt anything further in the belfry. That means a few evenings' intensive training with a lashed clapper. The job should be done thoroughly. Every fault should be pointed out, every tendency to slackness and slovenliness checked, and then, when he has gained complete control, and knows and feels himself that he has complete control, he can be put to round ringing. It is surprising what good effect thorough training at this stage can have, and how much and how quickly the trouble taken is repaid.

One thing should never be done, though it often is, and that is to try to teach a beginner to handle a bell during round ringing. There is a temptation to do it, because it seems to afford an opportunity for giving instruction when there is no time to lash the clapper. But it is not only useless, but positively harmful. To keep the bell somewhere in its place in the rounds, the instructor must himself keep control, and the learner has no chance of 'feeling' the bell or understanding the effect of his pull. He cannot keep his hands in the correct positions, and the sound of the open bells distracts his attention and takes his mind away from what is then the essential matter. In teaching the rule should always be: One thing at a time and that thoroughly.

(Continued on page 266.)

A point which is far too often neglected not only by beginners, but also by many trained ringers, is the necessity of reaching up as high as possible both at handstroke and backstroke. At the beginning of every pull, the rope, the man's arms, and his body, should all be taut; not overstretched or strained of course, but in one line, so that the pulling can be done by the weight of the body, and not merely by the muscles of the arms. It is most important to impress this on the beginner, for on it largely depend the questions of good striking and the handling of bad going and heavy bells.

For the same reason it is essential that the length of the tail end should be properly adjusted to the reach of the learner. Beginners should never be allowed to practise with a tail end too long. This is a matter which might engage the attention of some ringers who are no longer beginners. In far too many belfries the sallies are too low and the tail ends too long, with the inevitable result of sloppy handling and slovenly striking.

We have pointed out one or two matters which are important in teaching. They are not the only ones. The essential thing is that instructors should understand what they must teach, and have clearly in their minds how best to do it.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARRER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*RONALD W. WEST Treble	GEORGE W. CECIL 5
FRANK I. HAIRS... .. 2	FRANK BENNETT 6
ALBERT C. V. GASSON 3	R. GORDON CROSS 7
MRS. F. I. HAIRS 4	ALBERT E. LAKER... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT,

* First peal. Rung half-muffled by special request of the Vicar as a last token of respect to Thomas Stringer, for many years captain of the local band, who passed away during the ban.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 14, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five 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.

ALFRED H. PULLING Treble	RAYMOND PHILPOTT... .. 5
STAFFORD H. GREEN 2	*COLIN HOPPER 6
WILLIAM T. BEESON 3	GEORGE E. CLODE 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 4	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in the method. Arranged and rung for the United Nations Day.

HANDBELL PEAL.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT SACREPODS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in F.

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

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

HAZELBURY BRYAN, DORSET.—On Sunday, May 30th, for evensong, 1,260 of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. J. P. S. Field 1, W. C. Shute 2, B. Ridout 3, E. T. P. Field 4, D. W. C. Chant 5, W. E. Trevett 6.

CHIMING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have had the privilege of chiming at my tower alternative Sundays these last 28 years, so I feel I can perhaps in my poor way help a little in the matter, although perhaps my way may be wrong.

First of all, I start off with a lead of Bob Major repeated several times and sometimes changes mixed up anyhow, keeping the rhythm and the leads open, then a few hymn tunes with some more chiming at the end of the first quarter of an hour and then a few more tunes and finish up with some more chiming of changes before tolling in.

There are, as Mr. Smith says, many hymns we cannot get, but there are many we can get within the octave. I have in a book which I have compiled myself some 450 hymn tunes, and I should say about 120 of those can be got quite easily within the octave. Of course, half notes are the only snag, but I find it quite simple in some hymn tunes to substitute another note, as very often there is only that one note in the whole tune that is impossible on the eight bells. I play many other tunes, too, where higher or lower bells are needed there again substituting other bells within the octave.

The tenor as I was taught should be counted 8. Of course, I am referring to my own ring of eight. But however many bells one is chiming on, there are only eight notes in any scale which is really an octave, and notes outside the octave are a repetition of such. Of course, I am not speaking of half notes. I am referring now, as Mr. Smith has said, to the common scale of C, which on the organ or piano are all white notes. So when we are chiming on more than eight bells it should be above the eight top so and so and below lower so and so.

On eight bells the treble will be 1 and tenor 8, the next bell above 1 will be top 7 and below 8 lower 2.

I am giving one hymn as an illustration, and I shall be very pleased in my small way to let Mr. Webber or anyone else have a list of tunes through the post. I will now give the tune of 'We love the place, O God':—

656678..

436787..

764434..

765678..

The dots denote beats in between.

The next hymn requires one note outside the octave, but you'll see how I manage it in 'Fight the good fight':—

6666.67.85..

6666.77.87..

6666.67.65..

7776.11.21

As I have said, perhaps my way is wrong, but after some 28 years of practice I find it the simplest way, and if I can be of any use to anyone my address is stated below.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey, Colchester.

STEDMAN CATERS.

AN INTERESTING COMPOSITION.

Reference was recently made in our columns to a peal of Stedman Caters, rung at Winchester Cathedral in 1914 on the occasion of the visit of the Central Council to that city. It was conducted by Henry Law James.

On the Whit Monday he met the present Editor of 'The Ringing World' in London, and the two travelled together to Winchester. In the train James produced the figures of a peal of Stedman Caters he had just worked out, and which he said was on the plan of Thurstans' four-part peal of Triples.

Arriving at Winchester, the two strolled round to the Cathedral to listen to a peal which was to be attempted. They were told that the band was short of two ringers and were persuaded to take part. James conducted and called the peal he had been explaining in the train.

It was a very mixed band. Our recollection is that no two of the ringers came from the same county and the composition was rather an ambitious one to call in such circumstances. But that sort of thing did not deter James and quite a good peal was rung.

The composition was in 20 parts, each part consisting of a going-off course, a course in the titlums, and a homing course. The way in which 6-7-8-9-10 ran round at backstroke at every third course end was musically very effective.

5,040.

123456 16

365214 (a)

364512 —

234516 (b)

Nineteen times repeated calling single at 5 in the first course of second and twelfth parts, and bobs at 4 and 5 in the second course of the fourth, ninth, fourteenth and nineteenth parts. Start with a quick Six.

(a) 3, 6, 11, and 14.

(b) 3, 5, and 8.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**ITS TOWERS AND BELLS.**

(Continued from page 256.)

There was little or no change ringing on the old six bells at Westminster Abbey, but during the eighteenth century there was a good deal of paid ringing, and some, though not so much, in the nineteenth. A ringing bill for the year 1704 is preserved in the muniment room and was printed by Sir Frederick Bridge in his book of reminiscences.

The Ringers' Bill begun in February ye 6.				
for ringing for queen Anns birthday ordered		by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
March 8	for ringing for queen Anns proelomation day	ordered by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
April 23	for ringing for queen Anns coronation day	ordered by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
May 29	For Ringing for King Charles restoring two	the Crowan	...	00. 06. 08.
July 2	For Ringing for the great newes for the taking	of Dounnaworth ordered by my lord	...	00. 13. 04.
Aug. 15	For Ringing for the great newes for the taking	of Count tallord ordered by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
Aug. 14	For Ringing for the taking of gibraltow	ordered by Dr. Onley	...	00. 06. 08.
Sep. 7	For Ringing for the thankes giving Day,	ordered by Dr. branoll	...	00. 06. 08.
Sep. 14	For Ringing for Sr. georg rouck taking the	french fleet ordered by Dr. branoll	...	00. 06. 08.
Oct. 10	For Ringing for the taking of ulme ordered	by Dr. branoll	...	00. 06. 08.
	For Ringing the 5 of November ordered by	my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
Nov. 14	For Ringing for queen Cathorines birth day	ordered by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
7	For Ringing on queen Elisibirth birth day	ordered by my lord	...	00. 06. 08.
Nov. 28	For Ringing two dayes together			
Nov. 29	For the taking of Landon by my Lordes order			00. 13. 04.
Dec. 14	For Ringing for my Lord Molburow coming	home from flanders	...	00. 06. 08.
Jany ye 2, 1704.	Received then the full contents of this bill for Ring.			
	by me			
	Giles Jones.			

The year 1704 was a great year in the history of England. It was the time of the War of the Spanish Succession, and the Duke of Marlborough's great march to the Danube which led to the capture of Donauworth on July 2nd, and the victory of Blenheim on August 13th. Almost at the same time the fleet, under Admiral Sir George Rooke, captured Gibraltar and fought the French off Velez Malagar. There was cause that year to ring the bells.

The 'my lord' who ordered most of the ringing was the dean, who was also Bishop of Rochester. Dr. branoll was Dr. Brevall, one of the canons; as was Dr. Onley.

Nicholas Hawkesmoor succeeded Wren as surveyor, and drew up an elaborate plan for the completion of the west front, which, fortunately, was not accepted. He died in 1736, and after that the present towers were built by John James and finished in 1745. It is not known who actually designed them (Wren, Hawkesmoor, and James have each had the credit), and they have been severely criticised. But though the 'gothic' details are decidedly eighteenth century, the general proportions are excellent.

As Laughton said, an augmentation of the ring of bells was considered, and it is said that a heavy peal of twelve was contemplated, but actually little was done. In 1738 a chapter order was issued to Richard Phelps directing him to construct a new frame of sufficient dimensions to contain eight bells at a cost of £109 3s. 6d., and in the following year Phelps and Lester recast

Robert Mot's Rus bell and the sanctus bell. In 1743 Lester recast the treble.

For nearly two centuries there is nothing more to be said about the Abbey bells. They were rung regularly on certain days in the year, and no doubt were patched up now and then. But the ringers who visited the steeple went only for the money they got, the Dean and Chapter and the lesser officials neither cared nor thought about the bells, and by the beginning of the present century the belfry was in a filthy and dangerous condition, a by-word and a reproach to the most famous church in England. An attempt was made to get the Central Council to send a remonstrance to the authorities, but the then President, Sir Arthur Heywood, ruled that the subject was out of order and would not allow it to be debated.

About that time, I, with Mr. George Burton, of Norwich, had the great privilege of spending an afternoon with Bishop Charles Gore, then Canon of Westminster. He took us to his house to tea and showed us some of the little known parts of the Abbey. I asked him about the bells, but his plea was that the Abbey had no money.

It was through Bishop Ryle, when he was dean, that the restoration ultimately was made. He interested King George V. in the matter and when, in 1919, the new bells were cast, the King and Queen Mary went to Whitechapel to see it done. Two trebles were added, the old treble recast, and the old second replaced by a new bell.

At one time a small bell hung in the gable of the south transept and was regularly used. It is now in the museum.

The service use of the bells has come down little altered from very early times. In the nineteenth century it was as follows: On Sundays, half an hour before 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. the fourth and fifth were chimed for five minutes. Then, if there were a sermon, forty strokes were tolled on the tenor, and from fifteen minutes to the hour the small bell in the transept was chimed until the hour.

On week days the bell in the transept was tolled from 7.30 to 7.45 a.m., and for celebrations of Holy Communion. The same bell was tolled daily at 8.45 and 1.30 for three minutes, after which forty strokes were given on the tenor.

The great bell was never tolled for deaths or funerals except for a member of the Royal Family or for the dean.

T.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

All through the days of the ban the fortnightly meetings of the Ancient Society of College Youths have been well attended, and now through the kindness of Mr. James E. Davis, members are able to get some open tower bell practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. On June 5th, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Major were rung.

At the meeting the Master was supported by the secretary, treasurer and Messrs. W. T. Elson, T. Groombridge, T. Groombridge, jun., F. C. Newman, R. Stannard, E. Pye, J. F. Smallwood, J. A. Trollope, G. M. Kilby, J. H. Shepherd, A. W. Brighton, E. A. Young, C. W. Roberts, R. F. Deal, F. W. Wicks, J. G. A. Prior, T. Bannister, C. M. Meyer, Claude Snowden and J. E. Davis.

NORTH STONEHAM.—On Tuesday, June 1st, at the Church of St. Nicolas, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Dumper 1, G. Pullinger 2, J. W. Faithfull 3, R. Linter 4, G. Williams (conductor) 5, C. J. Fray 6, W. T. Tucker 7, J. Dacombe 8. Rung on the anniversary of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. J. W. Willis-Fleming (the patron of the living) and Mrs. Fleming.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the anniversary of whose birth fell on Sunday last.

Jasper Snowdon was born 99 years ago to-day.

On June 15th, 1851, at the Osborn Arms, Henneage Street, Spitalfields, the College Youths rang 5,086 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells. The composition, however, was false. In 1855 the society tried to ring the first true peal in the method and scored a 5,001 on January 5th, but the day before the Cumberlands had rung a 5,000.

The first peal of Hinton Surprise Major was rung at Hinton-on-the-Green on June 15th, 1933; and the first peal of Cheltenham Bob Major at Crayford on June 15th, 1939.

Mr. John Austin called the first peal of Gloucester Surprise Major at St. Michael's, Gloucester, on June 16th, 1897; and Mr. James Parker called the first peal of New Gloucester Surprise Major at Edmonton on June 19th, 1926.

The first peal of Londonthorpe Surprise Major was rung at Beddington on June 16th, 1932; and on the same date in 1934 Mr. Ernest Turner called at Twickenham a peal of Spiced London, Rutland, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

FIRES IN CHURCHES.

SUSPECTED ARSON.

Following closely on the total destruction of Isleworth Parish Church the Church of Holy Trinity in Hounslow High Street was also burned out entirely.

The prevailing idea in the district is that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as well as one at the Broadway Baptist Church on Saturday. In this case the outbreak was discovered in time, but there was evidence that the place had been fired in four places.

Another place that was the scene of a fire last week was the Mission Hall in Wellington Road.

Owing to the number of church fires in the district close watch was kept on the majority of the churches in the district which are kept open during daytime for private devotion.

The Rural Dean of Hampton (Prebendary W. P. Cole Sheane) had consultations with the clergy in the deanery, which includes Heston and Isleworth, and strict observations were kept by the police on the churches.

The first suggestions were that the fires had been caused by someone whose mind was unbalanced, but later inquiries suggested that robbery from the offertory boxes might be one of the reasons for the fires and that the culprits, whoever they were, had thought that by burning the churches all trace of robbery would be lost.

Two schoolboys were seen acting in a suspicious manner in the Whitton Roman Catholic Church on Wednesday. The police were communicated with and the matter inquired into.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN HOUGH.

OLD MELBOURNE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Hough, of Melbourne, Derbyshire, who passed away on June 3rd at the age of 72.

He had been in failing health for some time, but did not take to his bed until a fortnight before his death.

He was a most interesting man, and his keenness for ringing continued to the end, for while the ban on ringing was in force handbell practices were frequently held at his house.

He began to ring at Melbourne Parish Church about 50 years ago and his first peal was one of Oxford Bob Triples on November 1st, 1890, at Melbourne, the first by the local company. On the same day he joined the Midland Counties Association.

After a number of years at Melbourne, Mr. Hough went to Newhall, Derbyshire, and there on February 3rd, 1909, he conducted his first peal of Minor.

Between 1909 and 1914 he was a member of Mr. W. W. Worthington's band and rang peals in various methods at a number of towers in the Burton-on-Trent district.

Although even bell methods were his choice, Mr. Hough was equally at home on Stedman or Grandsire. He rang 71 peals in all. He was a blacksmith by trade and after his retirement he returned to Melbourne.

The funeral on Saturday, June 5th, was conducted by the Vicar of Melbourne (the Rev. R. J. Morris), and the mourners were Mrs. Hough (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hough, Mr. and Mrs. John Hough, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hough, Mr. Horace Hough (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. Worrall, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hayward (sons-in-law and daughters).

The following members of the Melbourne band acted as bearers: H. Hollingsworth (captain), J. York, G. York, L. Warren, S. Twey, F. Turner and T. J. Marriott.

On Sunday, June 6th, the bells were rung half-muffled.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, June 6th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major, 1,280 changes: *Sgt. J. W. Berry. R.A. (Berkshire Yeomanry) 1, R. Buckland 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. F. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, *W. Redrup 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

ANNUAL MEETING AT GUILDFORD.

At the annual general meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Guildford on Saturday, June 5th, it was decided that if possible the sanctus bell which the Guild has already undertaken to provide for the Cathedral should be erected as a memorial to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, vice-president of the Guild and its first honorary secretary. Although the diocesan authorities are not at the moment inviting subscriptions for any project in connection with the Cathedral and although it will be impossible to provide the bell until the end of the war, it was decided that the collection of the necessary funds shall be put in hand at once and members asked to send their donations to the hon. treasurer.

Throughout the afternoon the bells at the Cathedral Church and St. Nicolas' were rung, and before the meeting in Ayers' Cafe the Rector of St. Nicolas', the Rev. P. R. Lobb, conducted a short service. He referred to the happiness which everyone felt that not only were the bells ringing again, but the conditions which caused them to be silenced for so long had to a large measure changed for the better. He told the members that to them were given great opportunities of being witnesses to God and reminded them that they could show that witness in their own individual daily lives as well as by the medium of their ringing.

The report of the Executive Committee referred to losses the Guild had sustained by the deaths of several members, and mentioned particularly the voids left in their organisation by the passing of two vice-presidents, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. Walter Harrison, both of whom had been active workers for the Guild since its inception. The Secretary said that although the interest of most of the diocesan clergy in the Guild had been confined to the ringing in their own parishes, there had been one or two exceptions. Their old friend, the late Canon Kirwan, had assisted the Guild in all its activities and they had marked their appreciation by electing the Canon as one of their first vice-presidents. The deaths of Messrs. Goldsmith and Harrison had made it desirable to add to the lists of vice-presidents, and he was pleased to say that two other clergy, namely, the Rev. F. A. Woodard, of Horsell, and the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, of Leatherhead (who was in the chair that evening), both of whom had sustained interest in and rendered great assistance to the Guild since its earliest days, had been duly nominated for this office.

The Rev. F. A. Woodard and the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge were elected as vice-presidents, as were the retiring officers, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Golding-Bird and the Ven. Archdeacon Newell.

Mr. A. Harman, of Leatherhead, was re-elected Master, Mr. J. Corbett, of Bagshot, hon. treasurer, Mr. R. Hasted, Farnham, hon. auditor, and Mr. G. L. Grover, East Clandon, hon. secretary.

Although membership had fallen considerably, the Guild's general account, the Benevolent Fund and the New Cathedral Bells Fund were all very satisfactory, and it was agreed to subscribe £5 to the Chertsey Bell Restoration Fund.

The secretary reported that although extensive inquiries had been made, the Guild's peal book appeared to have been lost. The book had been in the hands of a member who had undertaken to write up the peals, but he died some time ago and no information as to the book could now be obtained.

A formal meeting of the Guild's Guildford District was held and the following district officers were re-elected: Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith, Godalming; hon. auditor, Mr. L. Hunter (Shalford); hon. secretary, Mr. A. C. Hazelden (Guildford); representatives of committee, Messrs. R. Whittington, E. J. Avilife and S. Petter.

Owing to the difficulties of transport and catering, it was decided not to arrange district meetings, but it was agreed that a series of combined practices should be convened, to which efficient bands of ringers should be specially invited in order that contact could be kept with towers and that ringers in the locality could have an opportunity of practising without imposing on the neighbourhood too prolonged attempts at method ringing.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Doncaster and District Society, held at Doncaster on June 5th, was attended by ringers from Arksey, Barnby Don, Sprotborough, Rotherham, Adwick and the local company.

Canon A. L. Davies presided and entertained the members to tea at the Lyceum Cafe. Mr. W. E. Lloyd, of Doncaster, was appointed secretary in the place of Mr. E. Cooper, who had resigned. Mr. C. Short was elected chairman of the committee. Tower bell ringing followed the business meeting.

BLACKPOOL, LANCASHIRE.—On Tuesday, June 1st, in the belfry at the Church of St. John, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,456 changes: *Raymond Idle, R.A.F. 1-2, Harold Chant, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Arthur Hague 5-6, *Thomas W. Lewis, R.A.F. 7-8. *First quarter-peal on handbells. †First in the method on handbells.

STURRY, KENT.—On Sunday, June 6th, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. E. Ruck 1, E. Banks 2, R. G. Maile 3, B. J. Luck 4, W. Goldfinch 5, H. R. French (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, June 12th, 720 Kent Treble Bob: Mrs. E. Ruck 1, E. Banks 2, F. File 3, W. Thompson 4, R. J. Luck 5, H. R. French (conductor) 6.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

MORE FROM CANON SIMPSON'S BOOK.

(Continued from page 262.)

We have then before us, let us suppose, a series of bells direct from the foundry, all of the common character—i.e., with the fundamentals in each bell more or less flatter than its nominals—and, as is sure to be the case, with neither its nominals nor its fundamentals quite in tune with each other. Now, what shall we do? Plainly the only really satisfactory operation, if it can be done, would be to bring the nominal in each bell into unison with its own fundamental, and then to tune each bell, so rectified, to its neighbour. This would be 'something like' tuning, and we are prepared to maintain that, in all ordinary cases, it can be done.

But, as a matter of fact (speaking generally) no one attempts such a thing. What is done is this: the tuner (consciously or unconsciously) selects one of the two sets of notes (either the nominals or the fundamentals), puts them in proper tune with each other, and leaves the other set untuned, either to the first set or to each other.

To be more explicit—and I now ask the attention of my readers especially of those interested in carillons, to what I now state—The Englishman tunes the nominals, and neglects the fundamentals; while the foreigner tunes the fundamentals, and (comparatively) neglects the nominals. Now, this difference of practice is a very remarkable fact which I have never seen referred to in any of the many treatises on bells, nor have I ever met with anyone who seemed to be aware of it. Yet it is as certain as it is interesting and important.

1. That the Englishman tunes a peal by the so-called nominals is shown beyond question by Lord Rayleigh in the paper referred to. The Terling peal is pronounced by English bell experts to be in the key of F sharp. Well, the upper series of notes in those bells is in that key; and indeed I call this note the 'nominal' because the Englishman names each bell according to the pitch of this note in it. The fundamentals of this peal form no musical series at all, and evidently have not engaged the attention either of the founder or the tuner.

But any peal of English bells will prove the same point. If the bells are what an English tuner calls 'in tune,' you will find that it is the nominals that are in tune, not the fundamentals. I have often tried to call the attention of professional tuners to the fundamental of the bell they were tuning, but they invariably treated it with indifference. And there is further this curious fact that while a tuner always gave the nominal as the note of any bell, he invariably gave the pitch an octave lower than it really was. I have for many years past lost no opportunity of calling the attention of founders and tuners to these things, but I know not with what effect.

2. That the foreigner takes the fundamental as the principal note, and tunes by it, is equally certain and unquestionable. The very fact that he calls it, as he does, the 'fundamental' is almost conclusive. And no one can visit a Belgian foundry and engage in discussion about the bells without being convinced on this point. But we have clearer proof than this. The Belgian peal at Beeding was pronounced by the founders to be correctly is tune, and the seventh bell, in particular, they declared to be exactly in tune with the eighth. So it was, as to the fundamental; but as regards the nominal it was very

flat, and the whole peal, generally, painfully out of tune to the English ear.

So also with the French bells of St. John's, St. Leonard's. I took particular pains to discover from the founders whether the tenor and its octave were, according to their judgment, in perfect tune with each other. They assured me, on their reputation, that they were so, 'exactly—to a vibration.' Now these two bells are in exact accord as to their fundamentals, but the nominal of the treble is distinctly sharper than that of the tenor, so much so as to have attracted the observation of a resident who called my attention to it.

Moreover, the internal form of foreign bells is such as to indicate how to sharpen them. But the effect of so doing is to sharpen the fundamental without altering the nominal, or very partially.

The foreigner is, indeed, quite aware of the existence of the nominal, and, to hear him talk, you might think he brought both sets into unison. But, except perhaps in very large bells, he really does not do so, as anyone with a ear can judge, from the inharmonious character of Belgian carillons, as well as from such tangible examples as the Beeding and St. Leonards bells.

One point more remains to be cleared up before we can arrive at the practical conclusion we are seeking to reach. The foreigner tunes by the fundamentals, the Englishman by the nominals: which is right?

A direct unqualified answer to the question is, as might be expected, impossible. Both are right in their way. But there is this difference: that while it never can be allowable to neglect the nominals, the fundamentals may be neglected in English ringing peals and in the upper bells of carillons, not without some loss of purity and fullness of tone, but without painful injury to the harmonious effect. The reason for this distinction will appear from the following consideration.

When bells are struck at considerable intervals of time, most persons would be apt to take the fundamentals as the notes of the bells, on account of their full and persistent character. But the case is different when one bell follows another in rapid succession. At the instant of striking the keen sound of the (higher) nominal is most perceptible; and, if followed immediately by another, there is no time for the fundamental to force itself into prominence, and so the ear keeps following the nominals all through. This would be the case with an English peal in which the bells follow each other very rapidly. And so also with the higher bells of a carillon which takes the 'air.' Consequently the nominals *must* be put into tune with each other in these cases. And it is the want of attention to this necessity which is the cause of the lack of harmony observable in foreign carillons.

But with the lower bells of a carillon the case is different. These strike, generally, at longer intervals, and the fundamental has time to assert itself, and to remain, so to say, master of the field. It therefore becomes necessary in these bells to tune the fundamentals also; and, of course, to bring them into unison with their respective nominals.

To sum up, then (omitting all reference to the hum-note)—

1. It is *essential* that *all the nominals* throughout any peal or carillon should be in tune with each other.

(Continued on page 271.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SOUTH WEALD.**

A meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at South Weald on May 29th, was attended by 40 members from Brentwood, Woodford, Leytonstone, Collier Row, Chelmsford, Wansstead and Dagenham.

Several touches were rung before the service, which was conducted by the Vicar of South Weald, the Rev. D. A. Rooke, assisted by the Rev. D. Iorn, of Bentley, and the Rev. — Thompson, of Great Warley. A touch on the handbells was rung during the service. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to £1 1s. 2d.

Everyone enjoyed a tea, provided by the Vicar of South Weald, which was partaken in the gardens of the Towers Hotel.

At the business meeting the Rev. D. A. Rooke was in the chair. Mr. A. E. Evans, of Romford, was elected a ringing member. The next meeting will be held at Dagenham on July 3rd. The secretary was instructed to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. C. T. Coles on the loss of his son, and to Mr. Clarke, the general secretary, on having been bombed out.

A discussion arose on peal ringing, and the feeling was that it should be suspended until after the war so that learners might get all the opportunities they could. Mr. Chalk stated that ringers had got to face up to the public, which was full of critics at these times.

Mr. Heazel proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. D. A. Rooke for conducting the service, to the organist and choir, and to those who had helped to make it a pleasant afternoon and a successful meeting.

During the afternoon and evening touches were rung from Plain Bob to London Surprise. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to £1 1s. 2d.

JOHN S. GOLDSMITH COMMEMORATION.

On Sunday, June 6th, to carry out the unanimous wish of the Leatherhead annual district meeting, members of the Leatherhead band made a pilgrimage to Pyrford Church, and with the approval of the Vicar, the Rev. C. A. Hamilton, and the consent of the Chief Constable of Surrey, rang a short touch on handbells before evensong at the graveside of the late John S. Goldsmith, to mark the first anniversary of his death.

FELMERSHAM.

To the Editor.

Sir,—For your readers interested in Felmersham tenor I append the following information.

The late Thomas North states that St. Mary's, Felmersham, tower contained five bells.

Treble: Ihs Nazarens; Rex: Ivdeorum; Fili: Dei: Miserere Mei 1634. (Dia. 35in., height 29in.).

2 and 4: Newcombe Made Mee 1617. (Dia. 36½in. and 43in., height 28in. and 33in.).

3: John Hutchinson Vicar. William Bithrey Robart Lord Churchwardens. Eayre St. Neots Fecit 1766. (Dia. 39in., height 29in.).

Tenor: Cum Uoco Venite. John Hutchinson Vicar. William Bithrey Robart Lord Churchwardens. Joseph Eayre St. Neots Fecit 1766. (Dia. 47in., height 35½in.).

Treble by Hugh Watts, of Leicester; the presumed foundry at Bedford worked by the Watts family was probably closed c. 1610.

2 and 4: From the Newcombe foundry at Leicester. These bells cannot be attributed to any individual member of the family, probably four sons of Edward Newcombe i., were in partnership at this time.

3 and 5: From the S. Neots Foundry, Huntingdonshire.

Some years have elapsed since I visited this church, the bells being intact, and there is little doubt that the cannons on the tenor still remain so.

'FORESTER.'

HANDY TOUCHES.**FOR SERVICE RINGING.**

Now that we are again permitted to ring for service conductors may be glad of a few handy touches which they can keep by them and call at a minute's notice.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

168

Call a single at the second lead and at every alternate lead until the bells come round. Queen's will come up at the second single and Tittums at the fourth single.

280

Call the seventh Before with a single, the sixth in and out, and the seventh three times Home, the last time with a single.

504

Call the seventh in and out twice, the sixth in and out twice, the seventh in and out twice, the sixth in and out, the seventh in and out, and the sixth in and out.

672

Call the sixth in and out, the seventh in and out twice, and the sixth in and out. Repeat twice.

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, Stepney, June 20th, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley and District Society, Doncaster and District Society, and Sheffield and District Society, at Barnsley, on Saturday, June 19th. The tower bells of the Parish Church will be open for ringing from 2 p.m. to 3.15 p.m., and again from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. A room available at the Royal Hotel from 2.30 p.m. for handbells, etc. Business meeting after tea, followed by social evening.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Diss on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2. Service 4. Preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea and meeting in Coffee Tavern 4.30.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Nuneaton Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, June 19th, at 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at a moderate charge. Bring own sugar.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. It is hoped to provide cups of tea. Bring own food. Bus from Hounslow West to Berkeley Arms.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Colchester, on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Lavenham on Saturday, June 19th, jointly with the ringing anniversary there. Bells (8) 2.30 till 7.30.—H. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Tring on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3 p.m. No arrangements will be made for food.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at Todmorden Unitarian Church, Saturday, June 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30. Bring own food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Western Division and Leeds and District Society at Shipley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Ramble arranged to start from Church Schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) at 5.30 in Schools, only for those who send names to Mr. E. H. Simpson, 53, Fairbank, Windhill, Shipley, not later than Wednesday, June 23rd. Business meeting in Schools at 6.30 p.m.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (12) 3. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in the Girls' School 5.30. Bring food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts, East Peckham, Saturday, June 26th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Bus service No. 7 from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. Get out at Forge Gate. Ten minutes' walk. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid. A cup of tea for those who let me know by June 22nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District. — Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, June 26th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 5 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—Annual meeting at Bampton (8) on Saturday, June 26th. Service 3.30 p.m. Full particulars next week.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at Barnwood. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Cup of tea and bun 4.30. Send names by June 24th.—W. H. Harris, Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Arksey, June 26th, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. G. Clark, Dawood Villas, Bentley, near Doncaster, not later than June 24th. Doncaster to Arksey buses every 15 minutes.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Burgess Hill on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Short service at 6 p.m. Tea only for those who notify me by Wednesday, June 23rd.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stokes Poges (8 bells) on Saturday, June 26th, at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec. and Treas., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Meeting at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Names for tea to Mr. F. Farnsworth, 16, King's Road, Faversham, not later than June 21st (1s. per head).—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston on June 26th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 6.30. Business meeting afterwards. Tea obtainable at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, Saturday, June 26th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to Mrs. J. E. Beams, 4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, by Wednesday, June 30th.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, followed by business meeting. Names for tea not later than June 30th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

HIGH WYCOMBE. — Twelve bells. Practice every Monday, 7.15 till 9. Special practice on last Saturday in month, 7.30 till 9. Sunday ringing, 10.10 till 10.55 morning, 5.50 till 6.25 evening.—R. Coles, -27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 269.)

2. It is *very desirable* in a carillon that at least all the heavier bells (say those above 7 cwt.) should have their fundamentals also brought into unison with their respective nominals.

3. It is *best* in all cases to bring the fundamental of each bell into true octave with its nominal, and then to tune the whole series of bells, so rectified, to each other.

Can this be done? I suggest, with some confidence, that in all ordinary cases it can. But this is another question, which I am not concerned to deal with in this paper. Bell founders and tuners naturally do not care to take any more trouble than is necessary in order to satisfy the public. It has been my object to move the public to move the tuners. If I succeed in that, I feel sure that the tuners will find out how to satisfy the demands made upon them, so far as the nature of the case admits.

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A. GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

At the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild reference was made to the sanctus bell, which the guild has undertaken to provide for the new Cathedral, and it was decided that the bell should be made the association's memorial to John Sparkes Goldsmith.

Nothing could be fitter. The provision of the bell was one of the things which greatly interested Goldsmith, and it is the only way in which a prominent ringer of the diocese can be commemorated in the Cathedral by something which is distinctly connected with the ringers' art. The installation of any ringing bell is not now possible, nor will be for a very long time, for the great central tower is not yet built.

We therefore welcome the project and wish it every success. But the thought arises: Why should the scheme be confined to the Guildford Diocese? Would it not be better to make it a national memorial in which the whole Exercise can have part?

There is a good deal to be said for and against. John Goldsmith belonged to the whole Exercise, and every ringer will be anxious to honour his memory. But he belonged to the Guildford Diocesan Guild in a very special way. He lived and worked in the diocese. He was one of the founders of the guild. He was for many years its secretary, and when he died he was a vice-president. We cannot wonder that the guild desires to have its own memorial to him.

That desire must be respected. In any case, the scheme, begun by the Guildford Guild, must be left in its hands, and even if it is found possible to expand it into a national memorial, it must not cease to be a Guildford memorial.

Can this be done? We think it can, and with advantage to everybody. While the war lasts nothing definite will be settled, and of course the consent and co-operation of the Cathedral authorities would have to be obtained. The one important thing now is to collect money.

We suggest that the officers and committee of the guild should consider the matter, and, if they approve, should issue a formal appeal to all ringers for subscriptions. They can make it clear that they are not committed to any detailed scheme. That must come later. What they want to do is to be in a financial position to launch a scheme at the proper time.

For it must not be forgotten that when peace comes the provision of new bells is not likely to be an easy thing for some time. We do not doubt that the founders will have

(Continued on page 274.)

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many orders, as they had after the last war, but things will not be quite the same. There will be a world shortage of raw material and metals, and especially of tin, for Malaya, which was the greatest producer of tin, has been for long in enemy hands, and when it is recovered the mines will probably be wrecked. This will mean not only delay but also high prices. That in itself is a good reason why the Guildford Diocesan Guild should extend the scope of its appeal.

That the Exercise will desire to have some way of showing its respect for the memory of John Goldsmith and its gratitude for the services he gave, we are sure. In a real sense his memorial must be 'The Ringing World,' and its support and maintenance must have the first claim on the Exercise; but ringers have other and less altruistic motives for supporting this journal, and it will not be a bad thing if there is a memorial from which they can expect no personal or selfish advantages.

ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

A NEW HISTORY.

Among the chief architectural glories of England are her ancient parish churches. Other countries have large and magnificent churches, and some of them like those in Italy and Belgium, possess art treasures far beyond any of our cathedrals, but the parish churches of England are unequalled elsewhere.

These buildings are not only very fine examples of architecture, they represent the life of the people, and the story of the growth of this country is to be read in their stories. That story goes back for fifteen hundred years, and though many of the present buildings may not be more than four or five hundred years old, they are usually the successors and heirs of far older churches, and in almost every case they bear visible marks of the activities, the tastes and the opinions of successive generations. There are few parishes whose history is not centred in and expressed by its parish church.

That being so, it was inevitable that men who value the past life of their home districts should seek to tell its story, and in increasing numbers the histories of parish churches all over the country have been written and published by men who have devoted much time, patience and loving care to the task.

One of these books has just appeared. It concerns the ancient Church of St. Margaret, Leicester, and is the work of Mr. Ernest Morris, who, by inclination and through the opportunities afforded by his official position, is well qualified for the job.

The book, which is of 28 pages, tells a story which begins with a timber church built about the year 656 by Bishop Diuma, and follows the fortunes of the various buildings which succeeded it, first a Saxon church, and then by reconstruction and addition through alterations which finally created the building as it is now.

But the fabric itself is not the only thing dealt with by Mr. Morris. He describes some of the old customs of the parish and relates some incidents. He gives an account of the church fittings and ornaments, and mentions several distinguished men who have been rectors. Finally he discusses St. Margaret's claim to be the cathedral of the ancient See of Leicester, and concludes that 'St. Margaret's was always the Bishop's Church or Cathedral and its parish the Bishop's See. No other church in Leicester has—or could have—claimed this distinction.'

Mr. Morris' book is published at 1s., and the profits will go to the Church Maintenance Fund. It may be obtained of the author at his address, 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

AN ARCHDEACON OF BELLRINGING.

A week or two ago the Archdeacon of Wrexham paid his annual visitation to Wrexham, when he spoke to representatives of the churches in the Archdeaconry. In the course of his address he said:—

'When passing through Wrexham on the Sunday when the bells were first rung during this war, I was much impressed by the number of young people about listening, some perhaps for the first time, to church bells being pealed. It occurs to me that to-day there is a great opportunity to interest youth in this fascinating art of bell-ringing. Without necessarily clanging bells, it is possible to teach people how to use and ring them. There must be here and there a great number of old ringers who could devote some of their time in helping in this way, and lessons could be given, not only in belfries, but preliminary ones at any rate with handbells in country places, and there probably will be a great dearth of ringers after the war.'

HATFIELD.—On Sunday, June 6th, for evening service, 500 Stedman Triples: J. T. Kentish (conductor) 1, T. J. Lock 2, D. Ellingham 3, A. Shepherd 4, W. Nash 5, A. R. Lawrence 6, A. Lawrence 7, L. F. Cull 8

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

EDWARD AVERY Treble	JAMES G. POWELL 5
ARCHIBALD STEVENSON 2	JOHN DOWNING 6
WILLIAM H. HOAD 3	WILLIAM GORRINGE 7
GEORGE KING 4	ALBERT HOAD Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM GORRINGE,

Rung to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the weddings of Messrs. King and Hoad, captain and vice-captain of the local band.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Monday, June 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Canterbury, 720 Plain Bob and 3,600 Grandsire in various callings. Tenor 6½ cwt.

MRS. M. E. DENNIS Treble	WILLIAM A. WOOD 4
PTE. J. H. BAILLES, A.M.P.C. 2	HENRY BIRD 5
GUNNER F. BAILLES, R.A. 3	FREDERICK WATSON Tenor

Conducted by HENRY BIRD.

Rung on the anniversary of the dedication of the bells and as a compliment to the ringer of the treble, as owing to the ban no peal could be rung on her wedding day.

TICKNALL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently. Tenor 11½ cwt.

HORACE HOUGH Treble	WILLIAM A. PARSONS... .. 4
JOSEPH HULSE 2	WILLIAM LANCASTER 5
WILLIAM H. CURSON... .. 3	JACK BAILEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK BAILEY.

Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. John Hough, who was interred at Melbourne on Saturday, June 5th.

CHATTERIS, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two 720's Plain Bob, two 720's Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's Kent Treble Bob, each called differently.

PERCY SMITH Treble	WALTER JARVIS 4
WILLIAM SEEKINGS 2	ERNEST WAKELING 5
STANLEY MURPHY 3	FRANK WARRINGTON Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—On Sunday, May 30th, at the Church of St. Paul, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Paling 1, Miss I. B. Thompson 2, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) 3, W. H. Johnson, V.C. 4, C. W. Towers 5, F. Bradley 6, J. H. Barratt 7, R. Ward 8. Rung on the conductor's birthday.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

WHAT NOT TO DO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I hope Mr. J. W. Dyer's advice will not be followed in one thing. He says that when there are half notes, or higher or lower notes than the bells, you can substitute other notes within the octave.

That should never be done. If the tune requires notes which you have not got on the bells, then leave it alone. Confine yourself to tunes which are within the major scale, there are plenty of them, quite enough for ordinary requirements.

The people who hear a familiar tune altered, even when it is musically correct, are only irritated, and say nasty things about the man who is doing it. Leave tunes like 'Abide with me,' which has an accidental, or the National Anthem, or the example Mr. Dyer gives, 'Fight the good fight,' which go below the tenor, alone.

If the chimier cannot read musical notation from a hymn book, he can easily get his organist, or some other person, to write out familiar hymns by numbers. He should never attempt to chime a tune he does not know himself. If he knows the tune he can play the time and the expression correctly by how he knows it should be played, and without any special markings on his paper.

One thing is important. Have the ropes of the chiming hammers properly adjusted, so that the chiming can be done easily, regularly and, if necessary, fairly rapidly.

CHARLES GREEN.

EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—I agree with Mr. Smith that some of our best hymn tunes cannot be played, and perhaps my own experience may be of interest to Mr. A. C. Webber.

I have worked out many hymn tunes from the tonic so fa system, and I number the tenor 8 and the treble 1. I am assuming, of course, that Mr. Webber has eight bells. I then practise them over on the piano and also I am fortunate to have a set of handbells which I also can practise on. When I play a hymn tune I also sing it, and one gets the time and makes a better job, but one often finds that it does not matter how much one practises, you are sure to strike a wrong bell.

I do not understand music, and if one is musical I think that you can put up a good show if one keeps on and perseveres, also most towers have a set of handbells, and if you put them on the cleaner's broom handle you can practise and find out what tunes will fit the bells you are playing on. Some readers will say that my way is very crude, but personally I don't think there is any royal road to success. One must love bells and also be musical, and with practice I think Mr. A. C. Webber will soon master it.

I find that it is difficult, owing to the calls of national service, for bells to be rung every Sunday, and we have to depend on the chiming apparatus to fill the gap. Some time ago, about 1938, I used to chime for a children's service at 6 p.m. on a Wednesday evening, and I missed twice, and I was very surprised to find that the public missed the hymn tunes, and enquired from the Vicar, 'Where was the person who was playing the bells?' I was greatly surprised and really did not think that anyone really listened to the bells. There is a large public who like hymn tunes, but, personally, I prefer the actual ringing.

Every Sunday many people leave Carmarthen to spend a few hours at Ferryside, and at 5.30 p.m. they would listen to the beautiful octave of Mears and Stainbank's bells of Llanstephen coming across the water. These bells are chimed and ringing has ceased for some years. Morris, in his great work, 'History of Change Ringing,' says that when the Ancient Society of College Youths opened these bells in 1875 this was their first visit to Wales.

Many people sing the hymns with the bells, and think it a wonderful experience to hear the tunes. I wish Mr. Webber all success, and, whatever the critics say, there is no denying that the public do like to hear hymn tunes on the bells.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

DEATH OF MR. F. GOOSEY.

The death is announced of Mr. F. Goosey, sen., who had been a ringer at Mears Ashby, Northampton, for more than 40 years. He was 76 years of age.

At the funeral on June 4th several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung half-muffled on the church bells.

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 271.)

THE TRADITIONAL SHAPE OF THE BELL.

We have now reproduced the first of the two articles which form Canon Simpson's book on bell tuning—the one in which he states his general argument—and before we give the second, in which he goes into details, it may be well to offer some comments. In doing so we disclaim any expert or technical knowledge either of music or of bell tuning; our standpoint is that of the ordinary people who listen to and hear the bells.

It may seem, perhaps, that any comment is really superfluous. Simpson's theories have been put to the test and, during half a century, experience has shown that they are sound. Every bell which goes from Loughborough, or Croydon, or Whitechapel, is a justification of his views, and a proof of their truth.

That is so; but it does not follow that all the arguments on which he based his conclusions are sound, or that all he says carries conviction; still less that his theories cover the whole of the ground.

Simpson begins by saying that every true bell should give out a fundamental note, its third, fifth and octave above, and its octave below. This, he says, was the theory before the minds of the original designers of the present form of bell, but later founders, through ignorance or indifference, either for convenience in ringing or some other reason, fell short of the ideal and produced bells which are faulty in tune.

Now it is impossible to say definitely what was in the minds of people who lived four or five hundred years ago. We can only surmise. Some reasons there must have been to induce them to fix on the general shape of the bell with which we are familiar; it could hardly have been due to mere chance. But, whatever the reason, we feel quite sure that founders did not consciously and deliberately adopt this form, because it gave certain sought-after musical effects. It was the best form they knew of. It answered the purposes they had in view. But it was not adopted as the result of experiments and investigations, and in the proper sense of the word it was not 'designed' at all. How, then, did the traditional form of church bells come into use?

If we want to trace the bell to its ultimate origin, we must go back to the twilight of human history. The first metal that man made use of was not a simple metal like iron, but an alloy composed of copper and tin. It is rather curious that it should have been so, but the fact is generally accepted by those who speak with authority. For centuries bronze was used for a great variety of purposes. One of the things that those early men found out naturally and inevitably, was that an empty cup made of bronze, when struck, will give out a pleasant sound, and as soon as that discovery was made there was the original bell. Early man combined copper and tin in different proportions to suit his different needs, and he soon discovered, roughly, which of the proportions would give the best and most musical sound.

The early development of the bell was bound to be very slow and gradual. It was hampered by the difficulties of casting and the scarcity of metal. But as soon as men began to emerge from barbarism they were using bells much as they have used them during the ages that followed. In China and the ancient civilisations of the East

very large bells were cast, and they did not differ from the primitive inverted metal cup except in size.

So far as our own English bells and those of Northern Europe are concerned, though they were a development of the universal bell, we may say that their history begins somewhat over a thousand years ago. They, too, were primarily instruments for making a noise, but more attention was paid to the quality of the noise, and in course of time they reached the stage of development when they can be classed as musical instruments, and, later still, they were cast and tuned so they could be rung together in harmony. The most important development and the chief thing which distinguishes European bells from those of the East is the thickening of the metal towards the edge, which is called the sound-bow.

All this was a gradual process spread over many years. Exact dates cannot be given, but it is pretty certain that it was somewhere about the fourteenth century when the custom of ringing several bells 'in peal' began, and it was during the fifteenth century that rings of five became common in parish churches all over the country. By that time the traditional shape had been adopted, and there is sufficient evidence that great attention was paid to tuning, so that the notes of the bells should be in accord with each other.

Canon Simpson thought that the two things were closely related and that the founders deliberately made their bells in a certain form because they aimed at getting the three principal notes in perfect octaves, and knew that this was the proper way to do it. It sounds plausible, but it cannot be correct.

It is no doubt true that every founder aimed at getting the best possible musical result, and copied, as far as he could, what he thought were the good points in other bells, and omitted or modified what he thought were bad points. In that way the shape of the bell was gradually altered, but we are convinced that the factor which finally determined the matter was the endeavour to find the most graceful form for the bell.

At first sight that may not seem very likely. It may be said that the founders knew quite well that the object of a bell is to sound well, not to look well; and, like sensible men, they would concentrate on the first and let the other take its chance. So we might think, but there is plenty of evidence that it was not so.

It will hardly be disputed that the traditional form of English bells is about the most graceful that can be designed. We need only to compare it with the bells of China and the East, or with the shape of the bells that artists usually draw, to see that. And we have abundant evidence that the founders did devote the utmost care and pains to the appearance of their bells. In some cases, and especially on the Continent, they almost covered them with elaborate decorations, though they knew quite well that scarcely anyone would ever see them. H. R. Haweis, it will be remembered, used, in the articles we lately reproduced, his utmost powers to stress the artistry of the Belgian founders, in contrast with their English contemporaries, whose bells are comparatively free from decoration. But Haweis forgot that the true beauty of a bell depends (apart from its sound) on its form. Ornamentation, however elaborate, can never make an ugly bell beautiful, but form unadorned can be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever.

That the founders, being natural artists, did pay great attention to the form of their bells, we cannot doubt. But, of course, they were business men, too. They knew that the principal thing which mattered was how the bell sounded, not how it looked. They knew that how it sounded depended very largely on its shape, and they certainly would have altered the shape to improve the sound, if they had known how to do so. But they did not know. They knew, when they were fashioning the strickles which settled the shape of the bell, how it would look; but they did not know, until they heard it, how it would sound. All they had to guide them was their knowledge of other bells, and that for the purpose of making improvements was very superficial.

A modern founder who wished to improve his bells would make elaborate experiments based on exact knowledge and calculations. No such thing was possible to the old men. They could not design and cast a number of bells and then compare the results. The cost alone would have prohibited it. Nor had they the instruments to enable them to measure the shapes and notes of the bells which already hung in the steeples.

The form of a bell depends almost entirely on two curves, one for the outside, the other for the inside. These two curves are settled by the templates or strickles which shape the mould, and in making the strickles the founders undoubtedly did aim at beauty of curve. It is significant that the time when the traditional form of the bell was settled was the time when the curve more dominated art than at any other period in England and Northern Europe. It was the middle period of Gothic architecture which owes its excellence to the beauty of the curved line in arch and tracery. The supremacy of

the curve did not last for very long. In France it was lost in extravagance. In England it gave way to the supremacy of colour, and tracery in window, and on wall and screen, instead of being an end in itself, became the frame for coloured glass and mural painting. But meanwhile the form of the bell had been evolved...

Thus (as we believe) the founders, seeking the most graceful form of the bell, found that which is approximately the best for tone producing. They were not the first nor the last men who, by aiming at one perfection, discovered another; nor need we wonder at it, for the principles of art are general.

Once the standard form of the bell had been discovered the founders did not seek to alter it. It gave them what they wanted, and it was handed down through the ages from father to son, and from master to apprentice, not only by the bells which hung in the steeples, but also, and chiefly, by the strickles which were preserved for generations and closely copied when they needed renewal. The difference between the quality of the work done by different men was not a difference of methods and designs, but the difference between the work done by a good and competent craftsman and that by one more slovenly or less able.

(To be continued.)

TEACHING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Allow me to congratulate the writer of the leading article in 'The Ringing World' this week, but may I suggest that the following be added to it:—

That a learner should be shown the bell while in motion and that it should be explained to him when the bell is at hand stroke and back and that he should be shown the different positions of the rope and how the bell sets on the stay and slider.

I have always found this most helpful to those that I have taught to handle a bell.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Those members of the Lancashire Association who wish to visit the tower of Liverpool Cathedral should be at the works entrance to-morrow not later than half-past five.

Sixty years ago last Monday, Mr. Joseph Griffin called Holt's Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent.

Sixty years ago to-morrow the Ipswich company rang 5,059 changes of Grandsire Cinques. Mr. Robert H. Brundle rang the third.

Fifty years ago last Tuesday Mr. C. L. Routledge called the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major on the bells of Hexham Abbey.

Fifty years ago yesterday Mr. William Short called a peal of Double Oxford Bob Major at Kidderminster. Mr. William H. Barber rang the treble.

On June 20th, 1756, a peal of Catharan's Tripples was rung at St. Peter-at-Arches, Lincoln. It was John Garthons' peal of Grandsire Triples, and the conductor, John Foster, was one of the band who rang the first peal of Stedman Triples, at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in 1731. St. Peter-at-Arches has been pulled down and the bells removed to another steeple.

The College Youths rang 6,016 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Battersea on November 20th, 1790. Israel Johnson was the conductor.

William Pye called the first peal in eight Spliced Surprise Major methods, at Willesden on June 21st, 1932. The methods were London, Rutland, Cambridge, Bristol, Superlative, New Gloucester, Norfolk and Yorkshire.

On June 23rd 1882, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Alkmund's, Derby, by the Derby and Districts Association, which shortly afterwards became the Midland Counties Association.

A famous prize ringing contest was held at Flixton on June 24th, 1808. There is a rather interesting story about this match, and we may tell it one of these days.

The only peal on more than twelve bells as yet rung was one of Stedman Sextuples by the Birmingham men on June 24th, 1922. Mr. Albert Walker rang 3-4 and conducted.

Samuel Thomas, a well-known Sheffield ringer, died on June 24th, 1924.

The first peal of Wigston Surprise Major was rung at Wigston on June 24th, 1933, and the first peal of Fulbeck Bob Major by the Norwich Diocesan Association on June 24th, 1939.

Taunton bells were opened and a peal of Stedman Caters rung on June 25th, 1885. The peal was afterwards withdrawn.

To-day is Mr. Isaac Emery's birthday.

The peal of Superlative rung at Bennington in 1855 (mentioned last week) had not the extent with the tenors together, and so far, we believe, a peal with that quality has not been accomplished.

CAPT. FREDERICK G. COLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you please allow me a small space to acknowledge the very large number of letters received from ringing friends, sending their condolences on the death of my son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., who was recently killed in action in Tunisia.

The news of his award, followed by his promotion, the report as missing, and news of his death, came so quickly in succession that I feel it impossible adequately to reply to everybody, and I trust they will accept this brief acknowledgment.

A letter from his Commanding Officer, recently received, speaks of him as a very fine officer and brave soldier, whom he hoped would have gone still higher. He added that his opinion was shared by the Brigade Commander, who personally conveyed to him (the C.O.) his regrets on hearing of my son's death.

My wife and I wish to thank our many friends for their sympathy.

C. T. COLES.

Higams Park, E.4.

MR. FREDERICK J. TILLET.

On May 27th, Mr. Frederick J. Tillett completed 62 years' service with Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, the well-known engineering firm of Ipswich. He has received the following letter from the directors:—

'To-day marks the anniversary of a remarkably long period of continuous service on your part in the employment of this firm—a period extending over no less than 62 years, which is a record in the annals of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.

'The directors wish to congratulate you upon this fine record, during which you have consistently and continually displayed ability as a craftsman, and thought for the interests of your firm.

'It is the earnest hope of the directors that for some time to come you may be able to continue in their service and enjoy good health.

'To mark the completion of this long period of service, which you have good reason to be proud of, they ask your acceptance of 25 National Savings Certificates, which I have pleasure in handing to you with this letter.'

Mr. Tillett has an equally long and distinguished record in the Exercise, and ringers everywhere will add their congratulations.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT LONG SUTTON.**

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Long Sutton on Whit Monday, and ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Algar-kirk, Boston, Grantham, Doncaster and Terrington. In the absence of the president (the Rev. E. C. Gee), the Rev. Cuthbert Powell, Vicar of Long Sutton, was chairman; he was also elected an honorary member of the Guild.

Five ringing members were elected, Messrs. G. A. Coleman, H. Carbutt and S. R. Mumby, of Long Sutton, and Messrs. George and Fred Pearson, of Donington.

The Guild Master, Mr. R. Richardson, congratulated the branch on maintaining a high membership, the number being almost the same as before the ban. Other branches had diminished, some as much as 50 per cent.

Mr. King, of Grantham, spoke of the lowering of the bells of Great Hale for retuning and rehanging, which is being done at his expense by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and the Misses Harrison for providing the tea, and light refreshment for those who forgot to bring their own, and to the Rev. Cuthbert Powell for conducting the service and giving an excellent address.

Ringing during the evening included methods from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Major.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT THRAPSTON.**

Over eighty members were present at the twentieth annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild at Thrapston on Whit Monday.

The service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. S. Mundy, who gave an address on bells and their uses through the ages. The business meeting in the Girl Guide Hall was presided over by the Master, the Rev. E. S. Powell, who was supported by the Ven. C. J. Grimes (Archdeacon of Northampton), Mrs. Powell, Canon Luckock, the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, the Rev. D. A. Jones and Mr. W. Rose (chairmen of branches), Messrs. A. Bigley, H. Baxter, W. R. Butcher and W. H. Waldron (branch secretaries), Mr. H. Chambers (Central Council representative) and Mr. R. G. Black (general secretary).

The Chairman referred to the awakening interest in ringing since the lifting of the ban. He had found that owing to the length of the ban and the fact that people in the country as a whole realised what they had missed, there was more willingness to learn change ringing than he could remember for a great number of years. It was a very difficult time and it was not easy to teach learners, but they had an opportunity which was not likely to be repeated, and he appealed to them to make the best use of it. They regretted they had lost their president, the Dean of Peterborough, who has left the diocese, and the position was, therefore, vacant.

On the proposition of Mr. B. P. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. Goakes, the Archdeacon of Northampton was unanimously elected.

The new president said that if he was not an expert ringer he was very keen on ringing and he believed in its value to the Church. He hoped to take part in their ringing and share in their social gatherings.

The Master and general secretary were both re-elected, the latter for the eighteenth time.

The general secretary moved a vote of thanks to the Rector of Thrapston, the organist and to Mr. G. W. Jeffs, Ringing Master of the Thrapston Branch, and everyone who had assisted towards the success of the meeting. Mr. F. Barber moved a vote of thanks to the general secretary for his services throughout the year.

Apologies were received from the Rev. — Norcock, Messrs. S. G. Munton, J. C. Dean, T. Tebbutt, E. C. Lambert and G. Basford.

A variety of methods were rung up to Surprise Major, one course of Superlative being very good.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NEWHALL.**

At a meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association, held at St. John's, Newhall, on June 12th, about 24 members were present from Derby Cathedral and St. Peter's, Ashby, Measham, Overseal, Netherseale, Ticknall and the local company. A welcome visitor was Sgt. John Hough, of the Canadian Forces.

Various touches were brought round before tea, which was partaken of on the Vicarage lawn. The Vicar, the Rev. J. D. Hooley, presided at the short meeting which followed. Reference was made to the death of Mr. John Hough, who for many years had been a prominent member of the Newhall band.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Measham on July 24th. Mr. W. H. Curson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the bells, and to the members of the Mothers' Union for preparing the cups of tea.

The tower was revisited and touches in the following methods were brought round: Double Court, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, with rounds for the beginners.

ST. PETER'S, BOURNEMOUTH.**WHITSUNTIDE MEETING.**

On the Saturday before Whit Sunday a very successful meeting at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, was attended by upwards of forty members of the Winchester and Salisbury Diocesan Guilds from Christchurch, Ringwood, Milford, Sopley, Poole and Bournemouth (St. John's and St. Peter's). Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, was unable to attend, and apologies were received from Messrs. L. J. Lockyer (Wimborne) and W. C. Shute. The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, and some very good Cambridge Major in spite of the fact that the course was not completed.

Striking varied, some was of a high standard, but opportunity was given to any learner who wished to try something, so that a little bad striking resulted; this was kept within bounds.

Evensong at 5.30 was fully choral, and tea followed in the hall, generously provided by two ladies interested in the local band.

Canon Hedley Burrows, the Vicar, talked to the ringers after tea and said he felt that the bells that afternoon had conveyed a message of hope and encouragement to many in spite of everything. It was almost like peace time, for the telephone had brought the inevitable complaint just after 4 p.m. Fortunately he knew the 'type' of complaint and complainer and could deal with it accordingly. He also knew of many hundreds who were glad to hear the bells once again. He had discussed the question of practice with his 'captain of bells' and was glad to think that the ringers themselves felt that (for a time, at any rate) practice should be very much curtailed. St. Peter's was in the middle of a town which had suffered enemy attack, and while he would not say 'No practice,' he suggested that the ringers might be able to get practice at some of the better placed towers until times were more normal. No reasonable request, however, would be refused at St. Peter's.

A discussion showed that the feeling of the ringers themselves was with Canon Burrows in the matter, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to him for his services to the Exercise in general and to the local bands in particular.

The Vicar presented a copy of 'The Ringers' Handbook' to each of the six recruits to St. Peter's tower after four of them had rung a course of Grandsire Triples 'in hand.' These young people can each take a pair of handbells in courses of Grandsire Triples or Doubles and are making excellent progress in the matter of managing a tower bell.

Handbell ringing concluded a very successful meeting, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples being rung and a course of Kent Treble Bob Major. Among the Guild officers present were Mr. George Preston, the Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. F. W. Townsend. Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, past Master of Salisbury Guild, and Messrs. V. Bottomley (Halifax) and H. B. Warne (Portsmouth) were also present.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HOWDEN.**

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, June 12th, and was attended by about 30 ringers and friends from Eastington, Goole, Headingley, Hemingbrough, Hessle, Hull, Kirk Ella, Pontefract, Rotherham, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York and the local company, as well as by Mr. P. J. Johnson, vice-president of the association, and Mrs. Johnson.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Waring, and the address was given by the Rev. T. Bottomley, Vicar of Newport.

Tea in the Manor House Cafe was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Vicar of Howden, who gave the association a hearty welcome. The retiring officers, Messrs. E. Bradley, Ringing Master, and R. B. Smith, A. B. Cook and W. Pearson, committeemen, were re-elected. Mr. Allan Sheppard and Mr. Fred Thornton, of Sherburn-in-Elmet, were elected members. Sherburn-in-Elmet was selected as the next place of meeting, to be held on the Saturday before August Bank Holiday.

Mr. P. J. Johnson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the Rev. T. Bottomley for his address, and to Mr. A. H. Fox, of Kirk Ella, for playing the organ. Mr. C. Hill seconded. A vote of thanks to the local company for the arrangements was proposed by Mr. F. Cryer and seconded by Mr. T. Steel. Mr. J. W. Thompson responded.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund realised 12s. 4d.

The tower bells were made good use of and the following methods were rung: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, June 6th, at St. Mary's-without-the-Walls, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: George Lee 1, John Hayes 2, Harry Lewis 3, John W. Griffiths 4, James Swindley 5, Harry Pye 6, Thomas Griffiths 7, Percy Swindley (conductor) 8.

ECCELESTON, CHESHIRE.—On June 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Sperring 1, G. Jones 2, W. Hopgood 3, D. F. Ferguson 4, J. W. Clarke 5, S. Jones, jun. (conductor) 6, H. Thomas 7, E. Price 8. Rung in celebration of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. S. Jones.

THE BELLS OF MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.

The parishioners of Marple worship in one church and the bells hang in another—the two churches stand side by side, but the old church is gradually becoming a ruin. It was built in the very early part of the 19th century, and no doubt it replaced an older church.

About this time Marple was beginning to grow. Samuel Oldknow, one of the pioneers of the cotton industry, built a cotton factory close by the river Goyt where it passed through the parish, and he had a hand in the building of the church. Its design reflects the spirit of that era, possessing very severe lines without any outstanding architectural features. Oldknow was not only a manufacturer of cotton goods (muslin being his speciality), but was responsible for the construction of the High Peak Canal which passes through Marple and he also built roads in order to transport his products to the Manchester Market. The development of the lime burning industry was due in no small measure to his enterprise, and the population of Marple increased to such an extent that it became necessary to have the present old church built.

Oldknow was a very strict Churchman, and I have heard old folks talk of the procession of young apprentices and workpeople to church each Sunday. Apparently they had no choice in the matter; Oldknow made them go. It was due to his influence that Marple became the possessor of a peal of bells, not a new peal, but one that had gained a good reputation and, being the astute business man he was, Oldknow was pleased with the bargain.

The bells are a ring of six by Rudhall, 1731, with a tenor 43½ inches diameter, and were cast for the Parish Church of Stockport to replace a ring of five which were taken out early in the 18th century. A portion of that tower gave way and some rude buttresses were erected. It is reputed that in 1805, after ringing for several days in succession for Nelson's great victory at Trafalgar, the old tower was so shaken that they were seldom rung again, and the last time their notes were heard from that tower was on October 13th, 1809, at the Jubilee, when George III. was King.

In the following year the tower was taken down and the bells stowed away, some in an old mill in Portwood and some in the hearsehouse. When the new tower was built their place was taken by a new, complete and much heavier ring (eight bells, tenor 24 cwt., increased to ten by John Taylor and Co., in 1897), and they lay unheard and unring, which called forth the following lines:

'A remonstrance from the bells of St. Mary's Church, Stockport, addressed to the churchwardens and trustees of that building.'

Torn from the tower where long we hung,
And borne on sledge away,
Our tuneful voices all unstrung,
We've linger'd many a day.

No more with cheerful, solemn sound
The Sabbath we declare,
Nor call the pious folk around
To fill the House of Prayer.

No more resounding through the vale
On summer's evening sweet,
Our wandering changes swell the gale
With harmony replete.

When Lubin weds his Susan Gay
And all around is glee,
They long one merry peal to hear;
Yet here, alas, lie we.

Ah! when shall our glad notes again
Salute the new-made Mayor
As in procession with his train
He walks at Stockport fair?

Full oft when Nelson on the Main
The British thunderer bore,
Our pleasing notes have caught the strain
And echoed to the roar.

When Wellington, whose matchless fame
Brings glory to our Isle,
How can our notes his praise proclaim
Pent up in durance vile?

Oh, ye, who took the work in hand,
Churchwardens and Trustees,
Why do ye thus inactive stand
And linger at your ease?

If bells, as ancient records say,
Have toll'd, untouched, unring,
Beware lest at your long delay
We too should find a tongue.

And therefore, we beseech you all,
Consider well our case,
And let us in a steeple fall
Most quickly find a place!

Then shall the joy inspiring peal
Or sweetly soothing chimes
Your spirits raise, your sorrows heal,
In these disastrous times.

Rudhall, who had provided the new ring of eight, offered £407 for the old six, but as there were many people who did not wish them to leave the parish, the trustees, at a large meeting in March, 1816, unanimously resolved that the township of Marple should have the option to purchase at the price offered by Rudhall. Following on the resolution, the following appeal, dated March 28th, 1816, was made:—

'To the inhabitants of Marple and its vicinity. The trustees appointed by Act of Parliament for the taking down and rebuilding of the Parish Church of Stockport having made the Township of Marple an offer of the peal of bells belonging to the former edifice, it is earnestly hoped that a subscription may be raised equal to the purchase of them. The sum required is four hundred pounds, being the price at which Mr. Rudhall, of Gloucester, a descendant of the original founder, has offered to take them from the trustees. Little, it is hoped, need be urged to prevail upon the inhabitants of Marple not to suffer these bells to be conveyed away from amongst them for ever. The real excellence of their tone must be well remembered by them; and scarcely an individual is there that has not listened to them with feelings such as few but would wish to experience again.

The site of the chapel is a consideration that ought to have its weight. On an eminence that commands an extensive view of the bold swelling hills of Derbyshire as of the more fertile plains of Cheshire, no situation could be better adapted to give full effect to their uncommonly fine tone. From this hill the sound of them will go forth far and wide; and it cannot be doubted but that the inhabitants of the other townships when they hear them will rejoice that their neighbours did not suffer them to be removed for ever out of the parish, and will applaud both the spirit and the liberality of the Township of Marple.'

The appeal had such an effect that Samuel Oldknow, Esq., Nathaniel Wright, Esq., and the Rev. C. K. Presscott, curate of Marple, concluded the bargain and became personally responsible for the amount. On April 29th Mr. Oldknow sent his dray for the treble and tenor, and Mr. Wright sent two carts for the remaining four.

On the day that Miriam Isherwood, of Marple Hall, was christened, June 30th, 1816, they were opened, and the day kept as a gala day, and prizes given which were competed for by ringers of the district. The cost was as follows: The price of the bells £400, hanging and

(Continued on next page.)

TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 260.)

Blakeney Church, Norfolk, has two towers. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Thomas of Canterbury. Of the towers, one is at the west end of the church and the other at the north-east angle of the chancel. The latter—and smaller of the two—was probably used as a beacon. The west tower is embattled and rises 104ft. The church stands among the trees on a hilltop, 115ft. above the sea, and the slender tower at the north-east corner of the chancel used to shine a beacon light to guide those at sea. Both towers are of the 15th century and, inside, the west tower opens to the nave with a soaring arch that would grace a cathedral. There were four bells here in 6 Ed. VI., but it appears from a faculty dated 1802 'that the expense of re-roofing the chancel would be £309 18s. 9d.; that there were at Blakeney Church five bells, four whereof were broken: that the chapel of Glenford had been in ruins many years, and that there were belonging to the said chapel one bell and twelve pigs of lead, which with four broken bells were worth £120.' There is now but one bell here inscribed: 'Charles Newman made mee, 1699, I.B.: T.T.: C.W.'

At Wymondham, Norfolk, the church of SS. Mary the Virgin and Thomas of Canterbury has two towers. The church was formerly attached to the Abbey of SS. Mary and Alban, and is a noble edifice now consisting of the central tower (at present forming the eastern termination of the structure), a clerestoried nave of nine bays, aisles, north porch, and a stately western tower 142 feet high, built 1445-76 with octagonal buttress turrets at the angles, containing a clock and eight bells. The choir, with its adjacent chapels, formed the conventional church, the nave and north aisles having been assigned in 1249 to the parishioners who, on account of disputes which arose as to the respective rights of the regular and secular clergy to ring their bells, erected the western tower.

William Plomer, of Wymondham, by will dated June 19th, 1535, 'gave vnto the shotyng of the bell being at Norwich with the belfovnder xj^s viij^d.' In the will of John Drye, clerk, Vicar of Wymondham, dated October 12th, 1558, is the following: 'Also I gyve unto the exchange and purchase of the bells XX^s to be payd by myn executors vnto the chvrch wardens of the said church at such tyme as the sayde bells shall be exchanged and perfightley hangen up in the steple of the sayde church.'

Up to 1903 there were five bells here, the treble and 4th by T. Newman, of Norwich, dated 1739; the 2nd, dated 1606, the 3rd by John Brand 1638, and tenor by John Brand, jun., 1653, weighing 24½ cwt. In 1903 Messrs. John Warner and Sons recast the 2nd, which was split, and added three trebles, making the ring to eight. There is also a clock bell by Warners, dated 1856.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bruton, Somerset, whilst not exactly possessing twin towers, has, in addition to its stately western tower, a three-storey porch, which, being battlemented, gives it the appearance of a second tower. This latter building has Perpendicular windows in its upper stage, and at its south-west corner is a square turret also embattled and rising above the merlons of the parapet. The west tower

is strengthened by angle buttresses rising into crocketed pinnacles, and it has a pierced embattled parapet and octagonal turret at its north-east angle. It was repaired in 1910. Here is a ring of six bells, tenor 26 cwt., the inscriptions of the treble and second being very quaint, thus:—

(1) 'Once I'd a note that none could beare
But Bilbie made me sweet and clear (1752).'

(2) This is written all backwards and reads thus:—
'I am the first of those five
Cries loud to those that are alive.'

It is dated 1649, but the founder's name is not known. The third is also by Bilbie (1752) and says:—

'Pray ring the bells and praise the Lord
With tyneful notes and sweet accord.'

The 5th is dated 1618, and the 4th and tenor were pre-Reformation Bells; 4th was an invocation to 'Sancta Maria' and tenor to 'Sancta Clemens.' The latter was recast by C. and G. Mears, of London, in 1848.

THE BELLS OF MARPLE.

(Continued from previous page.)

expenses £324 13s. The first list of subscriptions amounted to £528 17s. 6d.

For very many years these bells defied the attempts of many bands to ring a peal on them, and they gained an unenviable reputation, but on October 10th, 1925, a seven method peal of Treble Bob Minor was rung on them in three hours and four minutes by the following: James Fernley, sen., treble, John P. Fidler 2nd, William Fernley 3rd, John W. Hartley 4th, W. W. Wolstencroft 5th and Fred Holt Tenor. The conductor was James Farnley, sen. To say the least of it, Jim Fernley was pleased the attempt was successful. He had made many fruitless journeys to Marple and had many interesting stories to tell of former attempts. John W. Hartley and Fred Holt, too, had also joined in the struggle and returned home with more than one wet shirt. There was one famous attempt when, towards the tail end of the last 750, the light went out. One can imagine the keen disappointment felt by the band to be robbed of a successful peal by a circumstance beyond their control.

Those vain attempts are past and unrecorded history, and, perhaps, the better for it. In 1936 the bells were re-hung by John Taylor and Co. Mr. K. Lewis had, by his patience and endeavour, built up a keen and enthusiastic company by the time the war had broken out. They had scored several peals on their own bells; but, alas, like many more deserving bands, now are scattered. Happily these bells are not 'pent up in durance vile,' as in the days of Wellington; but, like the other bells of this fair isle, are awaiting until—

"Then shall the joy inspiring peal
Or sweetly soothing chimes

Your spirits raise, your sorrows heal,
In these disastrous times."

DEATH OF OSWALDTWISTLE RINGER.

News has come from North Africa of the death of Harry Littlefair, for many years a ringer at Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. Although he had not rung a peal, he was a steady and regular member of the band. His grandfather was one of the band formed when the old six bells were put in the tower in 1878. He was 26 years old.

HEAVY RINGS OF BELLS.

COLD ASHBY AND KINGSDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Amos' letter in your issue of June 11th, Cold Ashby peal was rung by John Taylor and Co. in 1903; the diameter of the tenor is 4ft. 2½in., note between D and E flat, weight 19 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb. The bell was cast by Robert Taylor, Oxford, in 1826 and has no canons.

Since my last letter I have been looking into various records and find that, unless a treble has been added in recent years to make six, there is a heavy five at Kingsdon, Somerset. The tenor of this peal is 4ft. 5½in. diameter, weight approximately 24 cwt. No doubt this will be of interest to Messrs. Cannon and Amos.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

SOME SOMERSET RINGS.

Dear Sir,—It all depends on what you mean by a heavy ring of bells. Do you mean the ring having the heaviest tenor, or the ring of bells whose aggregate weight exceeds that of any other ring of the same number? According to tenor weights, Exeter Cathedral has the heaviest ring of twelve. However, on the total weight of metal in the ring of twelve, St. Paul's Cathedral takes precedence. When Liverpool Cathedral bells are installed there will be no room for doubt.

In the West of England there are a number of rings where the weight increases normally from the treble downwards until it increases abnormally for the tenor. An example of this can be seen at St. Michael's, East Teignmouth, Devon. The seventh weighs 7 cwt. odd, and the tenor 22 cwt. Similarly at West Pennard, Somerset, there are six bells with a big difference in weight between the 5th and tenor. At Shaftesbury, in St. Peter's Church, the tenor is not the heaviest bell in the ring. Presumably there was originally a ring of five tuned to the minor scale, a tenor being added later. This bell weighs 18 cwt. and the 5th over a ton. From this it might be inferred that to judge the weights of rings of bells by the weight of the tenor alone is not always a reliable method.

Somerset can boast of many fine rings of bells and many magnificent towers. Among her rings of bells there are three of interest, the heaviest of five, the heaviest of six and the heaviest of ten. The village of Kingsdon has a rather short tower (for Somerset) containing five bells, the tenor weighing 25 cwt. (I do not know the exact figure). Some years ago the fourth bell was recast and the whole ring restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Wrington once had the heaviest ring of six, the tenor being listed as 38½ cwt. When Messrs. Mears and Stainbank restored the bells and increased their number to ten, that distinction passed to Queen Camel, where the tenor weighs 36½ cwt. Wells Cathedral houses the heaviest ring of ten.

Not far away from Queen Camel in the neighbouring county of Dorset we find Sherborne with its Abbey (now parish) church housing the heaviest ring of eight. I have an idea that many years ago Sherborne possessed only six bells and so at that time these would constitute the heaviest six. If this is so, Sherborne has a double distinction.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HALSTEAD.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Halstead on May 22nd, at which 14 ringers attended from Chelmsford, Braintree, Bocking, Earls Colne, Greenstead Green, Thurlow and Halstead.

Handbells were rung in church before the service, which was conducted by Canon T. H. Curling, with Mr. I. T. Chapman at the organ.

Tea at the residence of Mrs. A. Snowden was followed by the business meeting, with Canon Curling in the chair. An apology for absence was received from the Master. The secretary referred to the death of Mr. W. Sillitoe, of Earls Colne. Two members, A. Mason and G. Keeble, of Kelvedon, were re-elected. Witham was chosen as place of meeting in early September.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen referred to the Sunday service ringing. Some parishes had not been able to have their bells rung owing to the shortage of ringers, and he wondered whether some effort could not be made to help. It was decided after some discussion to ring on July 11th at Halstead in the evening, and Bocking on August 15th in the evening.

Mr. Wiffen proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, Mr. Chapman and Mrs. Snowden for what they had done to make the meeting a success.

LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER MISSING.

News has been received that Elvin Howsam, one of Bigby's ringers, is reported missing after a raid on Dusseldorf. He held the rank of warrant officer and was a navigator-observer in a Lancaster squadron.

Elvin Howsam was a good ringer and has rung several peals of Minor, both 'in hand' and in the tower. We hope some further news will be heard of him.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3 p.m. No arrangements will be made for food.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at Todmorden Unitarian Church, Saturday, June 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30. Bring own food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Western Division and Leeds and District Society at Shipley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Ramble arranged to start from Church Schools at 3 p.m. Business meeting in Schools at 6.30 p.m.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts, East Peckham, Saturday, June 26th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Bus service No. 7 from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. Get out at Forge Gate. Ten minutes' walk. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District. — Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, June 26th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 5 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—Annual meeting at Bampton (8) on Saturday, June 26th. Service 3.30 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Burgess Hill on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Short service at 6 p.m.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stokes Poges (8 bells) on Saturday, June 26th, at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec. and Treas., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Meeting at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston on June 26th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 6.30. Business meeting afterwards. Tea obtainable at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, Saturday, June 26th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 3rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to Mrs. J. E. Beams, 4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, by Wednesday, June 30th.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, followed by business meeting. Names for tea not later than June 30th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting on Saturday, July 3rd, at Christ Church, Southport, 2.30 p.m. Emmanuel in the evening. Make own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Hereford on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells from 2.30: All Saints' (8), St. Nicholas' (6), Cathedral (10). Service at St. Nicholas' at 4.30 p.m., followed by meeting at the College Hall of Cathedral at 5 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—Rev. E. G. Benson, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Braughing, on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Wednesday, June 30th.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Shedfield on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who inform me by Wednesday, June 30th.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Newbury on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Wednesday, June 30th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Dagenham on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells at 3, service 4.15, tea and business 5 p.m. Names before June 29th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stone (8 bells), Saturday, July 3rd, at 3 p.m. Bring own sandwiches.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—Annual meeting at Adderbury, Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Kindly notify for tea.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Saturday, July 10th, at Oswaldtwistle. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—F. Hindle, Branch Secretary, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Wellington Parish Church, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. till 8.30. Tea at cafes in town, 4.30.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North-West District.—Meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names must be sent not later than previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts; G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea at 1s. 6d. for all members who apply, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 10th. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.—Practice first and third Tuesday in the month, beginning July 6th, 7.30.

CORRESPONDENCE for Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnett should for the time being be sent to Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

ENGAGEMENT.

MASSEY—MILLS.—The engagement is announced between L.A.C. George W. Massey, R.A.F., only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, and Hilda M. Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

SET of 8, 10, or 12 HANDBELLS, size 15, in C.—Write, stating price, to Box 20, 'The Ringing World', Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, Surrey.

RINGER'S WEDDING AT MEARS ASHBY.

On Saturday, June 5th, at All Saints', Mears Ashby, the wedding took place of Mr. H. F. Walden and Miss Eva Scarr. The bride has been a member of the local band and of the choir. The bells were rung before and after the ceremony.

NEWTON NOTTAGE, PORTHCAWL, GLAM.—For Sunday evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): *Mrs. T. M. Roderick 1, D. Thomas 2, I. Lewis 3, A. Hannington (conductor) 4, A. E. Williams 5, W. Surman 6. *First quarter-peal and first attempt.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, June 19th, at 11, Aylesbury End, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Dorothy R. Fletcher (conductor) 1-2, Kathleen E. Fletcher 3-4, Ethel M. Fletcher (first quarter-peal) 5-6.

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FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, 1943.

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SOUND CONTROL.

In the letter printed on another page Mr. F. C. W. Stevenson draws attention to what is undoubtedly the greatest difficulty caused by the ringing of church bells. The great majority of people like to hear bells, and the music is to them a part, and a very lovely part, of our English scene and atmosphere. But this appreciation is conditional, and bell ringing can be, and often is, an almost intolerable nuisance to those who have to live and work close to a belfry.

It is the penalty bells have to pay for their publicity and wide range. Their effect is greatest when the listener is properly attuned to them and when they are heard at some distance across fields or from a neighbouring street; or (though less frequently) when on some occasion of public rejoicing or at the climax of some wedding festival, their loud and triumphant tones take possession of the air, and for the moment capture the attention of listeners and voice their thoughts and feelings.

But people are not always so attuned. At the same time some are thinking how beautiful the bells sound, others may be annoyed almost to distraction by them. And this, as a rule, is not due to any difference in the listeners themselves, but to temporary and local circumstances. Change their positions and those who cursed would bless, and those who bless would curse.

If bell towers could be placed in the midst of parks or wide open spaces, away from houses where only those need listen who wished to, there would be no annoyance and no complaints. But bells are hung in church towers, and churches must be among houses and in close contact with the people. Some men must live too close to the bell towers, and they have to suffer, so that those who live further away can enjoy bell music at its best.

That is the difficulty and it exists because the problem of sound control has not been fully solved. Not so long ago it was virtually ignored by those who could have done something. Architects designed their steeples entirely for outside effect and without the slightest regard for the bells. They made the windows large and arranged the bell chamber floors so that the bells swung above the sills of the windows. When, as they usually did, they put in big louvres widely spaced, or when, as not unfrequently, they left the windows completely open, the sound beats down on the surrounding houses and cannot fail to be a nuisance.

Much of this was sheer ignorance, for architects thought little about the bells and knew less; but some of it was due to perversity. Lord Grimthorpe, who

(Continued on page 286.)

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exercised a good deal of influence sixty years ago, always insisted that the bells should be above the sills of the windows.

For some time a good deal of improvement has been going on in this matter. The Central Council can claim some credit, for, led by Sir Arthur Heywood, it has done much to instruct and enlighten opinion. But a lot remains to be done. Ringers can do their share. Wherever it is possible the lower parts of the windows should be blocked by some material which will stop sound. At present, of course, the trouble is to get material.

The best sign is that the bell founders are alive to the importance of the matter. There was a time when they were inclined to consider that their job was to hang the bells, and how they sounded, either inside or outside the steeple, was not their business. Blocking up windows or putting in new floors was for the local builder. That position was quite understandable.

When the return of more normal conditions makes it possible we hope ringers will bring these matters to the attention of the authorities of their churches. Meanwhile, they should carefully read Mr. Stevenson's letter, for he writes with experience and authority.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

THURCASTON.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

HARRY WAYNE Treble	HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 5
DENNIS DALBY 2	SIDNEY CHENEY 6
A/B WM. ERNEST RAWEON 3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 7
SHIRLEY BURTON 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Monday, June 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF REVERSE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) 1-2
JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3-4
JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall) 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOP. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

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BIRMINGHAM.

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BIRMINGHAM.

On Wednesday, June 23, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT 92, ETWALL ROAD, HALL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

ARTHUR D. COOK 1-2	GEORGE E. FEARN 3-4
RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 5-6	

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

MUFFLED RINGING ON SUNDAYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see that on one or two occasions lately bells have been rung muffled on a Sunday. That is quite wrong. Bells should never be muffled on Sundays or the great festivals.

And it is not good to ring a muffled peal on the eve of Whit Sunday.
'CHURCHMAN.'

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CRANFORD.**

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association was held at Cranford on June 19th and was attended by over 40 members and friends from Bosham, Sussex, Cranford, Ealing (Christ Church and St. Stephen's), Feltham, Hastings, Heston, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Kensington, Kingsbury, Liverpool, Ruiship, St. Albans (St. Peter's), Swindon (Christ Church and St. Mark's), Twickenham, Uxbridge, Walthamstow and Willesden.

The pretty little peal of bells, recently restored and augmented by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, were kept going at intervals till about 8 p.m. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court and Cambridge and London Surprise Minor. Opportunities were given to learners who had not yet reached the change ringing stage.

At evensong the beautiful little church was filled. The lesson was read by the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, and the address was given by the Rector, the Rev. Maurice Childs, who welcomed the association and spoke of the history of bells, referring particularly to the three ancient ones at Cranford. The oldest dates from the 14th century. It was almost certainly rung for the victory of Agincourt, and again for the victory of Tunis.

Cups of tea were provided in a nearby building, and a short informal meeting was held, at which three new members were elected—Messrs. G. H. Orford and H. G. Chastney, of Cranford, and Mr. William J. Winter, of Heston. A local band is being formed under Mr. Orford and already progress is being made.

Future meetings were tentatively arranged as follows: July 17th, Twickenham; September 4th, Ruiship; October 2nd, Acton. The vice-president and secretary, on behalf of those present, expressed their deepest sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles in the loss of their gallant son so soon after winning honour and promotion for bravery. Mr. Coles feelingly replied.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and the local company.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT OSPRINGE.**

At a meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association, held at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th, ringers were present from several neighbouring towers as well as from other districts of the association.

Ringings began about 3 p.m. and continued in various methods until 4.30, when service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. F. Hodges, who gave an address and a welcome.

Tea at the Ship Inn was followed by a business meeting, during which Mr. J. W. Unwin was elected district representative to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. H. Whitehead. It was proposed to hold a meeting at Sturry if possible. One new member was elected from the local tower. Reference was made to the passing of several members of the association. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to Miss D. Whiting for playing the organ, and to Mr. F. Farnsworth for making the local arrangements.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH C. DEAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph C. Dean, for many years secretary of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, who passed away on June 23rd.

The funeral at St. Peter's, Northampton, on June 26th, was conducted by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, assisted by the Rev. M. L. Cinchinan and the Rev. A. T. Seggar. The service, which was fully choral, was attended by many ringers and friends. The bells were rung half-muffled. Mr. Dean's death is a great loss to the branch and to the Guild.

DEATH OF FLIXTON RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert Thomas, of Flixton, Lancs, which occurred suddenly on February 14th following an operation at Abbotsfield Hospital, where he had been admitted only three days previously.

Mr. Thomas, who was 55 years of age, joined the Flixton band in 1926 and had been a regular service ringer ever since.

He was a blacksmith by trade, a lifelong abstainer and non-smoker, and was known for his remarkable fitness. During the 1914-18 seasons he played rugby as a Salford forward, and ten years ago when the Urnston baths were opened he gained the diving and under water championships and was presented with an illuminated address for his exhibitions at galas.

The funeral on February 17th was conducted by the Rector, assisted by the curate, and was attended by over 100 persons representing Mr. Thomas' many activities. Four A.R.P. wardens acted as bearers. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Messrs. Ben Thorpe, A. Barnes, J. Worth and D. Vincent. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the Flixton ringers.

OTTERY ST. MARY.—On June 12th, 504 Grandsire Triples: J. Arbery 1, W. H. Godfrey 2, L. Hine 3, C. Turner (conductor) 4, E. Marks 5, G. Burrows 6, W. Dommert 7, N. Pyne 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mrs. Catherine Annie Godfrey, wife of Mr. John H. Godfrey, secretary of the East Devon Branch of the Devon Guild.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT DISS.**

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association at Diss on June 19th was attended by 53 members from Bergh Apton, Botesdale, Cambridge, Chediston, Dickleburgh, Diss, East Stonham, Fornett, Isleworth (Middlesex), Ickley (Yorks), Kingston (Herts), Long Stratton, Mulbarton, Norwich, Palgrave, Stradbroke, Shelfanger, Winfarthing and Wymondham. The eight bells were rung during the afternoon and evening in various methods from rounds to Superlative.

The president, the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, preached at the service, and after tea in the Coffee Tavern the business meeting was held.

The dates and places of the next two meetings were as follows: Fakenham on September 11th, and Norwich on October 23rd, if conditions make it possible. Ten new members were elected. It was decided not to issue any report for the past year, at any rate not without further consultation. No doubt as a result of the ban, the occasional annoyance shown at ringing in the past by people near the tower is now replaced by expressions of appreciation.

GOLDEN WEDDING.**MR. AND MRS. S. JONES, OF ECCLESTON.**

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. S. Jones, of Eccleston, Cheshire, was celebrated on June 7th by a well-struck quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's Church followed by the firing of the bells 21 times.

In his early days Mr. Jones lived at Pulford, where his father was sexton, and there he learned to ring despite the fact that at the age of ten he lost his left hand in an accident. On his marriage in 1893 he went to Eccleston, where there was a ring of six, and he was an active member of the band until the church was demolished. The new church was opened on Ascension Day, 1900, and was furnished with a splendid ring of eight. Mr. Jones became towerkeeper a few years later, and he still holds the position.

Mr. Jones has always been regular at service ring and has taken part in a number of peals for the Chester Diocesan Guild. His three sons have all taken up ringing, the eldest conducting the quarter-peal on this occasion. The remaining two are with H.M. Forces abroad.

The band were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and hearty congratulations and good wishes were the order of the evening.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT TRING.**

A successful meeting of the Western Division of the Hertford County Association was held at Tring on June 19th and was attended by about 30 members and friends from 18 towers.

In the absence of the Vicar, the service in church was conducted by the curate (the Rev. — Moore), who gave an address. Mr. R. Goldsney, an Apsley ringer, was at the organ.

After tea the business meeting was held in the tower, Mr. F. J. Reeve being chairman.

Flamstead was chosen as the place of the next meeting, to be held if possible on July 17th. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, the Rev. Moore for the service, Mr. N. Brackley for the local arrangements, and the organist for his services.

During the afternoon and evening Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Major were rung as well as rounds for the beginners.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT COLCHESTER.**

A district meeting of the Essex Association, held at St. Leonard's, Colchester, on June 19th, was attended by only 14 ringers, but they represented eleven towers, Thorington, Thurlow, Mistley, Langham, Newport, Isle of Wight, Springfield, Clacton-on-Sea, Tendring, Earls Colne, Kirby-le-Soken and Ipswich. During the afternoon and evening there was some good ringing in several Minor methods.

The service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. Ramsey McCullum.

In the absence of the District Master, Mr. Frank Claydon took the chair at the business meeting, and Great Bentley was chosen as the place of the next meeting, to be held in September.

MR. GEORGE HENRY DAYNES.**A CORRECTION.****To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—In your issue dated February 19th last, on page 83 you print an article on 'Death of Lt.-Col. G. C. Rogers,' in which you state 'conducted by the late G. H. Daynes.'

I wish to correct this statement, and to inform you that my old friend George Henry Daynes, although well past the allotted span, is still in good health, and regularly attends St. John's, Deptford, for ringing every Sunday morning and evening.

F. W. RICHARDSON.

16, Harefield Road, Brockley, S.E.4.
[We offer Mr. Daynes our apologies.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 277.)

SIMPSON'S SECOND CHAPTER.

Canon Simpson's suggestion that English bell founders shortened their bells for the sake of convenience in ringing (and so upset the balance of their tones) was little more than a rather vague conjecture, but it has been repeated many times, and in Groves' Dictionary (the standard reference book on musical matters) it reappears as a statement of fact: 'Change ringing (practised only in this country) is directly responsible for the alteration in the shape of English bells from that prevalent on the Continent. This alteration was undoubtedly made to facilitate the balance of the bell so that it might be more easily manipulated when hung in the old style, with the result that the series of tones in each bell has been completely upset.'

This cannot be true. When the traditional shape was evolved, ringing had not developed beyond swinging the bells little more than frame high, and change ringing did not become general until centuries later. Nor could any shortening of the bell have made sufficient difference in ringing it, to induce the founders to run the risk of spoiling their work for the sake of the ringers, to whom they had no obligations, and with whom in most cases they never came into contact.

We now come to the second of the two articles which make up Canon Simpson's book. In it he goes into details as to the way to tune a bell correctly. What he says need not be taken as the final word on the subject, for he had neither the opportunities nor the necessary instruments to carry out the elaborate investigations and experiments on which the three leading founders base their systems of tuning. What he wrote was the starting point of the investigations. This is what he says:—

The object of my former paper was to place on record certain facts concerning bells as they are, and to call the attention of the musical public to them. And I did so, not only to offer an explanation of the want of harmony observable in peals—and still more in carillons—but also in order to bring public opinion to bear on founders and tuners, so as to induce them to bring their bells into a more perfect agreement with the (presumed) intentions of the original designers of the present form of bell than has been thought necessary in the past.

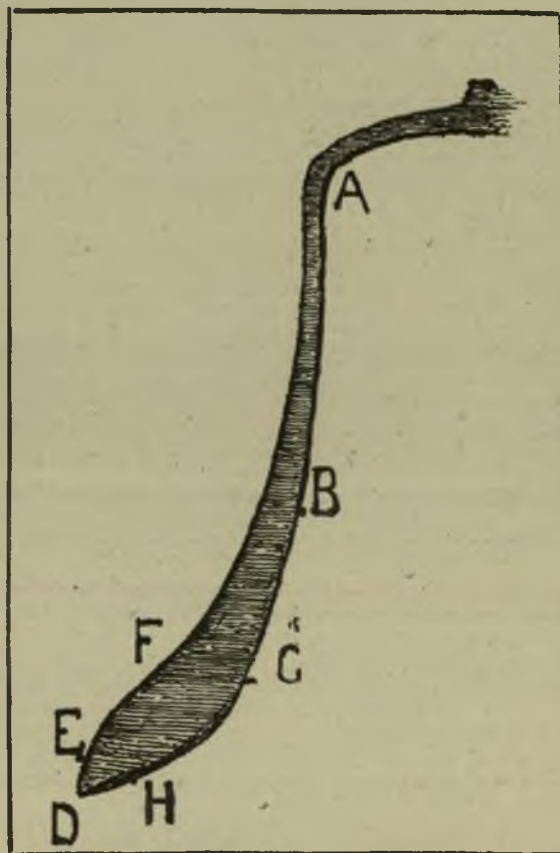
But I did something more than this. I ventured on a pretty confident opinion that existing bells and peals might (generally) be so rectified as to be much more completely in tune, both with themselves and with each other, than we have yet found them.

And here I desire to say at the outset that I am not a bell founder. Had I been such, no doubt, I should have kept any special knowledge to myself and have made use of it for my own advantage. But, having no personal interest to serve, and believing it to be for the best interests of the art that the knowledge I have acquired and which I hold to be essential to any real progress, should be at the command equally of all the profession, I have preferred to make a clean breast of all I think I have learned, and let bell founders take it or leave it as they may think best.

If, as I venture to hope, my account of things should prove correct and of value, I shall feel amply repaid if this is acknowledged (as no doubt it would be) by those

to whom it may prove an important assistance in what is now a very obscure department of the founder's art.

It will be remembered that the main point insisted on in the former article was that the tones which I have there designated as the nominal and the fundamental should in each bell be brought into unison.



According to theory the nominal should be an exact octave above the fundamental. But, as a matter of fact, we rarely find it so, the nominal being very generally about a quarter of a tone (more or less) sharper than the fundamental; and the question is, 'How to bring them together?'

In order to explain my answer to this satisfactorily, I must direct attention to the figure.

This figure represents a half-section of a normal English bell. (Foreign bells, which probably represent an earlier type, differ from the English in having the line CD straight instead of curved.) The line ABCD represents the inner surface of the bell, and forms a continuous curve, the curvature of which becomes more acute as we approach the lip at D.

The line of the outer surface is more complicated, but it is so ordered that the thickness of the bell shall be uniform from A to B, then gradually increase up to a point C, and then rapidly diminish until the bell terminates in a sharp 'cusp' at D. (A 'cusp' is a point where two curves meet and stop.)

The points E and F indicate the positions of certain 'bead lines,' which may be observed running all round a bell, which mark the boundaries of what is called the 'sound-bow,' or principal zone of the bell; and the points

H and G are the corresponding points respectively on the inner surface.

We are now in a position to explain how to tune a bell—i.e., how to alter its tones so as to bring them into harmony with each other, or with the corresponding tones in other bells.

It would evidently be inconsistent with the character of this paper to enter into a detailed description of the various processes, and of the effect of each; but here is the whole matter in a nutshell—

The point H is the 'turning-point' for tuning the nominal.

The point C is the 'turning-point' for tuning the fundamental.

To be a little more particular:—

1. To sharpen the nominal, metal must be taken away (of course all round the bell) from the little triangular portion HDE; by this means the nominal may be safely sharpened about $1/8$ th of a tone. But the process rather spoils the look of a bell, and, for that and other reasons, is not popular with tuners. Nevertheless, it is effective, and within reasonable limits, quite allowable.

2. To flatten the nominal metal must be taken off all round the bell from H to C, or to G, or even to B, if necessary, thus thinning the main part of the bell; by this means the note may well be lowered as much as half a tone if required.

Now, these two processes are well known to all English experts, and I have never met one who used any other; which shows, as I said before, that (consciously or unconsciously) English experts tune their bells to each other by the nominals and by no other note.

And now for the fundamentals:—

1. To sharpen the fundamental take off metal along

the line CD; this may be continued until line CE. To flatten the fundamental take off metal from C to G, or even to B, if necessary.

And these are the processes used by foreign experts in tuning their carillons or peals; which, again, shows (as I said before) that the main object which *they* have in view is to tune their bells to each other by the fundamentals, and not by the nominals.

If now the above rules are carefully studied in connection with the figure the following possibilities or impossibilities — which I am unable here to establish at length—will, I think, be sufficiently apparent:—

1. That the fundamental cannot be flattened without also flattening to some extent the nominal.

2. That the nominal can be flattened considerably without altering the fundamental—viz., by taking off metal, on both sides of C.

3. That the nominal can be flattened a little, while by the same process the fundamental will be a little sharpened, thus bringing the two towards each other—viz., by reducing the rounded surface CD to a flat surface.

4. That the fundamental can be sharpened considerably; while leaving the nominal nearly unaltered.

5. That, although the process of sharpening the nominal will also raise the fundamental, it will not do so in the same degree; and would tend, therefore, to bring the two together, in the unusual (and very objectionable) case of the fundamental being originally the sharper.

With these possibilities within our reach, it is surely evident that bells can, as regards these two principal tones, be put into tune with themselves and with each other. And, if so, they can be so cast in the first instance.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Last Thursday, Mr. Josiah Morris, of Leicester, reached his 76th birthday. Like his two sons, Ernest and G. Stedman, he has had a distinguished ringing career.

Mr. Frank H. Hicks is among those who have written about the heavy ring of five at Kingsdon. He says that a peal of Doubles in six methods was rung on them on March 20th, 1937. Mr. P. N. G. Rainey rang the 24 cwt. tenor.

Damage to the amount of £200 was done to St. Margaret's, Leicester, by a fire which broke out in the choir vestry. But for the prompt action of Mr. A. Bailey, one of the ringers at Knighton, it would have been much worse.

Last Wednesday was Mr. George R. Pye's 71st birthday. He has not been in very good health lately, but the whole Exercise will extend to him congratulations and every good wish.

On June 27th, 1726, Benjamin Annable and the College Youths rang 6,832 Bob Major at St. Mary's, Lambeth. It was the first time more than 5,120 changes had been rung in any method.

The old ten bells of St. Michael's, Coventry, were rung for the last time on June 27th, 1885.

The Lancashire Association rang the first peal of Northampton Surprise Major at Oswaldtwistle on June 28th, 1921.

On the 30th of June, 1833, was rung by Mr. Elijah Roberts on a Musical set of Hand Bells, fixed in a frame and remained so for the whole performance, a complete Peal of that admired system, Steadman's Cinques comprising, 5016 changes composed by himself conducted by Mr. Henry Cooper, and was accurately rung in a most masterly style in three hours and twenty-four minutes.

Henry Cooper died on July 2nd, 1864, at the age of 62. The highest point, so far, in method ringing was reached on July 1st, 1931, when William Pye called at St. Mary's, Ealing, a peal of Surprise Major in twelve spliced methods.

A peal of Spliced Plain Bob, Fulbeck Bob, Double Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung by the Norwich Diocesan Association at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, on July 1st, 1939.

The Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang the first peal of Grand-sire Cinques in hand on July 2nd, 1886. John Carter, conducted and Mr. Tom Miller rang 5-6.

The diagram on page 288 should have a point C marked between H and G and rather closer to the former than to the latter.

FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

We regret to announce that Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp and Flying Officer R. F. Kingham, R.A.F.V.R., have failed to return from bombing operations over the Ruhr.

Derek Sharp was a well-known member of the Kent County Association and took part in many peals. He received his flying training in America, where he was the hero of a rather sensational event which most of our readers will remember. For some months he had been engaged on operational duty in this country and was commissioned last April.

Ronald F. Kingham, who was 20 years of age, was a member of the Winchester and Oxford Guilds and had rung several peals.

Both probably would have made names in the Exercise and they will be missed. The price that has to be paid for final victory is a heavy one.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the articles now appearing in 'The Ringing World' on the tuning of bells, I believe most ringers realise that it is possible to have both good and bad Simpson-tuned bells, and also both good and bad 'Old Standard' type bells. Again, most ringers know the broad principles upon which the partial tones on Simpson or harmonically-tuned bells are arranged, but records and accurate statistics of good 'Old Standard' type rings are sadly lacking.

What is needed, before it is too late, is accurate records of the partial tones of bells, which, in the opinion of ringers, comprise good 'Old Standard' type rings. Before we can achieve this we must obtain ringers' opinions and find which are generally considered good rings of their type.

Could we, for instance, have the views of your readers as to which, in their opinion, constitutes the best 'Old Standard' type ring in each county, only rings 100 per cent. 'Old Standard' to be included?

I do not wish to start a controversy concerning the merits of the two systems of tuning, which in my opinion is a matter of personal taste, but to find out which are considered the best 'Old Standard' rings in the country.

For Oxfordshire I would suggest the ring of ten at Magdalen College, Oxford, with a tenor 47½ inches in diameter in E natural. The ring is made up as follows:—

Treble: Abel Rudhall, 1740. 2: Ditto, 1739. 3: Abraham Rudhall I., 1712. 4: Ditto. 5: Abel Rudhall, 1748. 6: Ellis Knight I., 1623. 7: William Dawe, circa 1400. 8: Robert Taylor and Sons, 1828. 9: Ellis Knight I., 1641. Tenor: Ditto, 1623.

Perhaps others would give their opinions on Oxfordshire and other counties.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

A PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Preoccupation with war work has prevented me from writing sooner, but I should like, if I may, to take this opportunity of adding some comments in amplification of your reasoned and wisely tolerant leading article, 'Ringing and the Public,' which appeared in the May 21st issue of 'The Ringing World.'

The question of the effect of bellringing on the general public is one of very great importance to all who are interested in, and lovers of bells. The removal of the ban, after years of silence, has brought this matter acutely to the forefront, as may be seen by the numerous letters on the subject which are now appearing in the general Press, and the time is, therefore, opportune to deal with the matter adequately and comprehensively.

After a lifetime spent in dealing with the technical and acoustic problems connected with bells, and from coming into contact with all classes of people during that time, I have found that only rarely does one find any attempt made to meet the objections properly. As a bell lover, I say unhesitatingly that in certain circumstances, and under certain conditions, the noise of bells (or 'sound' if you prefer it) can be an unmitigated nuisance and the cause of much justifiable irritation. Those who have to live or work close to a church, often in premises which are nearly on a level with the belfry, quite naturally find bellringing most distracting to say the least. Often in my own case when at work in our Croydon foundry, trying to deal with some problem requiring close concentration, I have been quite exasperated by the bells being rung on test. In such circumstances one is not in the mood to appreciate the great and undeniable beauty of bell tones and bell music.

THE REMEDY.

In your article you outline certain hints and suggestions for the conduct and performance of ringers, which, in themselves, are admirable. But, excellent as they are, they do not solve the problem completely, nor, as you rightly point out, does it help to ascribe the complaints solely to cranks and eccentrics who are prejudiced. Bells are a part and, to the majority of people, a very lovely part, of our English scene and atmosphere, and it is incumbent upon those of us who desire to maintain this part of our island life to avoid, as far as we can, those conditions which create opposition.

What, then, is the remedy? The answer in most cases is almost absurdly simple. In all my long experience I have never yet met an individual who, however bitter they have been about bells, has not admitted when pressed that they like the sound of them from a distance or across the fields in the country. Here, then, is the key to the problem. Reproduce the effect of bells when heard from a reasonable distance and almost the whole opposition would disappear at once.

TOWERS GREATLY VARY.

Unfortunately, during the past and even up to the present century, the general idea has been that bells must be hung right up on a level with the window openings with the result that in the majority of the towers they are now so installed. This is quite wrong, especially in modern towns and cities, as it fails to take into account the considerable carrying power and penetration of bell tones when rung by swinging. Acoustically, the ideal belfry would be one with no windows and no roof and with the bells fixed from six to ten feet below the top of the walls, when mouth upwards, according to size. Atmospheric and architectural considerations make this impracticable, but it is quite possible to get very near to this ideal in the great majority of existing towers simply by closing up the insides of the belfry windows with boarding or, if it is preferred to make it more permanent, brickwork or masonry, to such a height that the sound of the bells has to rise upwards before passing into the open air. Naturally each tower must be dealt with on its own merits according to local conditions, but if the job is approached intelligently there are few examples which cannot be improved enormously. For instance, a tower standing on very high ground well above and away from other buildings probably needs no alteration. On the other hand, a city church tower must be dealt with fairly drastically, and in extreme cases only a very small opening should be left at the top. The exact amount can always be determined experimentally with very little trouble. Those towers which have open spires or plenty of room above the bells lend themselves best to the purpose.

When bells are being rehung in new frames the opportunity should always be taken to fix them at a lower level relative to the window openings where conditions permit. When new towers are to be built, the levels of the floors relative to the windows should be arranged so as to allow of any bells which may be installed in the future being fixed well below the openings. In this respect I appeal particularly to architects.

The advantages of the treatment outlined above are twofold. In the first place, the sound of the bells is modulated, to any desired degree, in the immediate neighbourhood of the tower, and in the second place (and this is the more surprising to most people) will tend to increase the radius over which they can be heard. The reason for the latter fact is, I imagine, that as the sound of the bells has

(Continued in next column.)

ST. PETER'S, SHAFTESBURY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Hartley is quite correct in stating that the 5th is heavier than the tenor. We rehung this peal of six in 1922 and the bells were weighed when at the foundry at that time. The diameter of the 5th bell is 3ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., weight 13 cwt. 2qr. 7lb., and the diameter of the tenor bell is 3ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., weight 12 cwt. 2qr. 26lb. The note of the tenor is between E and E flat. I might add that these two bells were not tuned or altered in any way whilst at our foundry.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

WEIGHT OF TENORS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some correspondence has taken place in your columns about the weights of bells, and I would like to ask if any of your readers can verify the weights of the 9th and tenor at Ewerby, Lincolnshire, given by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson on page 414 of 'Among the Bells.'

He gives the 9th a diameter of 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and weight 14 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb., and the tenor 47 inches and 15 cwt. 23 lb. So small a difference as 33 lb. seems remarkable to me.

C. E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On June 19th a practice meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Association was held at Chester-le-Street, and Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. The ringers were welcomed by the Rector, Canon C. R. Appleton. Tea was at The Anchorage. Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, made sympathetic reference to the loss by Mr. Sid Breeze (late West Hartlepool) of his wife. Mr. Parker also tendered a vote of thanks to the ladies for providing the tea, and to the Rector for the use of the bells.

This is the first of a number of meetings to be arranged, and it is hoped to hold the next one at Houghton-le-Spring Parish Church on Saturday, July 10th.

A TALE OF OXFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have recently been reading a book entitled 'An Oxford University Chest,' which is a study of life in the City and University of Oxford. Possibly your readers, and in particular members of the O.U.S.C.R., may find the following quotation amusing. In the section dealing with undergraduate life, at the end of a list of the lesser-known clubs, there appears the following:—

'The Campanology Club.'—'Mr. W. Jones (Jesus) will read a paper on "The development of Bob Major into Stedman Triples in the latter half of the nineteenth century." In Mr. Williams' rooms, No. 4 Staircase, Jesus College.'

A little later in the chapter, when the author is discussing the place of clubs in undergraduate life, the following comment appears:—

'The hardest-working political economist may like an hour off a week to discuss bellringing. In the campanology club, he dares to stand himself a drink and expand.'

All very interesting, I am sure!

R. D. St. J. SMITH.

Heanor, Derbyshire.

DEATH OF MR. J. ROBERTS.

The death is announced of Mr. John Roberts, of Woolton, Liverpool, who passed away on Thursday, June 10th, at the age of 78 years.

Mr. Roberts was a life member of the Lancashire Association, which he joined in 1892, and for many years was one of the Woolton company. He had rung several peals, chiefly of Plain Bob and Grandsire.

He was laid to rest in the churchyard at Woolton on Monday, June 14th, after a service in church conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. Pryce Jones. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service. After it they were rung open to a course of Grandsire Triples.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC

(Continued from previous page.)

to rise as it leaves the tower, it passes over surrounding buildings or natural features with less obstruction. In reference to this it should be borne in mind that the customary louvers, which are placed in nearly all belfry windows, accentuate the trouble by throwing the sound downwards.

It is necessary for me to add that the foregoing comments apply to ringing peals. In the case of chimes, carillons, clock bells, etc., where the bells are stationary, it is almost always preferable to fix the bells level with the window openings so as to provide the least possible obstruction to the egress of the sound. The point is that when bells are stationary and struck by clappers or hammers, the sound produced is not nearly so insistent or penetrating as when they are swung.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 281.)

At Booton, Norfolk, there is the unusual feature of twin towers set diagonally to the main building. The lord of the manor at the end of the last century was a very remarkable man who was also Rector there for 50 years. He was the Rev. Whitwell Elwin, and we may think of him as a writer, preacher and builder, for he was editor of the 'Quarterly Review' for seven years, and, not content with being Rector of this place, pulled down the old church, distributed its treasures to churches around, and raised this many-pinnacled building, sparing no expense to produce a masterpiece in accordance with the architectural standards of his day. Startling and unorthodox, with twin towers set cornerwise, and with great heights of its doors, it is redeemed for those who do not like it by the exquisite workmanship in its woodwork—doors, pews, stalls and panelling.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels, and generous tribute is paid to them, for St. Michael stands with his sword in a niche over the porch, and the angels are everywhere—in the windows and looking down from the hammer-beam roof. The windows on one side of the nave have a cavalcade of 22 martyrs, and the windows looking at them have a lovely procession of 16 angels with wings and raiment in rich colours, every angel with a musical instrument. In the vestry windows are 21 more angels also playing instruments, and angels dominate all the windows of the chancel.

Of the bells, all the information I have is that in 1824 the parishioners obtained a faculty authorising them to sell three of their four bells which were cracked and weighed about 16 cwt. There are now two by J. Taylor and Co. (1898), the largest being about 6 cwt.

Although not actually possessing 'twin' towers, the Garrison Church at Dover might come under this head. Dover Castle, Kent, originally a Roman fortress, has gradually arisen from Anglo-Saxon and Norman work. The pharos, or light tower, one of the most ancient portions of the structure, is manifestly of Roman workmanship, and was originally octagonal and about 14 paces across inside, the walls being no less than 10ft. thick at the base and about 40ft. high. The towers are numerous and have been built at different times, some of them being Norman, and in the centre of the keep is the massive keep or palace tower.

The ancient Church of St. Mary, within the east precincts adjoining the pharos, is now used as the garrison church. It is believed to have been originally Romano-British work. It has a central tower with one bell, 29in. in diameter, by Warner and Sons, 1880. Tradition says that in the 17th century there was a ring of six here, but whether they were in the church tower or the old Roman Pharos—as Hasted states—is somewhat doubtful.

Tradition is equally contradictory as to the fate of the old ring. One authority states that Prince George of Denmark, at the intercession of Admiral Rooke, caused them to be removed to Portsmouth and placed in the tower of St. Thomas' Church there. Another authority states that the order for removal to Portsmouth was never carried out, but that the bells went to St. Margaret at Cliffe. Neither of these traditions is correct, for the date of Portsmouth bells disposed of the first, and St. Margaret at Cliffe only possesses one bell, and that of earlier date than the supposed transfer, thus disproving the second.

In the surrender MSS. is some information as to one of the bells here, which is trustworthy as being within the personal knowledge of the narrator, Sir Edward Deering. It is given as follows in 'Arch. Cant,' Vol. I.: It appears that there was at that time (1630) in this church a brass—of which a sketch is given—to Sir Robert Astone, and the following note is added by Sir Edward:—

'The circumscription of the great bell heere and weighing 3,000lb. weight, and which was the gift of that Sr. Robert Astone, hath every letter fayre and curiously cast, and each crowned with a ducal crown, "Dominus Robertus de Astone Miles me fecit fieri Ao quarto R. Ricardi sedi G." Lower than this in small letters was cast

"Stepne Norton of Kent
Me made in god intent."'

It may be noted that the last two lines appear on a bell at Chiselborough, Somerset, cast by the said Stephen Norton, and that the only two other specimens of his work known to exist—at Snaive and Holy Cross, Canterbury—the inscriptions are in very handsome crowned capitals.

At Horfield, Glos, some six miles from Bristol, the parish church has two towers, one at the crossing of the transepts, and the other at the west end. According to the only note I have on this church there are five bells, treble by A. Rudhall, 1715, inscribed, 'Fear God and honour the King'; second by John Rudhall, 1810, bearing churchwarden's name; third by A. Rudhall; fourth by Abraham Bilbie, 1734; and tenor by A. Rudhall, 1773, with the inscription, 'George the IIIrd. Defender of the Faith: Dr. Newton, Lord Bp. of Bristol: John Shadwell, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Horfield.' The tenor is 37in. diameter and note B flat.

(To be continued.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DUFFIELD.

At least 35 ringers from Duffield, Belper, Darley Dale, Ripley, Ilkeston, Breaston, Ticknall, Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Spondon and Greasley were present at a meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association at Duffield on June 26th. A welcome visitor was Mr. Cockey, of London, formerly secretary to the Peak District.

The methods rung included Stedman Doubles, Triples and Caters, Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Spliced Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Duffield Major.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at West Hallam on Saturday, July 24th. As the church is very pleasantly situated with a nice ring of eight bells, ringers should make a note of the date.

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STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH.

The Story of its Bells.

BY JOHN P. FIDLER.

The first account of the bells of the Parish Church of Stockport is supplied by the Report of the Commissioners appointed in the reign of Henry VIII. to inquire into the Church property of the Macclesfield Hundred. Their return, dated 1548, shows that at that time Stockport had 'a ryng of iiii,' a number not exceeded by any church in the Hundred except Northenden, which had five. No account is given of the weight of the peal.

The next information is derived from an inventory taken in 1683, and contained in the account books of the churchwardens for that year. It records that there were then 'five bells in the steeple and one little bell at ye east end of ye Church.' The old peal of four may have been increased to five when the tower of the church was rebuilt in 1612. These five bells were sent to Rudhalls, Gloucester, in exchange for a new ring of six towards the end of 1731, the Rev. Harry Style being Rector at that time. Judging by the following entries which appear in the churchwardens' accounts, it would seem as though Stockport got its bells very cheaply, but it is very evident these accounts are not complete.

		L	s	d
1731				
Deer	Paid the Carters for carriage of ye bells to Salop and back	17	2	3½
	Pd Francis Rigley, ye bellhanger his bill	8	1	4
	Pd Mr. Rudhall ye founder for exchange of ye bells	139	19	6
	Pd fr six new clappers	3	9	3
	" " six new baldrings	0	15	0

The following tables show the weights of the bells in the aforementioned rings ('Stockport, Ancient and Modern,' Vol. I., page 219):—

1683.

	cwt.	qr.	lb.
Treble	6	2	6
2	6	3	9
3	9	0	22
4	9	3	23
Tenor	12	1	0

1731.

	cwt.	qr.	lb.
Treble	6	1	8
2	7	0	14
3	8	1	12
4	8	3	10
5	10	3	10
Tenor	14	1	4

The 1731 ring of six have been knocked about a bit and the inscriptions of the 2nd and tenor have been effaced (rumour hath it that some of the parishioners objected to them and had them removed), only the founder's initials and date being left on. The remaining inscriptions are: Treble, 'Prosperity to the Town and Parish, AR, 1731'; 3rd, 'ABR Rudhall of Gloucester, Caster's Hall, 1731'; 4th, 'Harry Style, Rector, AR 1731'; and 5th, 'Thomas Robinson, Robert Lingard, George Whitaker, James Sellars, Church Wardens.' This is the peal that was sold to Marple in 1816 for £407, being 55 cwt. 3 st. 2 lb. at £7 7s. (see my 'History of Marple Bells').

Numerous entries of payments to ringers for their services appear in the churchwardens' accounts, some of which are as follows:—

1683	Paid to ye Ringers for ringeing ye 29th Maye the Kings Birthday and Coronato. day	0.	6.	8.
	Pd more then to the Ringers, as their due custome for ale and tobacco	0.	1.	0.
	Paid to the Ringers for ringeing on the fifth daye of November	0.	6.	8.
	Paid them in ale and tobacco on that daye	0.	1.	0.
1697	Paid to the ringers in ale and money when news came for Peace	0.	3.	6.
	Item paid at ye King's returne (The Peace referred to in 1697 was on the occasion of the Treaty of Pyswick.)	00.	04.	00.
1704	Paid for 3 days ringeing about ye victory obtained over ye French and Bavarians near Hockstart, Germany	01.	03.	00.
1712	Paid for ringeing when ye Sheriff came to proclaim the cessation of arms between Great Britn. and Ffrance	0.	6.	8.
	Pd same day for ale and tobacco	0.	13.	8.
	Pd to Wm. Davenport for iron work done att ye bells 470lbs at 4d per lb he taking ye old iron 380lbs at 12d per lb to balance	5.	1.	2.
	Pd for ringeing on ye account of Dr Sackerville Sept 21. Pd for ringeing of News att ye landing of King George	0.	6.	8.
	Spent with company to drink his Majis. health	0.	1.	0.
1745	Dec. 25 Pd to the ringers ringeing two days and a half when the King's troops whent thro the Towne in persuit of ye Rebels in their retreat from Derby	1.	0.	0.
1746	March 12. To ringeing two days when King's troops raised the siege against ye rebels at Stirling	1.	0.	0.
	April 29. To the ringers for ringeing two days and a half upon the news of the Duke of Cumberland defeating the rebels near Culloden on 16th. inst.	1.	5.	0.
1726	Gave ringers in ale when bells was new hung	0.	2.	0.

By the beginning of the 19th century the condition of the church tower was such that it was necessary to pull it down; in fact, the whole of the church, with the exception of the chancel, was demolished and a new church built. The trustees for the building of the new church were of the opinion that the ring of six was too small for the new tower, and resolved that a new ring of eight be provided. The new ring of eight was supplied by John Rudhall, of Gloucester, and they were hung in the new tower in 1817.

Their inscriptions are as under:—

Treble.	'Church and King 1817.'
2nd.	'Prosperity to the Town and Parish 1817.'
3rd.	'These bells were all cast at Gloucester by John Rudhall 1817.'
4th.	'S. Jowett, T. Gates, J. Minshull and James Rixon Churchwardens.'
5th.	'John Arderne. William Davenport. William Fox. Thomas Leigh Principales Præpositi.'
6th.	'Lord and Lady Warren-Buckley, Patrons 1817.'
7th.	'Rev. Charles Prescott BD, Rector. Rev. E. Hawell and Rev. K. Prescott MA, Curates.'
Tenor.	'I call in prayer the living to combine The dead must hear a louder sound than mine.'

James Rixon, whose name appears on the fourth bell, was a well-known local ringer of his time. He died at Romiley and was buried at Stockport on December 14th, 1851, aged 95 years. The Rev. K. Prescott, whose name appears on the seventh bell, was the curate in charge at Marple.

The total cost of the peal was £1,087, and they were rung for the first time on August 24th, 1817. Four prizes of fourteen, eight, six and four guineas were offered for the best peal of Holt's Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5,040 changes, and on September 11th and 12th, 1817, the Ashton, Chester, Manchester, Mottram Seniors, Mottram Juniors and Oldham ringers competed. The first prize was awarded to Mottram Seniors, who rang the peal in 2 hours and 46 minutes; the second to Oldham, who took 2 hours 49 minutes 18 seconds; the third to Manchester; and the fourth to Mottram Juniors. Stockport appears to have maintained a reasonably good band, and a fair number of peals were scored, several of which are

(Continued on next page.)

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH.

(Continued from previous page.)

recorded on boards in the ringing room. An ancestor of the writer, Henry Paulden, was one of the band for a number of years and scored several peals. He later moved to Knaresborough.

After about eighty years' service the tenor bell was damaged by having a large piece knocked out of the lip. In 1897 all the bells were removed to Loughborough for attention, the tenor was recast and the remaining bells tuned. Two very good friends of the ringers, the Brothers Blackshaw, decided they might as well make a good job of it whilst they were at it, and gave two trebles to complete the ring of ten.

The inscription on the new treble is 'Voce mea ad Dominum, A.D. 1897,' and that on the 2nd is 'Deus Laudum, A.D. 1897, Gift of Two Brothers, Thomas W. Blackshaw, born 1849, and Joseph Blackshaw, born 1852. Both baptised in this Church.'

The additional inscription on the recast tenor bell is, 'This bell was recast A.D. 1897, the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Rev. William Symonds, M.A., Rector. George Leah, Henry Gregory, Henry Clarke, John James Sidebottom, wardens. George Fredk. Tatton, Superintendent of Sunday School.' In addition, there is the mark of the founder, 'John Taylor and Co.' Its weight is 24 cwt.

The Gordon family has been in charge of these bells for many years, and old William Gordon, whose arrangements of handbell music are well known, and which were in great demand during his lifetime, did much to maintain the old ringing customs that had been handed down, even though he was not a great peal ringer. His son, William, too, did all he could to maintain these customs, and thus the bells, as of yore, played their part in celebrating national and local events. The writer has joined in the ringing on several of these occasions, and the last occasion he had the pleasure of ringing there was on Thursday, June 22nd, 1922, when a peal of Treble Bob Royal was rung to welcome home the Prince of Wales from his South American tour.

The band was made up as follows: Frank Stonely treble, Ben Thorp 2nd, John P. Fidler 3rd, James Fernley, sen., 4th, James H. Riding 5th, Fred Holt 6th, Tom Wilde 7th, W. W. Wolstencroft 8th, Albert Hough 9th, and Sam Booth tenor. Conducted by Tom Wilde.

I do not suppose any of the band will forget the event. It was a warm evening, and 'Time, gentlemen,' had been called before the peal came round. Robinson's brewery is no great distance from the church, and the smell of hops and malt had entered through the open windows of the ringing chamber, so one can well imagine the feelings of the band as they filed down the turret stairs. Still, they had hopes, but these faded when they saw a limb of the law standing outside the door of the 'Pack Horse' just across from the church. But, happily, he knew the 'Nelson touch.' Remarking, 'I bet you chaps could do with a drink,' he walked away, and ere he had disappeared round the corner the door of the 'Pack Horse' opened, and there was not a ringer to be seen.

BANBURY, OXON.—On Whit Monday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1,259 changes: F. Selwyn, jun. 1, F. Baldwin 2, H. Alexander 3, H. Impey 4, W. Watson 5, F. Selwyn sen. 6, M. Smith 7, G. Holfield (conductor) 8, J. Simons 9, T. Impey 10.

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/-.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, followed by business meeting. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, July 3rd, at Christ Church, Southport, 2.30 p.m. Emmanuel in the evening. Make own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Hereford on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells from 2.30: All Saints' (8), St. Nicholas' (6), Cathedral (10). Service at St. Nicholas' at 4.30 p.m., followed by meeting at the College Hall of Cathedral at 5 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—Rev. E. G. Benson, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Braughing, on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Shedfield on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Fratton; Portsmouth.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Newbury on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Dagenham on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells at 3, service 4.15, tea and business 5 p.m. — J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.1.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—Annual meeting at Adderbury, Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea to follow.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

SUFFOLK GUILD. — Woodbridge, Saturday, July 3rd. Ringing at 2.30 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Guild practice on Monday, July 5th, at St. Thomas' Church, Dudley, at 7.45 p.m. — J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting Saturday, July 10th, at Oswaldtwistle. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—F. Hindle, Branch Secretary, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Wellington Parish Church, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. till 8.30. Tea at cafes in town, 4.30.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North-West District.—Meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names must be sent not later than previous Tuesday. Service ringing at St. James', Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Sunday, July 11th, will be arranged if enough visiting ringers are able to complete the band. — T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts; G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Meeting at Balcombe, July 10th. Names for tea to Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottage, Balcombe. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Halewood on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 5, followed by meeting. Cups of tea provided; bring own food. Buses leave Pierhead every two hours, starting at 2 p.m. Another service leaves Pierhead every half hour to Wood Road, Hunt's Cross, a quarter of an hour's walk from there.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Church House. Names to Mr. W. Green, 9, Moor Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, before July 7th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough Branch.—Meeting at Guilsborough (6 bells) on Saturday, July 10th. Bring own food. — C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Grimsby District at Barton-on-Humber, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. in Church Institute. Names for tea to Mr. A. W. Hoodless, 11, Holydyke, Barton-on-Humber, by July 7th.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting Ulverston, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting after service. Names for tea to N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston, before Wednesday, July 7th.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday, July 17th, Longton tower (8 bells) will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea at 1s. 6d. for all members who apply, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 10th. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bottesford on Saturday, July 17th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach me by Wednesday, July 14th. — T. Groombridge, 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — Meeting at Goldhanger, Saturday, July 17th. Buses leave Maldon 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., and Goldhanger 7.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea to Mr. J. D. Buckingham, Rectory Cottage, Goldhanger, near Maldon, by Wednesday, July 14th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Bexley, on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mr. H. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, by Monday, July 12th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Kinver, Saturday, July 17th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Woden Cafe, High Street. Numbers to me by Wednesday, 14th, please, or caterer will not provide tea. — Bernard C. Ashford, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who let Mr. B. Pankhurst, The Chestnut, Leigh, know by Tuesday, July 13th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Service ringing.—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, first and third Sunday, 9.40 a.m.; St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 10.15 a.m., third Sunday.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

BIRMINGHAM.—Service ringing.—Cathedral, Colmore Row, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays, 10 a.m.; 2nd, 4th, 5.30 p.m. St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, Bath Street, 1st Sunday in month, 5.30 p.m.—G. E. Fearn, W.E. Box.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — Mr. H. E. Audsley's address is now 336, Mayplace Road East, Barnehurst, Bexley Heath, Kent.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST.

When you are teaching beginners, which is the best method to start them on? This is a question much debated by ringers in the past, and to-day one of more than usual importance. Some there have been who have advocated Stedman, and have offered to back up their opinion with copious arguments, though we have never heard that they could show any practical proofs. But for ordinary purposes and for ordinary people we may say that the choice lies between Plain Bob and Grandsire, which really means between the simplest even- and the simplest odd-bell method.

For either of them there is a lot to be said, but what, we fancy, usually decides the matter is not any deliberate decision of the instructor, but habit and force of circumstances. And, indeed, in many cases the instructor has very little choice: he has to take what comes readiest to his hand.

Yet, as we have urged before, the task of teaching would be easier and more successful if both the instructor and the learner consciously considered and understood why they were trying to do certain things and what the object of the teaching really is. For instance, the aim both should have in mind is not primarily that the learner should be able to ring Grandsire or Plain Bob, but that he should become a competent ringer. And what makes a competent ringer? Three things mainly. First, he must have complete bell control, so that he can handle any bell, within limits, and be able to strike it with an accuracy of at least a sixteenth part of a second. Secondly, he must be able to find his way unerringly through the other bells according to any definite path he may have in his mind. And thirdly, he must have acquired a sense of rhythm without which good striking is impossible.

Now, all good ringers have these qualities, though, of course, in varying degree; but in far too many instances they are acquired subconsciously as the result of long practice, and not deliberately. Men are too much concerned with ringing what are called the higher methods to pay proper attention to things which are more important and should come first, and which, when they do come first, make the higher methods quite easy to ring.

A man can learn to be a competent ringer by means of either Plain Bob or Grandsire, and many a good ringer (especially in the past) has had few opportunities of practising any of the more advanced methods, while it is quite a common thing to find those who think themselves able to ring even Surprise who have

(Continued on page 298.)

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not yet acquired either full bell control or the art of striking.

First things should come first, and a good instructor will see that they do. However eager the novice may be to ring changes, and however anxious his instructor may be for him to make rapid progress, both should realise that time spent with a lashed clapper gaining bell control is not time wasted, but will save much time in the future, and that before long.

The next thing—the very next thing—is to acquire a sense of the rhythm of the bells. It should be done consciously and deliberately by round ringing, by listening carefully while others are ringing, and, if possible, by handbell ringing.

And here comes in an important point, far too often ignored by instructors. Never try to teach a band or a single novice on eight bells, not even to ring rounds. What the learner has to acquire is not merely the facility of pulling his rope steadily and regularly after another rope, but a sense of the rhythm of all the bells. For that eight are too many. Six are better and five much better still. When his ear has got attuned to the rhythm of the bells half the difficulty of hunting has gone before ever it is attempted. It will be a smooth and easy path he will have to tread from front to back and back to front, whereas if he has no sense of the rhythm he will stumble and flounder among rocks and morasses and inevitably lose his way.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM J. JEFFREYS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William J. Jeffreys, which occurred last Saturday at the County Hospital, Farnborough, Kent, after an operation. Mr. Jeffreys, who was 73 years of age, was well known as a ringer and conductor in the south-eastern suburban district of London and among members of the Kent County Association.

DEATH OF MR. W. H. ANDREWS

By the death of Mr. W. H. Andrews, which occurred on June 24th, the band at Canterbury Cathedral has lost its oldest member.

The funeral was at St. Stephen's, Hackington, on Monday, June 28th, and was attended by Messrs. J. W. Unwin, F. G. Brett, P. J. Small and F. Wells, members of the band. Among the floral tributes was one from the ringers.

During the evening the Cathedral bells were rung half-muffled, and at the same time mention was made of five other members who had died, and in whose memory no muffled bells could be rung owing to the ban. They were R. A. Baldock, E. E. Trendell (president), G. G. Jenkins, G. H. Simpson and W. E. Pitman.

Mr. Andrews joined the band in 1885. For several years he had been unable to climb the many steps to the belfry, but he regularly met the ringers at Christchurch Gateway before service or practice ringing. He was treasurer to the company.

SOUND CONTROL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Owing to the utterly dwindling effect that it will have on clock chimes and carillons, I look with horror at the idea of belfry windows being drastically built up in order to minimise the nuisance of ringing bells. It seems like robbing Peter to pay Paul. The number of churches that can boast extra bells for the chimes can literally be counted on the hands—the great majority have to use the ringing peal for the chimes.

Therefore, if the sound of the bells is to be so reduced for ringing when they are employed for chimes they become so inaudible as to be useless. In a great proportion of our towers, instead of such a permanent blocking-up, the louvres might be worked on the shutter principle—these could then be closed when ringing is in progress and opened afterwards for the chimes.

In many cases, if the present slant of the louvres was simply reversed, no doubt the desired modulation would be obtained and be suitable for ringing or chimes.

When deciding on this question of sound control let us have a fair deal, remembering that bells give pleasure and usefulness, apart from the ringing use, a fact, I fear, that many ringers are apt to forget.

SYDNEY L. MARSHALL.

9, Grove Avenue, Wadsley, Sheffield.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5103 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb. in F sharp.

STAFFORD H. GREEN 2	Treble	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 2		EDWARD R. COLES 7
ARTHUR J. BARTLETT 3		JAMES R. MACKMAN 8
C. ERNEST SMITH 4		CHARLES HAZELDEN 9
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 5		ERNEST J. MUNDAY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Rung on the eve of Independence Day.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ARKLOW.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(ARKLOW CHURCH RINGERS' GUILD.)

On Sunday, June 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

*HENRY H. ANNESLEY 5	Treble	JAMES FLIGHT 5
*MRS. F. E. DUKES 2		*MISS M. ALEXANDER 6
WILLIAM T. SHAW 3		SAMUEL J. EVANS 7
FRED E. DUKES 4		JOHN W. NUZZEM Tenor

Conducted by FRED E. DUKES.

Rung on front five, with 7, 6, 8 covering. * First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

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

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

*MILES A. BEAUCHAMP 5	Treble	THOMAS G. BANNISTER 5
WALTER SPARROW 2		NORMAN V. HARDING 6
WILLIAM WELLING 3		ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
†G. WILLIAM MORRIS 4		TONY PRICE Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

STAFFORD ARCHDEACONRY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on June 26th, and was attended by over 60 members.

Service in church was conducted by the Rev. I. F. Parker, who gave an address. The lesson was read by the Rev. C. H. Barker, and Mr. A. E. Hodgkinson was at the organ. Mr. Wallater presided over the business meeting. The report and statement of accounts were accepted, the accounts showing a balance on the right side of £8, bringing the total to £43 16s. 6d. All the officers were re-elected.

The following places were selected for the coming meetings: All Saints', West Bromwich, in September, and Willenhall in April. It was decided not to hold a meeting in January. A sum of one guinea was voted to the Gabriel Lindoff Memorial Fund.

A vote of thanks to the Rector (Canon Brierley) for the use of the bells, to the Rev. J. F. Parker for his address, to the organist, and to the ladies who provided and served cups of tea, brought the meeting to a close.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CHADWELL HEATH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 29, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-One Minutes,

AT 9, PARK VILLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

L. W. BULLOCK 1-2	|	J. BULLOCK, SEN. 3-4
T. H. BULLOCK 5-6		

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpires—G. R. Pye, J. George and E. W. Pye.

A birthday compliment to Mr. G. R. Pye.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	|	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	|	JOHN E. ROOTES 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 39, ALBANY STREET,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD 1-2	|	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE 3-4	|	*WALTER H. DOBBIE 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, July 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 18 in G.

WILFRED WILLIAMS 1-2	|	ROYSTON G. BRYANT 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN 3-4	|	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter of Mr. F. C. W. Stevenson recalls to mind the efforts I made to get the louvres of St. John's Church, Blackpool, built up. I approached three different vicars of the church on the subject at various times and in each case the clergy were strongly in favour after I had shown them the great advantages to be derived. Every time the local church council strongly objected. In one case because of the expense. The ringers offered to brick up the louvres for the cost of materials only, one of the ringers being a bricklayer.

I tried again when the present Vicar took charge of the church and parish: this time to strengthen my case I applied for and got a very helpful letter from the president of the Central Council. The local Church Council got the advice of the town architect, who declared that if the sound waves were not allowed to escape at once there was danger of the inner lining of the bell chamber being affected. At the following Central Council meeting the subject of blocking or building up louvre windows was under discussion, and, needless to say, the view of Blackpool's town architect caused much amusement.

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ABBEYS AND PARISH CHURCHES.

DISPUTES ABOUT BELL RINGING.

During the Middle Ages disputes between monastic houses and parish churches were very frequent, and they usually arose about the ringing of bells. The parish churches in question were either parts of the abbey churches, or they were buildings erected just outside. They were intended for the use of the laity connected with the abbey, for the abbey church itself was reserved for the monks. There are many such churches still in existence. St. Margaret's at Westminster is a good example, and most of the cathedrals have a parish church either actually within the building, as at Norwich, Ely, and Old St. Paul's, or immediately adjacent, as at Exeter and Rochester. Originally the abbey built or provided the parish church; it held the patronage; and either served its altar or appointed a vicar. The parish church was treated as a humble dependant on the great abbey.

But the parishioners, especially as time went on and new ideas arose, were not content with such an inferior status. They claimed that their church was independent of the abbey, and here, no doubt, they had the backing of the diocesan bishops who regarded with jealousy the privileges and exemptions of the monastic bodies.

The sign of independence was the ringing of a bell which thus became the centre of dispute. The abbey was willing to ring their bells for the parochial services, thereby showing overruling position; but the parishes determined to assert their independence, to have their own bells, and to ring them how and when they pleased.

That seems in most cases to have been the real dispute, but the abbey found, and made much of, another grievance in the fact that the ringing of the parochial bells disturbed and hindered the performance of divine service in the abbey churches. I imagine that when relations were strained, the parish bells were often rung with the deliberate intention of annoying the monks. Two centuries later, when the puritan and anglican parties were contending within the Church, it was a common thing for sermons and services to be disturbed by the 'untimely ringing of bells,' and orders and canons were issued to stop it.

It was at the beginning of the fifteenth century that the disputes between monasteries and parish churches became frequent, the time when the general public began to take a great interest in their bells and bell towers. The best known is that between the priory and parish of Wymondham in Norfolk, which was brought before the King's Courts; but generally the matter was settled by the arbitration or intervention of the diocesan bishop, or, if that failed, by an appeal to Rome.

At Spalding the prior and convent turned one of their chapels into a parish church, but laid down restrictions as to bell ringing. These the parishioners tried to set aside, and on November 9th, 1400, they obtained a papal licence to ring whenever they pleased 'the bell in the chapel of St. Thomas in their parish, which had been converted, at no small expense to the prior and convent of Spaldyng, and with the consent of the parishioners, into the church of St. Mary. Notwithstanding the agreement made at the time of the building that the parishioners should not ring the bells while the convent was in dormitory, except on certain solemn feasts, and at divers seasons.'

The priory appealed to Rome. The monks did not intend to have their sleep at night disturbed by the bell ringing of zealous laymen if they could help it. It may be, though we have no direct evidence, that the parishioners already were amusing themselves with bell ringing after their day's work was done.

The licence was cancelled, and on July 2nd, 1401, the Pope ordered that hereby in future after the ringing of the priory bell, wont to be rung for the curfew until in the morning it is rung for prime, the bells cannot, and shall not, without evident necessity, be rung in the said church.

To end the dispute the prior and convent were to build a new parish church, away from the priory, on the other side of the river Welland. The parish was to build its own bell tower, but the prior and convent were to give them two bells price £20. 'The parishioners shall not ring in their church at such times as the convent is reposing in dormitory, except on Christmas day and night, or for fire, flood, or other grave misfortune.'

In the year 1401 the Pope wrote to the Abbots of Pershore and Evesham, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester that 'having recently learned that the parish church of St. Peter Wynchecumbe and the Benedictine monastery of Wynchecumbe are almost contiguous, so that it often happens that by the ringing of the bells of the said church the abbot and convent and others celebrating divine service in the monastery are hindered and disturbed in saying the canonical hours and in celebrating such offices,' the matter was to be inquired into, and 'if they find the above to be the case, to ordain that at night, namely, after the ringing of the monastery bell for the curfew, until in the morning the bell is rung for prime, the bells shall not without evident necessity, be rung in the said church, and that even at other times and especially during such divine offices, they shall be rung moderately; and the vicar and parishioners were to be inhibited from acting otherwise.'

For many years before the Reformation the see of Worcester was held by a succession of Italian ecclesiastics who performed their duties by deputy. Whether this was so as early as 1406 I do not know; but on February 5th in that year Pope Innocent the Seventh issued a commission, not to the bishop, but to the Abbot of Pershore 'to cause by excommunication and other censures, inviolable observance notwithstanding, its interruption for some years past by bold despisers of the ancient custom whereby after the daily ringing commonly called curfew of the evening bell in the cathedral church and, also in the morning before the ringing to prime, no bell can or ought to be rung in other churches of the city, which interruption is to the no small disturbance and injury of the prior and chapter and other religious bound to be present at matins and prayers and the night offices.'

In the City of London, the parish church of St. Katherine, Creechurch, in what is now Leadenhall Street, stood alongside the great priory of the Holy Trinity at Aldgate, and in the course of time disputes arose between the prior and the parishioners, one of the grievances being that the parish bells interrupted the priory services. In the year 1414 the Bishop of London made an agreement between them, and among other clauses was one which said that there was to be no ringing to the Office of the Resurrection in the church or chapel until such office in the conventual church at the

usual time was finished. This agreement was confirmed by the Pope no doubt in order to safeguard the extra-diocesan rights of the priory.

The Prior of Bath Abbey claimed the right of ringing the Abbey bells first and last in the city, and none of the parish churches were allowed to ring before those of the convent in the morning or after the curfew at night. This the citizens, headed by the mayor, resented as derogatory to their dignity; and they caused the parish bells to be rung when they pleased. A bitter dispute resulted, lasting many years, with insults and invective on both sides. In the ninth year of King Henry the Fifth an inquisition was held at Frome, and judgment was given in favour of the Abbey.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Whit Sunday for evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: Trooper G. Swainton (of Catterick) 1, G. H. Harding (conductor) 2, W. Loud 3, R. Amor 4, S. J. Hector 5, J. Francis 6, E. Parker 7, S. Francis 8.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, June 13th, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, *W. Redrup 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, Sgt. J. Berry, R.A. (Berkshire Yeomanry) 5, R. Buckland 6, H. Wingrove (first in method on tower bells as conductor) 7, †Sgt.-Major J. Pryor, R.A. (Berkshire Yeomanry) 8. * First quarter-peal in the method. † First quarter-peal.

PRITTLEWELL.—On Sunday, June 20th, 1,264 Bob Major: Philip Sadler (first quarter-peal) 1, William James 2, Cyril E. Smith 3, William Perry 4, Jack Belcham 5, Frank B. Lufkin (conductor) 6, C. W. Lawton 7, E. J. Taylor 8.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, June 20th, at St. Mary's-without-the-Walls, 1,344 Bob Major: George Lee 1, John W. Griffiths 2, Harry Lewis 3, Harry Pye 4, James Swindley 5, Arthur Close 6, Thomas Griffiths 7, Percy Swindley 8. Rung for the 56th anniversary of the church.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Trinity Sunday, at All Saints', 1,344 Bob Major: B. Norman 1, R. Smith 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, M. Ginn 5, A. W. T. Ginn 6, W. Seekings 7, C. Robinson 8.

WEIGHTS OF BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are no doubt hundreds of instances up and down the country of differences in the weights of the bells in a ring besides those quoted by Mr. Hartley. Here are a few.

The second of the ring of eight at Stoke Coventry is seven pounds lighter than the treble. The fourth and fifth of the ring of six at Swalcliffe, Oxon, are exactly the same weight. The treble at Kineton, Warwickshire, is heavier than the second, third or fourth, and this despite the fact that all were cast by the same founder—Abel Rudhall—at the same time.

At the opening of the ring of eight at Wellingborough, Northants, I was informed by the bellhanger that the weights of the bells went 'down and up,' which means that going down the scale several bells are lighter in weight than the one immediately preceding them. At one time the tenor at Bromham, near Bedford, was much lighter in weight than the fifth—the seventh of the present grand ring of eight.

These examples, together with those given by Mr. Hartley, make it quite plain that to judge the weight of a ring by that of the tenor would indeed be unreliable.

Referring to the question raised by Mr. Amos about the heaviest ring of five, I would like to ask if the five at East Bergholt, Suffolk, are to be included? These hang in a bell-house in the churchyard and are rung by men standing on the frame and turning the stocks. Mr. Ernest Morris, in 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' gives the weight of the tenor as 25 cwt.

I was told some years before the war of a ring of five at Bredon, South Worcestershire, with a tenor of 28 cwt. These bells have been unringable for some years and the weight given is possibly an exaggeration. Despite this there is no doubt these are a heavy ring and I would welcome particulars of weights, measurements, etc., from anyone who has rung on them.

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

47, Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry.

'THE HIGHEST POINT.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The paragraph in Belfry Gossip in this week's 'Ringing World,' which says that 'The highest point, so far, in method ringing was reached on July 1st, 1931, when a peal of Surprise Major in twelve spliced methods was rung,' is open to question.

I think that most ringers will agree with me that the two peals rung at Bigby, Lincolnshire, on July 19th and 26th, 1939, exceeded everything that had been rung before. In these peals 104 and 125 methods were rung.

A. RELFE.

Windmill Cottage, Lamberhurst.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Major J. H. R. Freeborn has retired from the Army and his permanent address is Combe House, St. Thomas', Oxford. He is temporarily engaged in his professional capacity on Government work in Northern Ireland.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Tom Miller, of Birmingham, reached his 85th birthday. He is in fairly good health and is now living at Quinton Hall, Quinton, Birmingham.

It is good to hear that though All Saints' Church at Isleworth was completely gutted by the recent fire, the tower and bells have escaped damage. The architect has decided that the bells may be rung, and the local band has arranged a meeting for July 17th, particulars of which will be found in our notice column.

As a general rule ringers do not like to hear gramophone reproductions of bells from churches—they are too much like shams—but it was an excellent idea to broadcast the sound of the famous old Bow Bells when, last week, a service was held in the ruins of the church in Cheapside.

Fifty years ago yesterday Mr. George Williams called a peal of Stedman Triples at Steyning. Mr. Keith Hart rang the second and Mr. Frank Bennett the third.

The first peal of Ashbourne College Bob Major was rung at Staines on July 6th, 1938.

The first peal of Beddington Surprise Major was rung at Beddington on July 7th, 1932: and the first peal of Whitminster Surprise Major at Bolsover on July 7th, 1934.

A peal of Spliced Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob Major was rung at Crayford on July 8th, 1926.

GABRIEL LINDOFF.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL.

The following appeal has been issued by the Irish Association to its members and the Exercise generally:—

'It was decided at our recent annual meeting to erect a memorial tablet in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, to the memory of Gabriel Lindoff, who died in November, 1941.

'Gabriel Lindoff's work for the Exercise is too well known to be enlarged upon here. He was joint founder and hon. secretary of the Irish Association of Change Ringers from 1898-1941. For almost half a century he acted as keeper of the belfry and instructor to St. Patrick's Cathedral Society of Amateur Change Ringers. His death has removed from the ringing world one of the greatest figures bellringers have ever known. It is almost true to say, wherever a peal of bells was rung in the United Kingdom, Gabriel Lindoff visited that tower. Bellringing was one of the passions of his life.

'The estimated cost of erecting the memorial is about £50 and the committee feel that your members would very much wish to be associated with it. Subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the hon. treasurer of the Memorial Fund, Mr. W. H. Wilson, 6, Ashfield Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin, before July 31st, or by the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, M.A., St. George's Rectory, Drumcondra, Dublin, Canon of St. Patrick's and president of the I.A.C.R.'

DEATH OF MR. E. CLAPSHAW.

One of the oldest ringers in the country passed away on June 24th, when Mr. E. Clapshaw, of Farnham, died at the age of 98 years and 5 months.

The funeral was at Farnham Cemetery on June 28th and was attended by Messrs. C. Edwards, A. E. King, R. Hasted and T. Upshall, of the local ringers.

Mr. Clapshaw had been a member of the Farnham band since 1866 and captain for about 37 years. He was a life member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, and a foundation member of the Guildford Guild. He had rung about 25 peals, mostly Grandsire Triples.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT UPPER HARTFIELD.

On June 25th about 25 members of the East Grinstead and District Guild were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield. Tea was served on the lawn and handbell ringing included Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Minor and Major. Meetings were arranged at Balcombe (July 10th) and Rotherfield in August. The Hartfield band rang some tunes on the handbells.

LAVENHAM RINGING ANNIVERSARY.

The 132nd ringing anniversary was celebrated at Lavenham on June 19th and a meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at the same time. Ringers were present from Groton, Cornard, Newton, Long Melford, Little Waldingfield, Sudbury, Hurst (Sussex), Coggeshall and Goldhanger (Essex) and the local band. The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Superlative Surprise.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BARNSELEY.

The Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society and the Barnsley and District Society, held a joint meeting on Saturday, June 19th, when ringers were present from Arksey, Felkirk, Ekington, Sandal, Wath-on-Dearne, Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Hoylandswaine, Rotherham, Cawthorne, Shelley, South Anston, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's). Welcome visitors were Messrs. C. J. Woolley and H. Chant, now serving in H.M. Forces.

The bells of the Parish Church were available from 2 p.m., and many touches in various methods were brought round. Some good ringing was heard.

Over 40 members sat down to tea in the Royal Hotel.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. George Lewis, vice-president. An apology for absence was received from Canon W. E. Wilkinson.

Mention was made of the late Charles Haynes, Ranmoor; W. Bugar and W. Hammond, Sheffield, and John Flint, Bolsover, the company standing in silence as a token of respect. On the invitation of Mr. T. C. Ryder, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rotherham on the first Saturday in September. Mr. Kenneth Bryant, Felkirk, was elected a member of the association.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and the local company for the use of the bells and making all arrangements.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund amounted to 16s. 6d.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT NUNEATON.

Members and friends from widely separated places attended a meeting of the Warwickshire Guild at Nuneaton on June 19th. Among those present were Mr. Oswald J. Hunt from Manchester, the Rev. Malcolm Melville from Lichfield, Mr. F. W. Perrens and Mr. Nolan Golden. The methods rung included Superlative, London, Bristol and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Tea in the Parish Hall was arranged by Mrs. D. H. Argyle, assisted by Miss G. Bass. The Vicar, the Rev. Marcus Knight, presided and welcomed the members to Nuneaton. Various methods on handbells were rung by Messrs. F. Pervin, F. W. Perrens, D. H. Argyle, W. Stote and M. Melville. Tower bell ringing continued until 8 o'clock.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT SHEDFIELD.

A meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was at Shedfield on July 3rd, and the recently augmented ring of eight attracted nearly forty ringers and friends from Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge, Fareham, Portsmouth, Titchfield, Soberton, Shedfield, Bishopstoke, North Stoneham, Micheldever and Winchester.

Service was conducted by the Vicar and an address given by the Archdeacon of Portsmouth. Tea was served in the Shirrell Heath Hut, after which the business meeting was held, the Vicar taking the chair, supported by the Archdeacon, the Master (Mr. G. Williams), hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter) and district secretary (Mr. R. J. Stone). The Vicar was elected an honorary member of the Guild.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Soberton on September 4th and to arrange inter-tower practices among the country parishes as convenient.

An appeal was made to members to pay their subscriptions so as to start the districts financially and to ensure the success of future meetings. The general secretary said the members were keen to start meetings and they realised that to get anything out of ringing they must put something into it.

Votes of thanks were accorded the ladies for the tea, to the Archdeacon and to the Vicar. Ringing included rounds for beginners, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

A combined meeting of the Tonbridge and Maidstone Districts of the Kent County Association, held at East Peckham, on June 26th, was attended by members from Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Leigh, Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Cranbrook, Linton, Maidstone (All Saints), West Malling, Nailsea, Bristol and the local band. Mr. T. E. Soue, of Paddock Wood, and Mr. C. A. Bassett, Wadhurst, were also present.

After service in church and tea, the business meeting was held with Mr. R. Collins in the chair. The death of Mr. H. Seal, of the Penshurst band, was referred to. Mr. N. Bourne was elected a member, and the next meeting was fixed for Leigh on July 17th. Mr. H. Goodwin expressed the thanks of the meeting to those who had made the arrangements.

BURFORD, OXON.—On Monday, June 14th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: W. F. Judge (conductor) 1, T. Bond 2, L. Leach 3, B. S. Nichols 4, J. E. Spice 5, W. Dixon 6, Major J. H. R. Freeborn 7, C. G. Calcutt 8.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

SOME TUNES AND SOME ADVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Change ringers as a body take a poor view of chiming, but in places where it is not possible to have the bells rung properly, perhaps the use of the chiming apparatus is better than having no sound of bells at all. Maybe the following will help your correspondent, Mr. A. C. Webber.

'Hymns A. and M.' gives plenty of good five, six, seven and eight tunes, which can be legitimately got without resorting to such devices as Mr. Dyer suggests for 'Fight the good fight.' The public is apt to be more critical of tunes than of change ringing, since many know so much more of the former than of the latter, and to hear a grand old tune mutilated is likely to annoy rather than to please. In any case, 'Duke Street' is a far better tune for this hymn, as Mr. Smith points out, and it has a grand swing to it.

In the four or five principal hymn books there are hundreds of tunes for all numbers of bells from five to twelve, requiring only the notes of the diatonic scale. Here are a few from 'A and M.' for eight bells or less (there are very many more for nine, ten, eleven and twelve bells):—

Nos. 17, 25, 26, 29, 51, 125, 160, 164, 175, 177 (first tune), 178 (second tune), 181, 182, 208, 236, 242, 247, 261, 266, 268, 269, 274, 279, 283, 285, 297, 306, 346, 355, 373, 395 (first tune), 479, 527, 565.

No. 266 ('Lead, kindly light'), although only a six-bell tune, will require particular attention as to time, or the effect will be easily ruined. In this case, as in one or two others, the fifth of an octave or the third of a six is the tonic.

Undoubtedly the best way to chime hymn tunes is to do so from the actual scores, and very little musical knowledge is required for this. It is difficult to convey the full effect of expression by means of numbers. The fact that the tenor is in one key and the hymn is scored in another need make no difference for the purpose of chiming since only the 'open' notes of the diatonic are used. If, for example, the tenor is in F and the tune required is scored in G, then for the purposes of that tune consider the tenor as a G bell and go right ahead. This will be found much more simple for a performer with only slight musical knowledge than the orthodox method of transposing from one key to another.

If it is desired to run off a few changes in between the hymn tunes, the plain hunting lead is quite good to begin with, after which the performer may graduate to three leads of Grandsire Triples. This length is usually ample for all ordinary purposes.

If your correspondent requires any further information which it is in my power to give I shall be pleased to supply it.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SOME BELLS ARE NOT SUITABLE.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles Green's advice in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' on this subject was very good, and I hope wherever it is necessary to use a chiming apparatus it will be followed. There is nothing more annoying than to hear tunes with wrong notes here and there. The composer never intended it should be altered in any way.

My personal opinion is that chiming of hymn tunes should only be attempted on really musical rings of bells, which are strictly in tune. It is quite obvious that bells installed for ringing do not give the same effect when hit with a chiming hammer, with disastrous results to the musical ear. One instance I will quote. I recently heard the familiar hymn tune, 'Holy, Holy, Holy,' being chimed on a ring of bells which, although not in Class A regarding tone, sound quite decent when rung in changes well struck. The last note of this tune ended on the tenor, which sounded a semitone down.

This sort of exhibition is enough to put anyone against bells and bellringing. If the general public like to hear hymn tunes on the bells, then give them only on the best musical rings. Perhaps if the public were so keen on listening they might be induced to subscribe towards recasting and hanging the unmusical rings.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

UNSUITABLE TUNES.

Dear Sir,—I know a lot of tunes can be played at, but not played properly on an ordinary octave. I once heard 'Rock of Ages' on our bells in exactly the same way as Mr. Dyer's 'Fight the good fight.' I heard the first verse and hopped it. 'Pleasant are Thy courts,' 'How sweet the Name' and many others can be got in this way, but I could not do it. I fancy I should stop when I got there and think. 'Shall I or not?' This, I think, is quite an interesting subject, and I hope for useful information on what to do and perhaps what not to do.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

F. SMITH.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—At St. Mary's on July 1st, 1356 Bob Major: J. H. Brothwell 1, Miss L. Kelly 2, J. G. Brothwell 3, R. Birch 4, W. Taylor 5, Mrs. J. L. Haywood 6, F. Cardwell 7, J. L. Haywood (conductor) 8. Rung to the memory of the men of the Sheffield City Battalion who fell at the Battle of the Somme.

THE TUNING OF BELLS. CONCERNING THE 'HUM-NOTES.'

(Continued from page 289.)

In the last extract we gave from Canon Simpson's book he was explaining how, in his opinion, the two principal tones, the nominal and the fundamental, can be brought into unison. He continues:—

Of course, in all this I am speaking generally. There are many bells so radically wrong that there is nothing to be done with them except put up with them or send them to the melting pot. And there are numberless cases of treble bells which, in order to make their leading tones powerful enough, have been made of a disproportionate thickness, with the inevitable result that their tones have been thrown very far out of due relation to each other. I fear that there is no help for this, and no effective method of dealing with such cases. There must be a compromise somewhere, and we have a tolerably clear idea as to what had best be sacrificed in order to effect it. All that I care to say here is that the compromise must not be at the expense of the nominal. Whatever else has to give way, the nominals of these trebles must be in tune with those of the rest of the peal.

And now, with due allowance for exceptional cases, I hope I have made out at least a very strong case to justify my appeal to the musical public—and especially to such as are incumbents or churchwardens—to demand from bell founders a more perfect harmony in the bells supplied to them or tuned for them.

Why are we to submit to listen all our lives to a church peal which gives out two (not to say three) series of sounds, which ought to be in octaves, but which, all through the peals, are about a quarter of a tone apart? And I emphasise that word 'about,' because if the error were constant, each of the series would be at least true in itself, though false to the others.

Are we to be told, 'Oh! never mind the fundamentals—the nominals are all right, and that is all that is necessary'?

Well, but here is all Europe (practically) telling us to 'never mind the nominals if the fundamentals are in tune.'

They may be wrong in bidding us be indifferent to the nominals, but surely it savours of ignorance, or if insular arrogance to dismiss in this summary fashion the consensus of European opinion on the value of the fundamentals.

If the result of doing so were satisfactory we might be content. But it is not so. No one who pays any intelligent attention to English peals can be satisfied with them as they are.

If the dissonance were unavoidable we might submit to it. But it is not so. I am *certain*—and I think I have justified my opinion—that in most cases, probably in all important cases, it might be corrected.

Let incumbents and churchwardens, in particular, insist on a greater accuracy of tuning, and in time they will get it. Tuners will find out how to alter bells, if necessary, so as to bring about the unison between nominals and fundamentals, and then founders will learn experimentally how to alter their designs so that they should come out more nearly right at first.

Of course, this means a good deal of painstaking and some little expense. But is not the object worth it?

We may be sure of this, that the founder who first has the courage to grapple with and the perseverance to solve this problem will get a name and reap a harvest which will amply repay him, and he will, further, earn the gratitude of all lovers of music.

And here I must add a word in justice to myself, as well as to the foreign professors of bell-tuning. I should be sorry to be thought ignorant of the intelligence and pains which many of them have bestowed on the regulation of the subordinate tones in their bells, and especially the larger ones. I believe that they know a great deal that I am ignorant of. But I am certain that they make a great mistake in underrating the importance of the tone which I have called the nominal, especially in the case (so common with us) where it is sharper than the fundamental.

I believe that if they would only recognise the conspicuous importance of this tone—in such cases especially—even at the comparative neglect of some other tone, they would leave little to be desired in the carillons which are their peculiar pride.

It was no part of my original intention to enter upon the consideration of 'thirds' and 'fifths.' But I may just say in passing that the third is far too important a tone to be ignored in the tuning at least of a large bell. When once its strident sound has caught the ear it almost obliterates the other tones, and is sometimes indeed mistaken for the principal tone.

All that I can say about it here is—

1. That some bells are cast with major thirds (more or less imperfect) and some with minor.

2. That a third cannot be sharpened; but may be flattened by thinning the bell all round, from G towards B.

3. That in a peal of (say) eight bells the thirds should all be major or all minor. This is considered correct; but we should rather like to hear a peal in which the thirds of the treble, 4th, 5th and tenor are major, and those of the rest minor.

The fifth in like manner cannot be sharpened, but may be flattened by thinning the bell all round from B towards G.

And now a word about the tone we have called the 'hum' note—the deepest and most persistent of all the tones in a bell.

I have said that this tone should be a true octave below the fundamental, and a double octave, therefore, below the nominal, thus forming the bass note of the whole system. That it was really intended to be so is surely manifest from the fact that it is found nearly to fulfil these conditions in almost any bell; and that in most cases it is not more than half a tone sharper than the fundamental and a quarter of a tone sharper than the nominal.

I believe also that I shall be supported in my contention by Belgian experts, and, moreover, we have the authority of Helmholtz for the following statement:— 'According to the observations of the organist Gleitz, the bell cast for the Cathedral at Erfurt in 1477 has the following proper tones—E, e, g sharp, b, e, g sharp, b, c sharp.' And 'Hemony of Zutphen, a master in the seventeenth century, required a good bell to have three octaves, two fifths, one major and one minor third.'

This, I think, should settle the question, not only of the hum note, but of the whole theory of bell tones as set forth in these papers.

Before speaking of the method of altering the hum note, so as to bring it into line with the other tones, I should like to say a word as to its practical importance.

The fact that it is the bass of the whole system of tones, in any perfectly attuned bell, ought to be sufficient. And though it is not so loud as the fundamental, nor so clear as the nominal, it is impossible that any want of agreement with these should not injure the general effect, especially if in a series of bells these great booming tones do not rise and fall fairly evenly with the others. In the case of large slow striking bells of clocks, or carillons, this want of agreement with the other tones must be specially objectionable as the hum-notes are, as we have said, the most persistent of all.

But their general importance may be made clearer by the following illustration:—

Sitting in my dining room with outer and inner doors shut, I was struck by the singularly sweet sound of our six little Fittleworth bells as heard down the chimney. On opening the doors, so as to hear them directly, I observed with surprise that the scale was different; and I finally discovered that what I had heard down the chimney were the hum-notes, which alone found their way to me by this devious course.

After this experience, we cannot dismiss the hum-notes as unworthy of careful attention.

How to govern them and bring them into unison with their proper fundamentals and nominals? is a question which I am not prepared to answer with quite the same certainty as in the case of the other tones. To be able to do so, we must first determine on what proportions of the bell its pitch mainly depends.

Now, in the case of the other tones, this is sufficiently known; and it is from this knowledge that we are able to deduce the rules for altering them, as given above.

But there is a mystery about the production of the hum-note which has not yet been quite cleared up. I give here my own belief founded on observations which I cannot here describe at length. I believe, then, that whereas each of the other tones may be referred principally to some particular portion, or zone, of the bell, the hum-note is, in a peculiar sense, the tone of the whole mass of the bell. And I have come to the following conclusions as to its government:—

1. That this tone can never be sharpened.
2. That it may be flattened to any reasonable extent by thinning the walls of the bell near the crown.
3. That possibly the proportion of the length of the bell to its width may have some bearing on the relation of the hum-note to the other tones; any shortening of the length in proportion to the other dimensions having the effect of sharpening the hum-note.

(To be continued.)

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, July 4th, 720 Cambridge Minor: E. C. Ayres 1, Sgt. J. W. Berry, R.A. 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Edwards 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

PILOT OFFICER DEREK M. SHARP.

A BRILLIANT YOUNG RINGER.

The news that Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp has been reported missing has brought us several letters showing the esteem in which he was held among his friends and the great loss to the Exeter.

Derek Sharp was born in July, 1917, and learnt to ring at Sutton, near Hull in Yorkshire, under the tuition of the late Mr. West. In September, 1936, while on holiday, he paid a visit to Crayford in Kent, where two peals, one of them on handbells, were arranged for him by Mr. Edwin Barnett. He was so pleased with his experience that he decided not to return to Yorkshire, but got a job at Dartford and joined the Crayford band.

His first Surprise peal (Superlative) was rung at Dartford on December 31st, 1936, his first peal of Cambridge in January, 1937, and his first peal of Lincolnshire at the same tower a week later. During February of that year he called his first peal on tower bells (Parker's Twelve-Part), and on March 9th he rang 7-8 to a peal of Bob Maximus. In this peal all were members of the local band. A month later he called his first peal of Major (Plain Bob). These were followed quickly by his first peals of St. Clement's Bob, 'Real' Double Norwich and Reverse Bob, all at Crayford. In July he rang his first peal of Kent Treble Bob as conductor on his 21st birthday, and took part in the first peal of Painswick College Bob and a peal of Dartford Little Bob.

MANY PEALS.

Derek Sharp's first peal of Maximus on tower bells was at Canterbury on August Bank Holiday, 1937. For this peal he gave up three days of the holiday he intended spending at his home in Yorkshire. With Mr. Cullum he took part in the first peal of Wheatley Surprise at Erith a fortnight later, and in September he took part in the first peal of Pulford Bob Major. During October and November he rang his first peals of Hereward Bob and Erith Little Bob. In December Mr. Cullum called his first peal of London Surprise, and Mr. Sone his first peal of Royal on tower bells.

During 1938 he rang many peals in tower and hand, including 3-4 to his first peal of Maximus as conductor and his first as conductor of Double Norwich and Little Bob, finishing third on the list of those who rang most peals during the year.

In 1939 he rang 40 peals for the Kent County Association, including his first peals of Grandsire and Stedman Cinques. Of these he conducted 18. His last peal on tower bells was on December 26th at Crayford.

In 1939, with Messrs. E., E. A. Barnett and G. V. Murphy (now unfortunately a prisoner of war), he practised Double Norwich in hand with a view to ringing a peal together, but with the outbreak of war and subsequent joining the Forces by E. A. Barnett and G. V. Murphy, this had to be abandoned before the attempt could be made. It was a great disappointment to him, but in January, 1940, Mr. C. W. Woolley called for him at Bushey with E. and E. A. Barnett in the band. That was his last peal.

LIKING FOR THE AIR.

A good striker and method ringer on both tower and handbells, Derek Sharp was a valuable acquisition to Crayford, and quickly made many friends, particularly with 'Pat' Murphy, now a prisoner in Italy. Pat and Derek were always together and their enthusiasm was unbounded.

Derek Sharp's peals numbered about 150, of which 60 were rung at Crayford in the short space of three and a quarter years. His best year was 1938, when his total was 61. They ranged from Doubles to Maximus on tower bells, and Doubles to Maximus, excluding Caters, on handbells, nearly all the latter, of course, in pre-war days when much less handbell ringing was done.

His liking for the air was aroused in peace time, when his employment involved a few flights. As soon as men in reserved occupations were permitted to volunteer for flying duties he joined the R.A.F., and the episode in America, which earned him considerable renown—even to broadcasting three times in that country—will not easily be forgotten; his friends all agreed that 'it was just typical of Derek.'

On July 2nd, 1937, he called his coming of age peal, so by a sad coincidence the announcement last week appeared either on or very near to his 27th birthday. We can ill afford to lose ringers like Derek Sharp, and all ringers will join in hoping that he may yet be safe and well.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—On Festival Sunday before evensong, 1,320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith 1, A. W. T. Ginn 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, R. Thoday 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5, C. Robinson 6.

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BELLS IN NORTH AFRICA.

Private C. W. Munday, of the R.A.O.C., in a letter from North Africa, sends us some particulars of the bells there, which will be read with interest.

It may interest your readers to know, he says, that the daily news-sheet published by this headquarters always contained a note of any debate in the House or any statement by a Government spokesman concerning the ban on ringing.

There are a fair number of bells in this country. Most churches possess up to three bells and the following notes on the church and bells at Tabarka may be of interest. The church is a very ancient building of rectangular shape and has an arched roof supported by many pillars. I presume it is of Roman origin, but, not being an archaeologist, I cannot say. It possesses a few small windows high up in the walls, and, if it had not been for the large opening where the door should have been, would have been very dark inside. The building had been sadly neglected in recent years, but at the time of my visit was spotlessly clean and some attempt was being made to put it in order again.

The bells, three in number, were housed in a wooden shed-like structure built on a flat ledge about 5ft. wide, which ran along one side of the building, a few feet below the level of the main roof. Particulars of the bells are as follows:—

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. (approx.). 1893. Inscription: Farnier—Freres Fondateurs de Cloches Robecourt Vosges.

2. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. (approx.). 1893. Inscription: La Population de Tabarka Tunisie a son Eglise 1893—Gassagnes—Curé. Farnier Freres Fondateurs a Robecourt Vosges France.

3. 6 cwt. (approx.). 1897. Inscription: Marie—France—Tabarka; F. Cassagne—Curé; Ferdinand Farnier Fondateur a Robecourt Vosges.

The largest bell was fitted with a wheel and a very thick rope, but it appeared that clocking was the only means of ringing the others. At that time all the bells were being clocked and were used as the local air-raid warning. A native soldier was the appointed bellringer, and he rang the large bell for an 'alert' and jangled the two smaller ones for the 'all clear.' The bells were also rung for services, all three being jangled together in the usual Continental style.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ABBOTSBURY.

The following towers were represented at a meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Abbotbury on June 19th: Abbotbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester (St. Peter's), Fordington (St. George's), Stratton, Upwey and Wyke Regis. Three members of H.M. Forces came from Buckfastleigh and Torrington, Devon, and Binegar, Somerset.

Ringing in the afternoon, and tea at the Vicarage were followed by a short business meeting, presided over by the chairman, Canon A. W. Markby. Apologies were received from the Rev. R. P. Farrow, Canon D. F. Slemek and Mr. Honeyburn. The hon. secretary reported that arrangements were well in hand for the next meeting at Stratton on July 24th at the invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Godley.

The Chairman announced that Wyke Regis bells were to be restored as a memorial to the late Rector, the Rev. E. de B. Thurston. It was decided to vote a donation of £2 2s. from the branch funds to the appeal, and two or three members also gave a donation. Four young men belonging to the Wyke Regis Church Fellowship, who have started to learn ringing and are very keen, were present at the meeting.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, the Rev. W. G. E. Squire; to the organist, Mrs. M. White; to Mr. J. W. Hayne, the local secretary, and the ringers' wives who had provided the tea.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who gave the address.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. JOHN'S, BURGESS HILL.

At a meeting of the Sussex County Association, held at St. John's, Burgess Hill, on Saturday, June 26th, about 36 members attended.

Ringing began at 3 p.m., and the methods ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise, several beginners having a touch of rounds.

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, followed by a meeting, at which the Vicar, the Rev. Eric Marsh, presided. He is himself learning to ring.

A service was held in the church, at which the Vicar gave an address, and the organist (Mr. T. Sharp) and full choir led the singing.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, June 20th, for evening service, at Ho's Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, A. Painter 3, H. L. Cooke 4, W. A. Godwin 5, Pte. F. J. Lewis (Dorset Regt.) 6, W. H. Hayward 7, L.A.C. D. J. Lothian, R.A.F. (Twickenham) 8. Rung for the patronal festival.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On Saturday, July 3rd, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss L. Wickens 1, J. Garrett 2, P. Page 3, H. C. Castle 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 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.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting Saturday, July 10th, at Oswaldtwistle. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—F. Hindle, Branch Secretary, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North-West District.—Meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Service ringing at St. James', Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Sunday, July 11th, will be arranged if enough visiting ringers are able to complete the band. — T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts; G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Meeting at Balcombe, July 10th. Names for tea to Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottage, Balcombe. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —Meeting at Halewood on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 5, followed by meeting. Cups of tea provided; bring own food. Buses leave Pierhead every two hours, starting at 2 p.m. Another service leaves Pierhead every half hour to Wood Road, Hunt's Cross, a quarter of an hour's walk from there.—G. R. Newton, 57, Ampthill Road, Liverpool 17.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Grimsby District at Barton-on-Humber, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. in Church Institute.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting Ulverston, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting after service.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday, July 17th, Longton tower (8 bells) will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who let Mr. B. Pankhurst, The Chestnut, Leigh, know by Tuesday, July 13th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea at 1s. 6d. for all members who apply, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 10th. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bottesford on Saturday, July 17th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach me by Wednesday, July 14th.—T. Groombridge, 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Goldhanger, Saturday, July 17th. Buses leave Maldon 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., and Goldhanger 7.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea to Mr. J. D. Buckingham, Rectory Cottage, Goldhanger, near Maldon, by Wednesday, July 14th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Bexley, on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mr. H. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, by Monday, July 12th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Kinver, Saturday, July 17th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Woden Cafe, High Street. Numbers to me by Wednesday, 14th, please, or caterer will not provide tea.—Bernard C. Ashford, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting in the Singing Men's Vestry at Durham Cathedral on July 17th. The Dean invites those attending to evensong at 3 p.m. and the meeting will follow immediately. A purely business meeting, no ringing. No catering arrangements.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sturry, July 17th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 1s. 6d. for those who notify Mr. H. F. French, School Hill, Sturry, near Canterbury, by July 14th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Hamstead on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea only for those who notify me by Tuesday, July 13th. Buses from Dunstable and St. Albans—route 369. Get off at Hamstead Turning.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry, Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) from 3.30. Service in church 4.30. Tea, 5.15, in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road. Business meeting to follow. Keresley bells (5) from 2.30-4 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Quarterly meeting at Long Ashton on Saturday, July 17th. Bells 3 o'clock. Tea and business meeting 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bolton, Saturday, July 17th. Bells 2 p.m. Business 7 p.m. for nominations.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Twickenham, July 17th, 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Tel. Perivale 5320.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Raunds, Saturday, July 17th. Service 3.45. Tea 4.30. Names to secretary by Tuesday, July 13th. Buses leave Thrapston 2.20, 3.20.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Woodview, Brigstock, near Kettering.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Bishopstone (8 bells) on Saturday, July 17th. Bring own refreshments.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 17th. Service, Great St. Mary's Church, 4 o'clock, followed by business. Great St. Mary's bells 3-4 p.m. and one hour during evening. St. Benet's 2.30-3.50 p.m.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.—Meeting on Saturday, July 17th, St. Paul's, Bath Road, Hounslow (8 bells), 2.30 p.m. Three minutes from Hounslow West Tube Station. All Saints', Isleworth (10 bells) after tea. Tea at Blue School, North Street, Isleworth, 4.30. Names to H. W. Rogers, 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea, only for those who notify Mr. A. Holmes, Edenham, Bourne, by July 19th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Names to Mr. R. Elkington, 24, High Street, Anstey, before July 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Service ringing, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, every Sunday, 9.45 a.m. and 11 a.m., except third Sunday in month, when 9.45 only. Skoreditch, 10.15 a.m., third Sunday in month.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

BIRTH.

FEARN.—On June 29th, to Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fearn, of 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, the gift of a daughter.

DEATH.

HARRIS.—July 28th, at Lydney District Hospital, Maud, the dearly beloved wife of W. H. Harris, passed peacefully away, aged 72 years.

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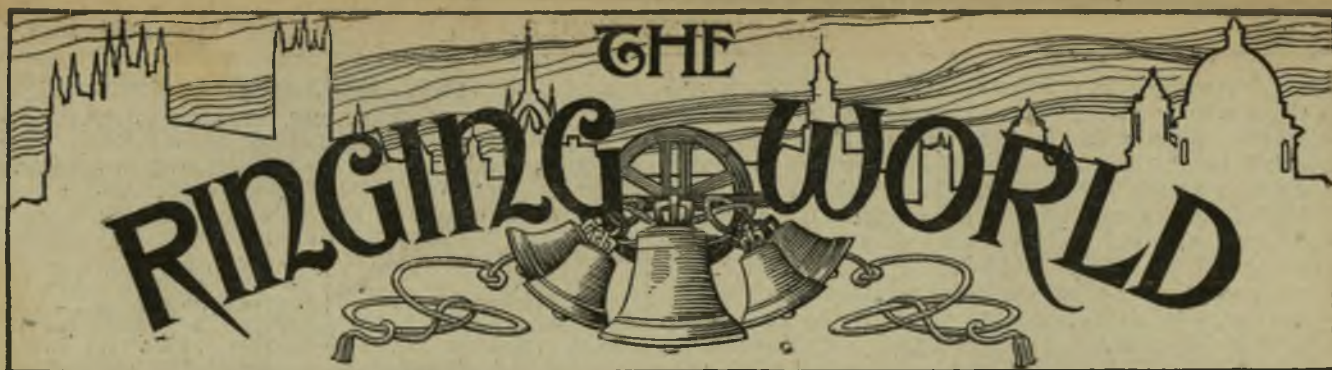
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FRIDAY, JULY 16th, 1943.

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

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CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

Among the advantages and attractions of the ringers' art are the secondary interests which arise out of it. There are many of them and they vary greatly in their character and importance. Some, like composition and archæology, call for the highest intellectual powers a man possesses. Others are much humbler and more limited in scope, and with them we may class tune-chiming, about which a correspondence has been going on for some time in our columns.

Chiming hymn tunes is an art which does not interest many ringers. Many of them despise it as a poor and unworthy thing, and some dislike it because they think it is an enemy of change ringing.

For the last opinion there may have at one period seemed some justification. There came a time when English bell founders showed the world that they could supply carillon bells and carillon machinery superior to any produced elsewhere, and English bells and chimes were being installed not only in America, but even in the Low Countries, which hitherto had been considered supreme in this matter. Here at home one or two notable carillons were temporarily exhibited and some permanently installed, while many smaller chimes of pretty little bells were hung. It almost looked as if a taste for carillon music would be introduced into this country and the late W. W. Starmer constituted himself the prophet and preacher of a movement to that end. It was no wonder that some ringers began to fear that change ringing might suffer, and small carillons and chimes take the place of ringing peals; nor that they looked with displeasure on hymn chiming as a thing which might help on the evil day.

The fear was a groundless one. The supremacy of the English ringing peal was never seriously threatened, for though carillons are, in their own way, fine things, they need a sentimental background which is entirely lacking in this country. Except in the case of a novelty, Englishmen are never likely to spend time listening to a carillon, however fine. When they do get the opportunity of hearing tunes on a really musical set of bells, as at the Royal Exchange, they never listen.

Nevertheless, hymn tunes chimed on church bells do have an appeal to a limited number of listeners. They may be simple and humble folk, but they are not the less worthy. Therefore, though it can never take the place of proper ringing, a certain amount of hymn tune playing is a good thing and a thing to be encouraged. And if it is so, it follows that it should be done in the best and most effective way possible. The chimer should remember that he is an artist who has to render a well known

(Continued on page 310.)

and well loved tune in the manner which will most appeal to the listener. He can never play a tune as it should be played unless he first knows and loves it himself, and not only the tune, but the words with which in most minds it is associated. He must never allow himself to take any liberties with the air, either in the notes themselves or the time. Only those tunes which lie within the range of his bells should ever be attempted, for he only aggravates his offence if he pleads, as an excuse for tampering with an air, that he had not the necessary notes at his disposal.

Tune chiming is a subordinate branch of the ringer's art for which some men are fitted by opportunity and inclination. It is a thing worth doing if it is done properly, and if the recent correspondence leads people to study it more carefully it will be all to the good.

SOUND CONTROL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I can appreciate Mr. Sydney L. Marshall's point in reference to those towers, and they are many, containing clocks which strike and chime on the ringing peal, but I can assure him there is no need to fear the result if the blocking up is dealt with sensibly. I was careful to point out that each tower must be dealt with on its own merits, which naturally involves taking into consideration all factors of each individual case, including the clock. Bell tones are remarkably penetrating and will stand a good deal more 'shielding' than many people realise before becoming inaudible.

A striking example which comes to mind is that of Bow Church. This peal (which is, alas, now practically destroyed) was restored and rehung by Gillett and Johnston in 1933. Owing to the close proximity of blocks of business premises the main belfry windows had to be boarded up completely, after experimental trial, leaving the sound to pass out through the spire openings only, which were some 15ft. or more above the bells. This removed all complaints, but the famous Whittington clock chimes were still perfectly audible from the street below.

Mr. Marshall's suggestion of hinged shutters is excellent, but it has to be borne in mind that frequently there is not sufficient space available to allow of the swing of shutters into the belfry. I agree that in certain cases, reversing the slope of the louvres might prove sufficiently effective, but this would not be practicable, as the louvres would then simply form a sluice throwing wind driven rain water into the belfry.

Mr. C. Sharples' interesting letter refers to the frequently held notion that if the sound of bells is prevented from passing out freely the tonal vibrations will damage the fabric. This is a complete fallacy so far as the robust materials of which towers are built is concerned.

FRED. C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

EWERBY AND BREDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. Borrett's letter, I beg to say that the details he gives of the Ewerby bells are correct. The peal was augmented from four to a ring of ten by John Taylor and Co. in 1928, and is in the key of D natural.

In reply to Mr. Stote's letter, the diameter of Bredon tenor is 48½in., and as this bell was greatly reduced in thickness by Warners when they rehung the peal in a new frame in 1914, its weight is probably a good deal less than a ton.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

J. OLDHAM.

THE HEAVIEST FIVE.

Dear Sir,—A heavier ring of five bells than any yet mentioned is at Peterborough Cathedral, the tenor of which is the largest bell in the diocese, viz., 56½in. diameter and approximate weight 30 cwt. In Mr. J. Oldham's reply the bell he quotes is surely Castle Ashby and not Cold Ashby, where the tenor is only a 7 cwt. bell.

ROBERT G. BLACK.

BREDON TENOR.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. William Stote re Bredon, Worcestershire, I may say I had the pleasure of inspecting this peal of five about 40 years ago. The tenor is 49in. diameter, note D, and I should say, according to thickness, weight about 20 cwt., probably less. It may be interesting for him to know I have an octave of small bells, tenor 4½in. diameter, treble 5½in. diameter the treble being 1in. diameter larger than the tenor.

The Bell Foundry, Burford.

TOM BOND.

TEN BELL PEAL.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 10, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

*FREDERICK A. FORSTER ... Treble	WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 6
JOHN WORTH 2	ANDREW THOMPSON 7
JAMES A. MILNER 3	ARTHUR W. HALL 8
EDWARD STEELE 4	ROBERT S. ANDERSON... .. 9
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 5	CHARLES H. PAGE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BATLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, July 10, 1943, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALFRED SMITH Treble	KENNETH SIMPSON 5
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 2	GEORGE ROBINSON 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 3	FRED HODGSON 7
JAMES F. HARVEY 4	ERNEST H. SIMPSON Tenor

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.
Sixtieth peal as conductor for the Yorkshire Association.

SIX BELL PEAL.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

WILLIAM SPICE Treble	STANLEY B. DOBBIE 4
*GEORGE KENWARD 2	GEORGE H. SPICE 5
PERCY J. SPICE 3	JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal. First tower-bell peal as conductor. Rung half muffled in memory of Mr. W. J. Wood, of Queenborough, and of Mr. W. J. Jeffries, of Deptford.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, July 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE
SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE
Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in four Spliced Surprise Major methods on handbells. This peal contained 2,240 London, 1,728 Bristol and 576 each of Cambridge and Superlative with 116 changes of method.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

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

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

ABBEYS AND PARISH CHURCHES.

DISPUTES ABOUT BELL RINGING.

(Continued from page 301.)

The quarrel at Wymondham was the culmination of disputes which had lasted for many years. When the priory was first built it absorbed the parish church, and more than two-thirds of the nave was allotted to the parishioners for their use. But the prior maintained a supremacy over the whole building and on certain festivals extended his processions round the whole church and made his offerings at the parish altar. Especially he kept control over the bells, which not only asserted his overruling rights, but allowed him to regulate the times at which the parish services were held.

Originally there seem to have been two towers at the west end of the church, built for carrying bells, but if any were ever hung there, they were removed to the central tower, which was over the monastic part of the building; and to prevent the western towers being used for bells, the staircases were built up. This probably was done as the result of some dispute in which the then prior had gained the victory, for his successor alleged it was done 'as well with the assent of the prior and convent as the parishioners.'

The opening years of the fifteenth century were a time when there was a strong movement, largely controlled by laymen, against the Church, and we may perhaps see the effects of the teaching of John Wyclif and the Lollards in these efforts of the parishes to free themselves from the control of the monks. At Wymondham the advent of a prior of autocratic temper and little tact brought matters to a climax. Headed by one William Grout, a layman, the parishioners took strong measures to assert their independence and establish their rights. They stopped up the doors and passages connecting the nave with the rest of the church, pulled down certain walls which the monks had erected to enclose parts of the building which the parishioners considered as belonging to themselves, opened the blocked staircase leading to one of the western towers and hung up three bells for the use of the parish church.

The prior, in his complaint of these proceedings, represented them as an outbreak of lawless violence. He alleged that Grout and many others had violently attacked a tower of the church of the priory and hung three bells there to the disturbance of divine service and his annoyance; that they had broken strong walls of the priory, ejected him from his parlour and kept him out of it for three days, walled up and fastened the doors between the chancel of the choir and the nave of the church, so that he could not go out of, or into the church with possession or otherwise as in times past, hindered him from receiving his living and other profits of the church, and assaulted his servants.

From this ex-parte statement it has usually been assumed that the affair was a more or less spontaneous riot on the part of the townsmen, but there is every sign that it was a deliberate action, done in an orderly manner by the parish authorities in exercise of what they considered their rights.

The prior appealed to the law, and a commission was issued by the King to certain Norfolk gentlemen, Sir Thomas Morley, Sir Ralph Skelton, the Sheriff of Norfolk, and others, to make inquiry into the facts of the

case and to report. One of the commissioners was 'Thomas Erpyngham, ehivaller,' the 'good old knight' of Shakespeare's 'Henry the Fifth.'

The commission recites that the prior had alleged that he and his predecessors had held the nave of the church of the priory with all profits time out of mind, and the parishioners of the priory had been governed in their coming to church by the sound of the bells of the priory and never had bells of their own; so that the prior and his fellow monks were not disturbed in divine service as was usual in divers other abbeys and priories.

Pending the inquiry the commissioners were to 'take down the bells if then hung and keep them safely, repair the broken walls, amend other trespasses, open the walled up and fastened doors and entrances, inform the evil doers that if they do further trespass it will be at their peril, and arrest any who rebel and imprison them until they find security for desisting.'

The return made by the commissioners is in the Coram Rege Rolls of 12 Henry IV. and the finding is that the parishioners had been from time immemorial called to church by the sound of the priory bells, but that on the Thursday before St. Faith's in the eleventh year of the King, certain of the parishioners entered the church, broke into a tower standing upon the porch of the church and suspended three bells to the disturbance of the prior and convent.

When the case was called, the defendants pleaded not guilty, upon which the King granted letters patent to Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, to inquire into and settle the matter. The Archbishop's decision was, in the main, in favour of the parishioners. They were empowered to convert a tower, at the west end of the church and on the north part of the same, into a belfry for their church, and to place, find, keep, and have sufficient bells in the same, ringing them at their pleasure, but closing all apertures within the church, except the holes for the ropes, so as not to disturb the monks occupying the priory.

It was probably to save the face of the prior that the tower granted was the northern one at the west front and not the other which had been taken possession of by the parishioners.

It was not until after these things that the present lofty and massive western tower was erected, and so it is not correct (as is usually stated) that it was built as a direct result of the dispute about the bells.

The cases I have mentioned are only those which are referred to in state papers or in documents preserved in the papal archives at Rome. There must have been many more; and, indeed, the Prior of Wymondham said they were 'usual.' The interest for us lies in the fact that they show the laity were taking a great interest in ringing and gaining control of the bells. The love of Englishmen for bells, if it did not originate in the early fifteenth century, was greatly developed then. It was the time when ringing (using the word in its technical sense) may be said to have begun, and it is not too much to say that it is only because of what happened then that we have our science and art of change ringing to-day.

IPSWICH. — On Sunday, July 4th, at St. Clement's, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Bowell (conductor) 1, Miss E. Reeve 2, W. Prime 3, A. Hardy 4, Gnr. R. Lester 5, F. Long 6. — At St. Matthew's, 720 Kent Treble Bob: E. Pizzy 1, G. Leach 2, Miss E. Reeve 3, Gnr. B. Lester 4, A. Hardy 5, C. H. Aldous (conductor) 6.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On July 8th, the bells of St. John's, Pinner, were rung muffled in memory of Lionel A. Royall, a member of the local band, who was killed on August 1st, 1941, while serving with the Royal Navy. Another member of the company, E. Ware, jun., is a prisoner of war.

Leicester ringers rang Knighton bells on July 8th, when Mr. Frank Poole, son of Mr. Frank Poole of the Knighton band and nephew of Mr. Harold Poole, was married to Miss Grave Flavell.

Last Monday, Mr. Alfred Lawrence, of Swindon, reached his 88th birthday. He still takes part in the ringing.

Mr. W. H. Barber called the first peal of Erin Caters at North Shields on July 12th, 1909; and on the same date in 1919 the first peal of Victoria Little Court Major was rung at Gillingham, near Chatham.

Jeremiah Miller, at one time a leading member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, died on July 13th, 1877.

The first peal of Newbury Surprise Major was rung on July 14th, 1938, at Bushey, and the first peal of Tring Surprise Major on July 15th, 1935, at Tring. Both were conducted by Mr. Harold Cashmore.

The first peal of Caversham Major was rung at Caversham on July 15th, 1913; and the first peal of Hinton Surprise Major at Hinton-on-the-Green on the same date in 1933.

Mr. C. W. Woolley called on handbells the first peal of Avalon Court Major at Bushey on July 15th, 1941. Two days later, with nearly the same band, Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Lavenham Court Major.

Mr. E. A. Barnett called the first peal of Painswick Court Major on July 16th, 1937. Derek M. Sharp rang the sixth.

Fifty years ago yesterday, at Seaford, John S. Goldsmith rang his first peal of Major. Mr. George Williams called from the second, and Mr. Keith Hart rang the third.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just received a letter from Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, dated January 20th, 1943, from a prisoner of war camp in Italy. He says that while on a lorry, after capture he met another ringer, Christopher Hetherington, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who at that time was quite safe and well. He thought the news might be of interest to 'The Ringing World.'

Dennis Brock had suffered a slight leg wound, but had recovered, and wrote in his usual cheerful style.

R. DARVILL.

THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We shall all agree with what you say about the local ringers in the Guildford Diocese wishing to provide a sanctus bell in their new cathedral. Would it not be possible for those outside the diocese to be associated in this? Thus the diocesan ringers might collect funds for the bell itself, and we others for the fittings. Or if they provide for these as well, there is still the place for the bell to be found.

You suggest that this would be in the tower. Is this settled? The tower seems the wrong place for a sanctus bell. It is true that in the careless ages many sanctus bells were relegated to towers. But the right place for them is not far from the high altar, where someone assisting at the service could ring it without a long journey to the tower. Thus we often find them hung in turrets or in small arches over the gable at the east end of church or chancel. In the Sainte Chapelle, in Paris, there is a well-known and very beautiful flèche for such a bell. In the new cathedral in Liverpool, the bell is hung out of sight from the ground, in a corner of the roof. This seems a poor arrangement. Perhaps something between these two would be suitable for Guildford. If the authorities would agree to this, the work could be put in very much sooner, and the bell be available for use for any services that may be held before the tower is built.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

[Where the sanctus bell will be hung in the new cathedral at Guildford is obviously a matter for the cathedral authorities to decide and no doubt has already been settled. In London, in pre-Reformation times, it was almost invariably hung in the steeple, and generally speaking, the same was the rule throughout England.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOLVERCOTE.

A half-yearly meeting of the Oxford City and District Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held on June 26th at Wolvercote. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was served in the Parish Hall. At the business meeting Mr. W. Collett took the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. T. Hibbert, Mr. Godfrey, of Garsington, and Mr. Bond, of Eynsham.

The Chairman referred to the deaths of Mr. George Ayres, of St. Ebbe's, and Mr. F. Young, of Garsington. Both were killed in North Africa.

It was proposed by Mr. Walter Judge and seconded by Mr. B. Badder that if possible a joint meeting should be held with the North Berks Branch at Abingdon in September. This was carried and Mr. A. E. Lock said that he would do what he could to arrange it.

Six new members were elected.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, to Mr. E. J. B. Morton for playing the organ, and to Mrs. White and her friends for providing the tea.

Ringing ranged from rounds and Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise. Twenty-four people were present, including several in H.M. Forces.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ARKSEY.

The Doncaster and Districts Society held a meeting at Arksey on June 26th, at which ringers were present from Doncaster, Selby, Felkirk, Campsall, Sprotborough and the local company.

The Rev. J. P. Price, of Arksey, took the chair, and in the course of his speech he asked the ringers to make their ringing as pleasing as possible to outside listeners and to refrain from too many 'crashing blows.' Otherwise there would be complaints and the bells would have to be silenced again.

The meeting was a great success and there were so many learners that a special practice was arranged for July 16th.

JOINT MEETING AT SHIPLEY.

On June 26th a joint meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society was held at Shipley, and was attended by members from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Birstall, Denholme, Earlsheaton, Haworth, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Liversedge, Pudsey, Queensbury, Skipton, Silsden, Sherburn and the local company.

After tea in the schools the Leeds Society held a business meeting, presided over by Mr. J. F. Harvey, who urged that whenever possible assistance should be given to bands for Sunday ringing. An invitation from the Eastern District to hold a joint meeting at Sherburn on July 31st was accepted.

At the business meeting of the Yorkshire Association Mr. P. J. Johnson took the chair. Mr. W. Ambler was elected hon. secretary in the place of Mr. Rayment, who had been called to H.M. Forces. Mr. Rayment was thanked for his services.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local company.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EWELL.

At a meeting of the North-Western Division of the Surrey Association, held at Ewell on July 3rd, about 40 members and friends attended from Ewell, Croydon, Leatherhead, Clandon, Mitcham, Isleworth, Kilburn, Goring-on-Thames, Beddington, Streatham, Carshalton, Epsom, Wimbledon, Wembley and Kingsbury. A short service, conducted by the Rev. R. R. Willmott, was followed by tea in the Parish Hall and the meeting, at which the Rev. R. R. Willmott presided, supported by the two churchwardens of Ewell.

Seven new members were elected, and the election of another was ratified.

The secretary gave notice that the next meeting would be held on August Bank Holiday at Leatherhead jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild.

A vote of thanks to those who made the meeting a success was passed, especially to Mrs. J. Beams and her lady helpers for providing tea.

The methods ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 292.)

The Church of SS. Andrew and Patrick, Elvedon, Suffolk, now possesses two towers. The old church has been nearly rebuilt in an elaborate manner, an entirely new nave and chancel having been added north of the old building. The old tower has one bell, 'John Darbie made me 1664,' and a set of ten tubes. It is of the 15th century, and said to have been built by four shepherds, who are commemorated by four lifesize statues placed at the four corners in lieu of pinnacles. The old church was dedicated to St. Andrew, and the new to St. Patrick, being added in 1904-6.

In 1922 a new tower containing eight bells was built, and is connected to the church by a long cloister, this addition being erected to the memory of Countess Iveagh.

At Fingest, Bucks, the ancient Church of St. Bartholomew has a single Norman tower, but with a double gabled roof which is unique. It only contains one bell, however, and a poor one at that, cast by a local iron-founder. Its inscription is incised and reads, 'I. Hobbs Lane End 1830.' It is hung with wheel and stay, but has no slider. There is a tradition that the bells in the tower were removed to Hambleton, the most generally accepted version being that Fingest parish was involved in debt, and that Hambleton parish paid off the debt on condition that the bells should be transferred to that tower. All round the bell chamber of Fingest's fine Early Norman tower are to be seen marks in the wall which seem clearly to indicate where the frame of a ring of bells was fixed. The existing frame is older than the bell, and consists of two cages, and the empty one has been in use. Unfortunately, in the indenture of 1552, the bells are not mentioned.

Of the cathedrals, the only one with but two towers is that of Exeter. Several have three towers and many have single towers, of which I will give details later. The history of the heavy ring of bells at Exeter is well known and has been already given in these columns, therefore I will reiterate very briefly.

As early as the 13th century there were ten bells here, but it is extremely unlikely they formed a peal in any way, but most probably were odd bells used for the various services in pre-Reformation days. In the inventory of 1552 it is noted there were eight bells in one tower and five in the other. Later we find agreements for recasting various bells, but how the eight became augmented to ten is a mystery and was certainly not done by adding two trebles in the usual way. In 1678, Mr. Warren, bell-hanger, was paid £60 for hanging the bells, 'to be rung upon the sally,' i.e., to be hung for ringing as we understand it to-day. Before that date they were probably rung by half-wheels.

Before 1902, no peal was ever attempted here; in fact, it would have been well nigh impossible, not only from the bad 'go' of the bells, but from the position in which the ropes descended. The bells were hung in a timber frame, all swinging the same way, and the ropes fell in ranks thus, counting from left to right: First row, 1, 2, 3, 4; second row, 6, 5, 4 flat; third row, 7, 8; fourth row, 10, 9.

In 1902 they were all rehung in a new iron frame by J. Taylor and Co., who also recast the 5th and tenor, add-

ing 10 cwt. more metal to the latter, which now is the heaviest tenor to any 'ringing' peal. (Liverpool will be heavier when completed.)

The first peal on the ten was 5,021 Grandsire Caters on October 6th, 1902, conducted by Geo. Williams; and on September 14th, 1903, a peal of 5,041 Stedman Caters was called by John Austin. In the latter peal the tenor, 72 cwt. 2qr. 2 lb., was rung by the late Wm. Pye for 4 hours 1 minute, the only time it was ever rung single-handed. In 1922, two trebles were added, making a grand ring of twelve, and on these the first peal was 5,017 Stedman Cinques, called by Albert Walker, on July 5th, 1924. The only time the great tenor was 'turned in' was on October 15th, 1932, when 5,280 Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung in 4 hours 25 minutes. It was rung double-handed by the late Wm. Pye and Edward P. Duffield, the 11th bell being rung by Reuben Sanders.

Exeter Cathedral suffered grievous damage in the terrible air raids on that city, but it is a relief to ringers to know that the bells are safe, and at the recent 'Victory in Egypt' ringing, the eight heavy bells were rung. Although Exeter has the largest tenor bell, the total weight of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, bells is heavier than those of Exeter, being 271 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb., as against 260 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lb.

Although not yet possessing dual towers, the new Cathedral of St. Mary, Blackburn, Lancs, will have them when the complete scheme of extension is finally carried out. At present it has its old west tower, which contains a ring of ten bells, tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. When the complete design for the extension of the Cathedral eastwards is done, there will be a much higher octagonal tower erected in the centre at the crossing of new transepts. Whether this will eventually carry bells remains to be seen. The present ring consists of a complete set of six by Abel Rudhall (1737, tenor recast 1747), to which four trebles were added by C. and G. Mears in 1851.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT HEREFORD.

After a lapse of three years, the annual meeting of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Hereford on Saturday, July 3rd, and was reasonably representative of the districts and well attended considering the times and travelling difficulties.

Following the Guild service at St. Nicholas', the meeting was held in the College Hall, and was honoured by the presence of the Bishop of Hereford.

The business of the meeting, under the chairmanship of the Master, Mr. W. Saunders, was principally that necessary to the resumption of active operations. The Master, the hon. secretary (the Rev. E. G. Benson) and the assistant secretary (Mr. J. P. Hyett) were re-elected.

An encouraging feature was the number of young members admitted (19 altogether) from Burghill, Coalbrookdale, Eardisland and Hereford. An item of interest was the enrolment of the members of the Hereford Cathedral School Society, which has been formed with the active encouragement of the headmaster, Mr. C. F. Scott. The members are already helping with service ringing in the city churches and joined the Guild as members of the Cathedral band.

The bells of the Cathedral, All Saints' and St. Nicholas' were available during the afternoon and evening and were well used.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on July 3rd, two new members were elected, Mr. V. J. Benning, of Belvedere, and Mr. J. C. Read, of Wanstead.

The books and photographs left by the late Francis E. Dawe to the society were on view.

The meeting on July 31st will be at Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard, by invitation of Mr. E. H. Lewis. Trains leave Euston at 1.45 and 1.55 for Tring. If possible ringing will be arranged at Ivinghoe. Names should be sent to the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck.

COOKHAM.—On Saturday, July 10th, a 720 Bob Minor: Miss D. Fletcher 1, G. Martin 2, T. J. Fowler 3, — Judd 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.**PUBLIC APPRECIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have done a good bit of this chiming for about forty years now, and to make it look easy for others who wished to try, but did not understand the usual notation, I arranged several tunes, about fifty, for eight bells, by using figures for the bell to be struck and dots to show the time.

I had come to know from listeners that it helped them to refresh their thoughts when they heard a tune rendered to one of their favourite hymns. This gave me the impression that it was something worth doing.

I received a letter quite recently from one who appreciated this tune chiming when living here, although I did not know of this before, and after a lapse of so many years I was agreeably surprised, but such things 'move in a mysterious way.'

To be appreciated by those within hearing it seems necessary to make sure that the bells are suitable from a musical point of view, because we know that some bells are not cast for this purpose. Peals of eight, where it is only possible to render tunes within the octave, although not always quite perfect, give pleasure to a good many, but tunes attempted on the higher numbers, and not quite in tune with the octave, cause the critics to make remarks that are not very complimentary. So I do not think it is very wise to attempt it. I have in mind one church where tunes were very popular with the public, but when tunes above the octave were rendered the letters and complaints the Vicar received from listeners gave him a troubled mind, and it was a great relief to him when the ringers arranged to ring the bells instead of the tunes.

C. TYLER.

Henfield.

SIX BELL TUNES.

Dear Sir,—Anent the recent letters re chiming, it may be of interest to note that in Hymns A. and M. there are only four tunes suitable for six bells, and they are as follows: 'The sun is sinking fast,' 'Now the day is over,' 'Christian! Seek not yet repose,' 'We love the place, O God.'

A. H. FOX.

Kirk Ella, East Yorks.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. WOOD.

The death of Mr. W. J. Wood, of Queenborough, Kent, at the age of 65 years, is announced. At the funeral on July 5th the Rochester District of the Kent County Association was represented by Mr. W. Spice and a wreath was sent by the ringers.

Tunstall bells were rung half-muffled on July 6th, and at the same time the ringers had in mind W. Haigh, F. Bely and others of the association who passed away during the ban.

JOINT MEETING AT HAGLEY.

A joint meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association and the Dudley and District Guild, held at Hagley Park by permission of Viscount Cobham on June 19th, was attended by 67 ringers.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. Burns, who welcomed the visitors. Tea was served in picnic fashion under the trees.

At the business meeting of the Worcestershire Association three new members were elected, and it was decided to hold meetings at Kinver and Halesowen in July and August, and the next quarterly meeting at Clent in September. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector, the local leader, Mr. F. Molyneux, Mr. E. M. Ashford and his Boy Scouts and Mrs. Parkes for their excellent arrangements.

Ringings ranged from rounds to London Surprise.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT ADDERBURY.**

A meeting of the Banbury Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Adderbury on July 3rd, when some 30 ringers attended from the local towers, and there were several visitors, including the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master. The service in church was conducted by the Vicar of Adderbury, the Rev. T. H. South. He spoke of the many lessons ringers could learn from the various churches they visited. Other men had laboured and we of our generation had entered into their labour; it was up to us not only to maintain that heritage, but to enrich it before we passed it on.

After service, tea was followed by the business meeting, at which all the officers were re-elected, and a meeting at Banbury was provisionally arranged for October. Ringing on the fine peal of eight consisted of touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

ZEALS, WILTS.—On July 5th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. J. Paul, R.A.F. 1, Jack Gray, R.D. 2, H. S. Parsons, F.G. 3, F. A. Coward, Sp. Con. 4, Louis Perrett, H.G. 5, E. G. Coward, R.A.F. (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by ringers of 1, 2, 4 and 5. Rung to celebrate the meeting of five old pals home on leave.

LAVENHAM.—On Sunday, July 4th, 1,264 Bob Major: M. T. Symonds (conductor) 1, A. F. Turner 2, S. Smith 3, W. R. J. Poulson 4, W. Faires 5, L. Offord 6, J. Dearlove 7, W. Jarvis 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 0.1 2/-.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney, Sunday, July 18th, at 9.30 a.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting, Cathedral bells (12) at 2 p.m. Further ringing announced at the meeting.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — Meeting at Goldhanger, Saturday, July 17th. Buses leave Maldon 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., and Goldhanger 7.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Bexley, on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th. Service 4.15 p.m. —T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Twickenham, July 17th, 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Tel. Perivale 5320.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting in the Singing Men's Vestry at Durham Cathedral on July 17th. The Dean invites those attending to evensong at 3 p.m. and the meeting will follow immediately. A purely business meeting, no ringing. No catering arrangements. — Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lurry, July 17th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Flamstead on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Buses from Dunstable and St. Albans—route 369. Get off at Flamstead Turning.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry, Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) from 3.30. Service in church 4.30. Tea, 5.15, in St. Andrew's

Hall, Binley Road. Business meeting to follow. Keresley bells (5) from 2.30-4 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bolton, Saturday, July 17th. Bells 2 p.m. Business 7 p.m. for nominations.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 17th. Service, Great St. Mary's Church, 4 o'clock, followed by business. Great St. Mary's bells 3-4 p.m. and one hour during evening. St. Benet's 2.30-3.50 p.m. — K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.—Meeting on Saturday, July 17th, St. Paul's, Bath Road, Hounslow (8 bells), 2.30 p.m. Three minutes from Hounslow West Tube Station. All Saints', Isleworth (10 bells) after tea. Tea at Blue School, North Street, Isleworth, 4.30.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport and Bowden Branch. — Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch. —Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea, only for those who notify Mr. A. Holmes, Edenham, Bourne, by July 19th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Names to Mr. R. Elkington, 24, High Street, Anstey, before July 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Willoughby (6), Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Burbage on Saturday, July 24th.—Bells 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Meeting at Chequers Inn 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45. Service 6 p.m. Names for tea by July 21st.—L. Stilwell, Hon. Sec., Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, July 24th. St. Stephen's bells (6) 3-4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Institute, with St. Peter's bells (10) to follow. Numbers for tea to R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Practice meeting at Banwell, Saturday, July 24th, 6 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Pool Farm, Sandford, Bristol.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Meeting, Measham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea at 4.45. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Debenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 2.30. Tea can be obtained in the village.—W. C. Rumsey.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Pytchley (5 bells), Saturday, July 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., only for those who notify me previously. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Stratton, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea in Schoolroom.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 31st, 3 p.m. Tea provided. No food.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ringing meeting at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, July 31st, at 3 p.m. No other arrangements will be made.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of the Eastern District and the Leeds and District Society at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 2s. each, for all who notify Miss D. M. Hawley, East View, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Tuesday, July 27th. Buses leave Selby at 1.30 and 3.30, and leave Leeds Bus Station hourly at 23 minutes past the hour, and trains leave Leeds at 1.5, 2.26 and 5.13 p.m.—H. S. Morley and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION, N.W. District, and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Leatherhead on Monday, August 2nd. Bells during afternoon and evening. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Monday, August 2nd. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided 5 p.m. Bring food. Bells available at 5.30 p.m.: Cathedral (12), also handbells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6).—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgberrow, Evesham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Maidstone, Bank Holiday, August 2nd. Committee meeting 11.30. Service at 3 p.m. Tea in the Old Palace 4, followed by business meeting. Names before July 26th. During morning bells available at Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8).—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5. Names before August 3rd to J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

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OLD CLAIMS AND RECORDS.

Among the associations, the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham holds a leading position. Not only does it possess some of the foremost and most skilful ringers of to-day, but it has a history which goes back long before the conditions existed which made most of the other societies possible. Naturally and rightly, the Guild looks upon the books which record the performances of its past members as among its chief treasures, and is jealous of anything which might impair their authority.

This was shown lately at a meeting when Mr. Albert Walker drew attention to a statement in our columns which questioned the validity of one of the claims made in the peal book, and the meeting decided that, 'until they were proved false, the Guild's peal books and the claims made in them should be regarded as true in every respect.' With this everybody will generally agree, and especially those who are particularly interested in the history of the Exercise, provided, of course, it is not in the spirit of the lady who said, "I am fully open to conviction, but I'll defy anybody to convince me!" It is related that when the Caliph Omar conquered Alexandria he found there an immense library full of books. 'If they contradict the Koran,' he said, 'they are mischievous. If they agree with it, they are superfluous. Burn them.' We do not suggest that the St. Martin's Guild looks on its peal books as another Koran, but there certainly is that tendency among the owners of old and authentic records.

To a student of history, old books and records are evidence which has to be judged and tested like other evidence. When the writers make a definite statement of fact on any contemporary matter which was within their personal knowledge, their word can generally be taken as true. But when they merely repeat, perhaps at second or third hand, what they have heard others say, and especially when they are asserting a negative, their authority is very much less. When the Birmingham men claimed that they had rung a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1820, we can believe them. But when they assert (as in so many words they do assert) that no other band had done the same, we can only believe them subject to what evidence we find in other peal books and records.

The records of the past are full of claims made by bands to have performed something for the first time, which claims can be shown to be baseless. The instances are almost too numerous and too familiar to quote. Most ringers can recall some of them. There is a board

(Continued on page 318.)

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at St. Giles', Norwich, which claims the first peal of Superlative, but the Huddersfield men had already rung one. There is a tablet at Mancroft claiming the heaviest peal of Treble Bob Major, with one man to the tenor, but several (including some six-thousands) had already been rung on the weightier bells at Spitalfields. The College Youths claimed that one of their members was the first to call Holt's Original and ring at the same time; the feat had been done four times before. The College Youths claimed the first non-conducted peal; the honour, we believe, belongs to Birmingham. So we could go on. All these claims were made in good faith, but they were baseless.

When the Birmingham men claimed to have rung the first peal of Kent Maximus they had good grounds for their claim. It was accepted by the Exercise and later passed by Jasper Snowdon, who in his day was the greatest authority on these matters. But there was, and still is, in the Cumberlands' peal book the record of three or four peals of Cumberland Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus rung in the years 1794 and 1795. At that time the Kent Variation had been introduced (it is given in the 'Clavis'), but it was not known as Kent until many years later. The Birmingham men did not call it Kent. They called it 'new' Treble Bob.

But what did the Cumberlands ring? The peal book, of course, gives no figures of that or any other method. But the method was Treble Bob, which did not mean merely a method with a Treble Bob hunting treble. It had the ordinary Treble Bob lead-ends and the ordinary Treble Bob bob. And ordinary Treble Bob compositions were rung. What else could it have been but Kent?

Whatever we may think of this, the St. Martin's Guild can rest assured that their laurels will remain unwithered, and the prestige of their famous old society undiminished.

SIX BELL PEAL.

ALBRIGHTON, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

* On Saturday, July 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

ALBERT G. RICHARDS	...Treble	JAMES S. WEBB	... .. 4
*ALBERT J. ADAMS	... .. 2	ARTHUR PRITCHARD	... .. 5
CYRIL BRETT-SMITH	... .. 3	JAMES FERNLEY	... .. Tenor

Conducted by JAMES FERNLEY.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

RADLEY, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, July 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

MISS MARGARET D. TELFORD	1-2	R. GORDON CROSS	... .. 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	... .. 3-4	MRS. R. GORDON CROSS	... .. 7-8

Composed by H. HOWLETT. Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, July 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Redrup 1, R. Buckland 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, Sgt. J. Berry (first quarter-peal in the method) 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingleve (conductor) 7, Gnr. A. Ogden 8.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

ABOUT 'HUM-NOTES.'

(Continued from page 305.)

Canon Simpson has been giving his views of the lowest tone of a bell which is called the 'hum-note.' He goes on:—

And let me here say that there is a special reason why the government of the hum-note should receive the attention of founders. It has been for long a source of perplexity and vexation that small bells—such as those added to a peal of eight to make a peal of ten—are apt to behave in a very erratic fashion, appearing to sound much sharper than they were intended to be, or were believed to be. I am satisfied that, in most cases, the secret of this apparent anomaly lies in the fact that in these bells the hum-note is (for reasons not far to seek) excessively powerful, and, being (as usual) sharper than the nominal, overpowers that note, and takes the field, thus giving the result complained of. The cure is—to flatten the hum-note till it is in unison with the nominal, when, I believe, the dissonance will disappear.

If, as I have suggested, this may be done by casting such bells a little longer, a double advantage will be gained. Not only will the harmony be (so far) perfected, but the additional length of these upper bells will render them far more convenient for ringing with other large bells.

These are points, however, which can be easily settled by any bell-founder; and should they turn out as I suggest, the whole problem will be solved; and thenceforward, no founder ought to permit at least any large clock bell to leave his hands which has not its hum-note, fundamental, nominal, third, and perhaps fifth, in harmony.

I know of no such bell at present. Who will be first in the field to produce it?

But although I do not know of any completely attuned bell I should wish to do justice to modern founders; and I am bound to say that, as a rule, the bells produced nowadays by our best founders are more nearly in harmony than are the majority of our old church bells; especially is this the case with large bells:

A remarkable instance of this may be heard any day by dwellers in London. I refer to the Great Bell of St. Paul's Cathedral. This bell, weighing nearly seventeen tons, hangs in one of the western towers and is rung every day at 1 p.m. Its position in the tower, sunk as it is so much below the orifices, is very unfavourable to its carrying power, and to the even development of its tones. Nevertheless, it can be heard very well from any point of the space round Queen Anne's statue.

I have tested this bell, so far as my instruments would permit, with the result that I have found all the tones so far in perfect accord; i.e., the fundamental and the nominal are in true octaves, each being a true E flat. The tone next above the fundamental is also in perfect tune with it, but with this peculiarity—that the note instead of being a third above the fundamental is a fourth, i.e., A flat instead of G or G flat. This is a pity, and the more so that, from the position of the bell in its tower this tone is heard in undue proportion to the others. Nevertheless, the general effect is musical and very pleasing.

The hum-note of this great bell was too deep for a scientific test by any instrument within my reach, but it appears to be in complete unison with its fundamental.

Altogether the bell is a very noble specimen of modern English bell founding.

Since writing the above I have met with two more bells which appear to me to be in perfect tune as to their three principal notes. (1) The tenor of the church of Handsworth, near Birmingham, which seems to have also its third and fifth in perfect tune, though not otherwise a remarkably good bell. And (2) the old sanctus bell of Chichester Cathedral. An interesting bell, if only from the fact that it fell with the spire in 1852, and was recovered uninjured.

There still remains one very important matter to be considered, which has already, no doubt, suggested itself to those who have had the patience to read these papers. 'How,' it will be asked, 'are we to discriminate with accuracy, all these various tones, so as to be able to compare them, and note the various degrees of error?'

This is a most pertinent inquiry, for unless this can be done, I am confident that any knowledge of the methods of altering these several tones will be practically useless. And more, had I not possessed some method of eliciting each tone separately, I should never have attained what knowledge I have on this subject. The method I have used for about 20 years, I am aware is not unknown to others; but as far as I am concerned it is my own invention, quite effective, and very simple to those who know how to use it.

But it is not merely a piece of information to be imparted by words, but rather an art to be learned; and I am somewhat unwilling to risk the probability of its being pronounced a failure by those who, acting on a mere verbal description, should make nothing of it.

I will only say that the principle of it is that known as vibration by sympathy, it being a fact that any note of a bell can be elicited separately by touching the bell with the stem of a vibrating fork which is of the same pitch as the note in question.

I think that few are aware of the value of this little experimental fact, and it is not everybody who would have the patience and skill to apply it successfully. If my services were desired, by founders or others, for such guidance as I could give, I would try and arrange with them, and I can promise to founders a most valuable help in their difficult work, and to any lover of music a fruitful source of interest and pleasure.

SIMPSON'S APPENDIX.

At this point Canon Simpson ended the second of his two articles in the 'Pall Mall Magazine,' but when he published them in book form he added an appendix in which he went in greater detail into the question of hum-notes. Here it is:—

That the subordinate notes in bells are not true harmonics of the principal note is manifest at once to the ear.

On the other hand, if the various tones are respectively in any degree the special products of distinct parts of the bell, it is clear that—all the parts being in rigid connection with each other—no tone can be absolutely independent of the rest. In other words, it would seem impossible that any one tone in a bell could be altered without affecting (in however small a degree) the whole system.

But these unintentional alterations of tone may be very slight, and even inconsiderable.

(Continued on next page.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

If, then, it can be determined in the case of each separate tone the particular part of the bell of which it is (mainly) the product, it may be possible so to alter the particular parts as to bring (if required) the various tones into harmonic relations, and therefore to cast a future bell with those relations correct from the first.

The Abbé Bachman, who represents the Louvain Foundry, writes thus: 'A bell must be considered, theoretically, as a series of superposed rings—at superposed metallic zones, vibrating separately, and producing each its own tone, according to its diameter, and in proportion to its thickness of metal; a slight alteration in these elements in the curve of the bell has influence on the height of its tone.'

He means undoubtedly by this that the sound-bow is the zone which produces the fundamental. The lower waist is the zone which produces the third. The upper waist is the zone which produces the fifth. And (I suppose) the crown is the zone which produces the octave or nominal.

And there is no doubt that, to a great extent, he is right. For there is no question that, as regards the first three of these, the reduction of the metal on these zones does lower the pitch of these tones respectively.

But if the relative thickness and diameter of these zones govern the fundamental third and fifth, what parts of the bell are left to which we can refer the government of the nominal and of the hum-note?

Now as regards the nominal, I cannot but think that, like the fundamental, it is the direct product of the sound bow—under the restraint, no doubt, of other portions of the bell. At any rate, what sharpens the nominal (if anything) sharpens the fundamental, and what flattens the fundamental flattens also the nominal. At the same time it is noticeable that both sharpening and flattening of the nominal—the former exclusively, the latter slightly—can be effected by restricting our operation to the extreme zone of the bell, viz., to that part extending beyond the circle of percussion to the lip.

It seems, then, that the tone of this highest note has some special connection with this extreme zone.

Is it possible that the deepest note—the hum-note—should be specially related to the other end of the bell—the crown? For we cannot help enquiring, 'Where is its habitat?' Of what part of the bell is the hum-note the special product? Or (which is the practical point we are aiming at) what part (if any) of the bell must we operate upon in order to alter the pitch of the hum-note so as to bring it into true relation with the other tones, if necessary?

Now it has long seemed to me that the hum-note is, in some special sense, the note of the whole mass of the bell. I have been led to think this (1) partly because no special part of the bell remained unappropriated to

which we could refer it; (2) partly because this note is so much deeper than the fundamental, which is certainly the product of the principal part of the bell—the sound-bow; (3) partly because I observed that if the bell frame receives a jar, thus causing a general tremor of the bell without the special excitement of any part, it is the hum-note which is elicited.

Such being the direction of my thought, it was with great interest that I read the following observation by Helmholtz: 'The body of the bell, when struck, gives a deeper sound than the sound-bow, but the latter gives the loudest tone.'

Helmholtz is certainly here speaking of the hum-note, which he attributes to the 'body of the bell'—i.e., to the whole mass of the bell-proper.

Then, further, I have often observed that in ordinary tuning-forks there are notes which curiously correspond with the hum-notes, and fundamentals (or nominals) in bells.

Thus, if any fork is held lightly in the hand by the stem, and is struck sharply with a hard substance, about the middle of either limb, it gives out a very high and piercing, though sweet, note, quite different to that emitted by the fork when, being in a state of excitement, the stem is pressed upon the table. The 'striking' note disappears almost immediately—like the nominal in a bell—but the lower note—like the hum-note—continues persistently.

It seemed to me, then, that in the low persistent note of a fork we have something analogous to the hum-note in a bell, each being the lowest note produced by a vibrating instrument, and each, apparently, the product of the whole body of the instrument proper.

My next thought was that a bell might be considered as generated by the revolution of a fork of peculiar shape—i.e., that of a vertical section of a bell—the stem being supposed to be attached to the centre of the crown, and the question arose, 'Could not the pitch of the hum-note of a bell be governed in some such way as the corresponding note of a fork?'

Now, as the hum-note is (almost) always too sharp, we need only consider the case of having to flatten it. Referring then to the analogous case of a tuning fork, we know that this can be flattened—

1. By weakening the limbs of the fork near to where they spring from the stem.
2. By lengthening the limb of the fork, which may be done by working a file down into the cleft of the fork.

The analogous operations to these in the case of a bell would be—

1. To pare out metal all round inside the bell near to the points (or circle) where the body of the bell unites with the crown; or
2. To recast the bell longer in the waist, the other elements remaining the same.

My suggestions in the second paper are the result of this train of thought.

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The reasoning is, no doubt, open to criticism, but that the conclusions to which it led me are correct I have little or no doubt.

Neither process can well be tried except by founders or those who have special apparatus. The first has been tried and, I believe, with success.

As to casting bells longer, it is well to know that bells are hardly ever now cast so long in proportion to their width as was thought correct at one time. But there still exist a few of these 'long bells.' I know of but two—one a very small bell in Egdean Turret, and the other is the Sanctus bell of Chichester Cathedral, mentioned above. It is remarkable that in both these bells the hum-note is in unison with its fundamental, whereas in the case of almost every 'short bell' the hum-note is, as we have abundantly seen, too sharp.

One cannot help suspecting that this almost universal sharpness of the hum-note is the unintended and unobserved result of shortening bells for the sake of convenience in ringing.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF WILLIAM J. REECE.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

The death is announced of Sergt. Navigator William J. Reece, R.A.F.V.R., who was killed during operations on June 30th.

He was a member of the band at Staunton-on-Arrow, Herefordshire, and of the church choir. He learnt to ring at the age of ten, one of five schoolboys, all of whom are now serving in H.M. Forces. He was a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild and had taken part in 22 peals, the first at the age of 14. His first as conductor was on his 16th birthday. He was 20 years of age.

His list of peals was: Doubles, one method 6, conducted 1; two methods 3, conducted 1; three methods 2; four methods 3; five methods 2; Bob Minor 4; Grandsire Triples 2. A memorial service was held in Staunton Church.

THE LATE WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES.

FUNERAL AT CHISELHURST.

As already announced, Mr. William J. Jeffries, a well-known Kent ringer, died on July 3rd after an operation at the Farnborough Hospital.

The funeral was on Thursday, July 8th, at Chiselhurst Cemetery, and was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Bartle, Vicar of Sidcup. The widow was too unwell to be present, but the family were represented by the daughter, son-in-law and other members. There was a large attendance of ringers, including Messrs. F. E. Mitchell, H. Hoskins, I. Emery, P. Spice, F. E. Pitman, G. Kite, E. Mounter, J. Lyddiard, T. Lamb, E. B. Crowder, H. Young, E. A. Young, F. Richardson, T. Hurrell, H. Bennington, F. Bacon and Mrs. J. E. Davis.

The Bromley ringers rang handbells over the open grave. Mr. Jeffries, who was 73 years of age, was a trustee of the Kent County Association, a senior member of the Society of College Youths and for many years was in charge of the ringing at St. John's, Deptford.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WORTH.

The death is announced of Mr. George Worth, which took place on July 8th shortly after he had celebrated his golden wedding.

Mr. Worth was elected a member of the York Minster band in 1886 and continued to be an active member until his last illness, except for the time spent on service in France during the last war.

Owing to Mrs. Worth being an invalid, the first part of the funeral service was held at the house. The Rev. A. E. Twidle, Vicar of Acomb, took the service and also officiated at the graveside in Acomb Cemetery. Handbells were rung over the grave by Messrs. Earnshaw, Rickitt, Woodcock and Steel, and the bearers were Messrs. Rickitt, Forden, Steel and Walker. The Minster ringers present were Messrs. G. Horner, T. F. Earnshaw, E. Rickitt, F. Atkinson, H. Forden, L. Woodcock, S. Steel, H. Walker and J. Douglas.

Mr. Worth was a life member of the Yorkshire Association.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES MORSE.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Morse, of Sketty, at the age of 74 years.

Mr. Morse had been a ringer for over 45 years and was captain of the local band. He had rung several peals and was a regular Sunday service ringer. Before the South Wales Ringers' Association was disbanded he held the office of secretary.

The bells of St. Paul's, Sketty, were rung half-muffled for evening service on July 11th, 1943.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Of the band which rang the peal of Minor at Albrighton on July 17th, the treble ringer came from Codsall, the second from Banstead, Surrey, the third from Crayford, Kent, the fourth from Tunstall, Kent, the fifth from Wellington, and the tenor man from Norbury, Cheshire.

Mr. J. D. Harris has completed 50 years' membership of the Portsea band. He joined the company in 1893 as a probationer. Canon Edgar Jacob was Vicar at that time. He rang at the induction and institution of Dr. Cosmo Gordon Lang, the late Canon B. R. Wilson, Dr. C. F. Garbett, the late Canon F. J. L. Southam, Dr. G. C. L. Lunt and Canon C. H. Robins, as Vicars of Portsea. His first certificate was signed by the Rev. C. M. Harvey.

The ringer of the second in the peal at Tunstall, reported in last week's issue, was starred as having rung his first peal. Actually it was Mr. George Kenward's 150th.

At Solihull, Mr. Albert Walker referred to the statement made in this column that when the Birmingham men rang a peal of Grandsire Maximus in 1815 they thought it was the first in the method, and said that no such claim is made in the peal book. We never thought there was. Our authority for what we said was Jasper Snowdon, who can generally be relied on.

On July 18th, 1798, the ring of twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, cast at Whitechapel, was opened by the College Youths with a peal of Grandsire Cinques. Thomas Blakemore conducted.

The first tower-bell peal of Cambridge Court Major was rung at Nuneaton on July 19th, 1923.

Isaac George Shade, a very well-known ringer and one of the few who have rung over a thousand peals, was killed in a road accident on July 19th, 1926.

On the same date in 1939, the Lincolnshire men, with Mr. George E. Feirn as conductor, rang at Bigby a peal of Minor in 104 spliced methods.

Mrs. Fletcher called the first peal rung by ladies, at Cubitt Town on July 20th, 1912.

The first peal of Deben Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on July 20th, 1834; and the first peal of Oxhey Surprise Major at Oxhey on the following day.

On July 21st, 1923, at Over in Cheshire, 17,280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. Mr. Robert Sperring conducted and Mr. James H. Riding rang the tenor.

On the same date in 1928, the Yorkshire Association rang the first peal of Gainsborough Little Bob Major at Tickhill.

The first peal of Edmundsbury Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on July 22nd, 1932.

William Pye called the first and only peal in eleven Spliced Surprise Major methods at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on July 24th, 1930.

Fifty years ago to-morrow the first peal of Major at Gloucester Cathedral was rung. Henry Law James conducted from the tenor, and Mr. John Austin rang the fourth.

BELLS OF ALL HALLOWS', LOMBARD STREET

According to a statement in 'The Richmond and Twickenham Times,' the ring of ten bells which once hung in the demolished Church of All Hallows, Lombard Street, and which had been offered to the Cathedral at Guildford, are to be given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the new Church of All Hallows, Twickenham, to which the fittings from the Lombard Street church have been transferred. When this church was built a covenant was entered into restricting the use of bells, and this will have to be altered by consent. The legal expenses will be paid by the parish.

There are no particular grounds for satisfaction in this decision, for it is pretty certain that the bells will never be rung. Though the stone facing of the Wren steeple at Lombard Street was replaced on the new building at Twickenham, the tower is very thin, has no buttresses, and is unsupported by the fabric of the church itself.

WATFORD RINGER AWARDED D.F.C.

For courage and devotion to duty, the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Flight Officer A. R. Dawes, R.A.F.V.R. He has been engaged in operations with both Bomber and Coastal Commands and has participated in numerous anti-submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay, and in attacks on targets such as Berlin, Stettin, Essen and Duisburg. The citation announcing the award says: 'On several occasions he has been forced to make crash landings, but these harassing experiences have not in any way diminished his enthusiasm for operational flying, and F/O Dawes remains a most outstanding captain of aircraft.'

Alfred Dawes learned to ring at Watford Parish Church in 1935 and quickly became a useful member of the band. After he left the town he rang at Southampton and in Norfolk, where he took part in a peal of Minor.

BRIDGNORTH.—On Saturday, July 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Cottrell 1, W. Hayward 2, R. C. Fowler, R.A.F. 3, T. Tyler 4, B. Head 5, W. Overton (conductor) 6, H. W. Overton 7, W. Fowkes 8. A farewell to the ringer of the 3rd.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM, GUILD.**THE SOCIETY'S RECORDS.**

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at Solihull on July 3rd.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, Mr. Edgar Shepherd being at the piano, and 43 sat down to tea at the British Restaurant. In the absence of the Master, Mr. A. Paddon Smith, the chair was taken by Mr. Albert Walker.

Sympathy was expressed with the Ringing Master of Solihull, Mr. Roland Bragg, who was lying seriously ill, and with his family.

Mr. Walker stated that the peal books were still in his possession, and it was for the convenience of Mr. George Fearn, who was engaged in getting out certain details from them. The Guild's wishes that they should be placed in the care of Mr. George Swann, the librarian, would be complied with shortly.

Mr. Walker referred to some items appearing in 'The Ringing World,' which cast doubt on the Guild's records. In the issue of May 14th the Editor wrote: 'When the Birmingham men rang their peal in 1820 they quite honestly thought it was the first in the method, but they were not likely to have known of the other performance.'

'We of St. Martin's Guild,' said Mr. Walker, 'do not agree. We feel sure that the members in those days would be quite aware of what was taking place in other parts of the country, for they moved about the country in the same way as we have always done. So until our records are proved false we shall claim that the peal of 7,200 rung on April 17th, 1820, was the first peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the Kent Variation.'

'Then again in Belfry Gossip of June 11th appears the following: "The Birmingham men rang a peal of Grandsire Maximus at St. Martin's on June 12th, 1815. They thought it was the first in the method, but it was not." No such claim had ever been made. The peal book simply records a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Maximus. These early records are precious possessions and we are very jealous of their authenticity.'

Mr. George Swann and Mr. Frank Perrens also spoke, and it was agreed that until they were proved false the peal books and the claims made in them be regarded as true in every respect.

Mr. Arthur Hemming and Mr. John Pinfold were elected as full ringing members, and Mr. Nelson Elliott, of Crawford, Essex, as a life member.

Mr. D. T. Matkin proposed and Mr. H. Withers seconded that the next quarterly meeting be held at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, October 2nd, and this was agreed to.

Mr. W. C. Dowling referred to the loss sustained by Mr. C. T. Coles, whose gallant son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., had been killed in action, and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Coles. This was seconded by Mr. A. Walker and agreed to.

Mr. G. E. Fearn mentioned a letter from Mr. William Short regretting his absence. Forty-three years ago next September he called Mr. John Day's last peal on the bells of Solihull. Mr. Short was still hale and hearty and looked forward to coming among them on many occasions.

The next meeting of the Worcester Association will be held at Halesowen in August, and the branch secretary, Mr. Bernard Ashford, hoped that as many members of the St. Martin's Guild as possible would join them then.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Edgar Shepherd, the Deputy Ringing Master at Solihull, for making the local arrangements, proposed by the secretary and seconded by the chairman, was received with acclamation.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.

By invitation of the local band, an open meeting was held at Isleworth on Saturday, July 17th, at which 50 ringers and friends were present, including 14 members of the local company, and visitors from Hounslow, Heston, Stanmore, Hersham, Leytonstone, Brentwood, Weybridge, Egham, Croydon, Leatherhead, Epsom, Willesden, Bushey, Wembley, Westminster, Fulham, Manchester, Ipswich and Swindon. Ringing commenced at St. Paul's, Hounslow, soon after 2.30 p.m. and continued until 4 o'clock. Tea was at the Blue School, Isleworth, and was arranged by the Church Catering Committee.

After tea Mr. Charles Wenban from Stanmore, and Mr. William Simmonds from Hersham entertained the company with some tune ringing on the handbells; this was greatly appreciated.

A welcome was given by Mrs. Rogers to the visitors, to the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson, the curate in charge of All Saints, and to Mr. G. Taylor, churchwarden. The Rev. Toole-Mackson and Mr. Taylor warmly welcomed the visitors, and said they were pleased to be with such a large gathering of ringers. Mr. Simmonds thanked the curate and the churchwarden for their welcome, and the members of the local company for arranging the meeting.

Thanks were accorded to the ladies who prepared and served the tea. Further ringing then took place on the ten bells of All Saints', Isleworth, and continued until 9.30 p.m.

Besides rounds for beginners, the methods rung throughout the day were Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal, with an attempt, though unsuccessful, for Cambridge Royal.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**

336		336	
234567		234567	
752634	1	672453	2
237546	3	346572	1
462753	2	723654	2
374562	1	357246	
P.L. 357246	1		
504		378	
234567		234567	
752634	1	462375	3
527634	4	534762	1
735246	3	625473	2
357246	4	346725	1
		P.L. 357246	2

All twice repeated.

BOB MAJOR.

352.		384.	
23456 W B M R		23456 W B M R	
25463 1 —		45362 — 1 — —	
34256 — — —		23564 — — —	
23456 — — —		23456 — 2 — —	
352.		384.	
23456 W B M R		23456 W B M R	
52364 — 1 —		45236 — — —	
35264 — — —		23564 — 1 — —	
23456 — — —		23456 — 2 — —	
352.		400.	
23456 W B M R		23456 W B M R	
25463 1 —		45362 — 1 — —	
45362 — — —		64352 — — —	
23456 — — —		23456 — 3 — —	
352.		400.	
23456 W B M R		23456 W B M R	
52436 — — —		54326 3 — —	
35264 — 1 —		34625 — — —	
23456 — — —		23456 — 1 — —	

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

72
Call one bob on 6-7, one on 7-4, and two on 4-6. Or call the seventh 6-7 up, 6-7 down after quick, and in and out quick.

216
Call the treble out quick, in slow, last half turn, out slow, make the bob, in quick. Repeat twice.

252
Call the treble out quick, 6-7 up, 6-7 down, make bob after slow Repeat twice.

504
Call the treble out quick, last half turn, in slow. Repeat twice. The last three touches have Queen's and Tittums as part ends.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HALEWOOD.**

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Halewood on July 10th and was attended by ringers from Childwall, Sefton, Prescot, Farnworth, Woolton, Liverpool and the local company. The visitors were Messrs. J. C. E. Simpson, of Chester, H. Dexter, of Leicester, E. G. Coward, of Mere, Wiltshire, C. Raddon, of Grappenhall, and S. Hough, jun., of Knutsford.

A short service in church was conducted by the Rector. At the meeting the memory of the late J. Roberts, of Woolton, was honoured. Mr. S. Hough was elected a non-resident life member and Mr. J. L. Carruthers a performing member. Nominations were made for the offices of the association. Great Crosby was chosen as the place of the next meeting.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.**

A special meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at St. Peter's Church on July 10th. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, and was followed by tea and a business meeting, at which Mr. R. S. Cowley was elected hon. secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. C. Dean. The bells of St. Peter's were available, and ringing was enjoyed by a good attendance of members.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

AN OLD MANUSCRIPT

The idea of chiming hymn tunes on church bells is not a new one; it goes back for some centuries, though in olden times it was much restricted by the small number of bells in a ring. The earliest reference to it seems to be in a manuscript book now in the British Museum written by John Locke, who lived between the years 1623 and 1655, and was the father of Locke the famous writer and philosopher.

John Locke was a country solicitor, and his memorandum book consists chiefly of forms of licences, bonds, warrants and other legal documents, but among them are six tunes to be rung on five bells. We have not traced any of these tunes in any collection, and some of them (certainly the first) seem to have been 'adapted' to the small range of notes.

53123434	} The	163 psm.
431121		
53123454		
123245		
53425432	} The	42 psm.
234334		
43243345		
343245		
535445	} The	25 psm.
343245		
43241234		
123245		
3435222	} Ladies'	Hall
53454		
5435222		
345445		
3452145	} Ladies'	Hall
221324		
22134145		
132145		
1321		
2345		
343543		
21345		

'MUTILATION' OF TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir—Mr. Ashford appears to have omitted a number of tunes from his list of 'A. and M.' suitable for eight bells or less, namely, 78, 109, 135, 265, 309, 534 and 569 (2nd tune). Others also omitted are duplications. No. 268 is a ten-bell tune. Mr. Fox might add to his list of six-bell tunes No. 94 ('Lord in this Thy mercy's day') and 266 ('Lead, kindly light').

With regard to the latter, tunes with the same note in a row in one line (in this case six) are not desirable, especially if played just before service commences, as they are apt to be mistaken for the five-minute or 'ting-tang' bell.

With regard to the banning of the substitution of other notes in place of accidentals in otherwise suitable tunes, I think it is a pity, as it debars such favourite hymns as 'Abide with me,' 'How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds,' etc., which I find are much appreciated in spite of their 'mutilation.' In the case of No. 76 ('How sweet the name'), the difficulty can be got over by introducing the tenor part in the last line with the melody. The transposition of the last note but one will not then be noticed.

There are also, of course, other tunes such as the two 'Holsworthy Ains,' the British Legion hymn, 'O valiant hearts,' and numerous 'secular' airs, besides carols for Christmas time. On occasion I have introduced into the programme of Boy Scout entertainments a fine set of 12 handbells, size 25 in D, and tapped tunes suitable to the particular 'show.' The effect is very striking when the sound of the music is coming from an ante-room adjacent to the main hall, and when the camp fire turn is on, with the lights turned down and the Scouts joining in the choruses with subdued voices, and with a piano accompaniment. This, by the way, has been the means of interesting the Scouts in bellringing and eventually gaining one or two probationers to the tower-bell company.

H. D. HARRIS.

Woburn, Beds.

TUNES v. CHANGES.

Dear Sir,—Tune ringing will never be a serious rival to method change ringing. At least, that is my opinion based upon the reception given by many varied audiences to the handbell demonstrations we have made in the Bournemouth district during the past three years. The tunes, provided they are well rung, are well received, but a course or touch of (say) Triples, Caters or Major will 'bring the house down.'

We have a small eight-bell carillon installed in a church near here, and I have heard many complaints about the bad chiming and poor hymn tunes. We hope to do something about it.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

SOME ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—May I offer some advice to the would-be hymn tune chimer?

He should first of all select two or three simple tunes which he knows thoroughly. They should be ones in which all the notes (as written) are of the same length, and which require to be played in fairly slow time.

There are a number of these tunes available and three will serve for examples—'We love the place,' 'Ye choirs of new Jerusalem' (Gauntlett, English Hymnal, 139), and 'Tallis' Ordinal, 'O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace' (E.H. 453, A. and M. 78).

The chimer should write these out by numbers plainly on a card, then hang up a set of handbells and practise each tune, going through it over and over again, using the words at the time and, if possible, singing them, until he knows that he can reproduce the tune not only accurately, but so as to express the meaning of the music and the words.

Before using the chiming apparatus the chimer should carefully adjust the ropes so that the pull is short and exactly the same for every bell. This is most important.

He should practise rounds, queens, tittums and as many other musical set changes as he knows. This should not be done haphazardly, but he should know every change he intends to chime. He should aim at accuracy, smoothness and smartness. This practice is as important to the chimer as scale playing is to the pianist.

Change ringing should not be attempted. It is an entirely different thing and outside the present subject. If the chimer wishes to chime changes he can leave the learning how to do it until he has mastered the art of hymn tune playing.

The chimer should understand his instrument and realise its capacities and limitations. He cannot vary the loudness of his music and should not try to do so. He cannot play a sustained note; he can only suggest one. For expression he must concentrate on perfect phrasing, and that, after all, is one of the most important things in music.

It is not easy. Some tunes look quite easy, but are very difficult to chime with the proper expression. Take as an example one which has been referred to in this correspondence, 'Fight the good fight.' In any case that tune is barred, because it needs notes which cannot be had on an ordinary peal of bells. I only want to use the first line as an illustration. It is 6666.67.85. The first five words are all on the same note, and all are shown of equal length, except the fourth, which is double the length of the others. But anyone who knows the tune and the words will realise that if these notes (or four of them) are given the same value, the expression and spirit of the hymn will be missed.

The chimer who can play that line really well would be worth listening to.

CHARLES GREEN.

'A. AND M.' AND 'THE ENGLISH HYMNAL.'

Dear Sir,—The references given in your columns to hymn tunes have been mainly to 'Hymns A. and M.' It is worth noting that this book in every case but one gives wrong time-versions of the older tunes. In the first edition (1861), the editors 'ironed out' all the varied rhythms into plain blocks of regular triple or common time, and the error has been perpetuated in all subsequent editions. The older and more current versions can be found in 'English Hymnal' and 'Songs of Praise'; and I suggest that these original versions should always be used when chiming.

Experience during the last 35 years in churches and cathedrals all over the country has proved how much more 'alive' these tunes are when sung from the older versions. Compare, e.g., the two versions of 'London New' (A.M. 373, E.H. 394), also 'Angels' Song' (A.M. 8, E.H. 259) and 'Les Commandements' (A.M. 201, E.H. 277). (Neither of these two latter can be chimed.) It will be found that if such tunes are chimed according to the original version, the use of the longer and/or shorter notes will give better rhythm, clearer definition and therefore greater interest to listeners.

(Rev.) A. M. SAMSON, Mus.B.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

P.S.—One reason why change ringing does not always appeal to the musical listener is that the musical rhythm and accent is generally indefinite. But this is another story.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CLERKENWELL.

Over fifty members and friends of the Middlesex Association attended a meeting held jointly with the Royal Cumberland Youths at St. James', Clerkenwell, on July 10th.

A service was conducted by the Rev. — Maxwell, assistant to the Vicar, who was away on holiday, and Mr. W. Prockson, a member of the local band home on leave from the Services, played the organ.

After tea, provided through the energies of the Misses Bailey and Prockson and other lady helpers, words of satisfaction were expressed on the effect of the joint meeting and votes of thanks were passed.

The ringing included rounds for the beginners and ranged up to courses of Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

The arrangements for future meetings are as follows: At Bishops-gate on July 31st, and at Stanmore on September 11th.

TRIPLE TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS,

As we have already noticed, there are a number of churches in England with two towers. There are some instances, particularly in cathedrals, where the church possesses three towers. The only instances I can recall in this country where there are four towers are St. John's, Westminster, and Out-Rawcliffe, near Garstang, Lancashire.

St. John's was designed by Archer, and before it was completed the fabric began to settle. A tower was therefore added to each corner to strengthen the building. The church was burnt out during one of the air raids.

The Church of St. John at Out-Rawcliffe is a small edifice of brick in Norman style which is unique. It is an oblong building with a square turret at each of the four corners, the south-west having one bell. This unconventional style of architecture was designed, it is said, from a portion of Glastonbury Abbey. With ivy covering its walls, it certainly presents a picturesque appearance, but an unromantic person is said to have compared it to a chest of drawers turned upside down. The church has no chancel, but can boast of 42 windows and a fine west door of Norman architecture.

The Church of St. James, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, is on an unusual plan, being a cruciform building on the plan of a Latin cross in the Byzantine style, of various coloured bricks and stones, and having an octagonal dome 67ft. high, rising above the intersection, and flanked by four turrets. It also has a campanile 80ft. high and 12½ft. square, containing a clock and five bells. The latter are by J. Warner and Sons, hung dead, erected in 1888, the tenor being 10 cwt.

The incomplete Church of St. Michael, Croydon, has several spired turrets and eventually will have a tower with a ring of bells, and similar instances might be noted.

On the Continent it is not unusual to see churches with many towers and spires. Thus in Germany there are five towers at Paulinzelle: St. Castor, Coblenz, and Apostles' Church, Cologne. Similarly in France there are five towers at Angoulême Cathedral, and Déols, Indre.

At Cluny, Tournai, Limberg, Speyer, Worms and Laach there are six.

Rouen, Rheims and Laon were intended for seven towers; five of them like those still surviving at Tournai were to be central. Chartres was designed for eight.

Except at Peterborough, we in England were less ambitious. Of our forty-three cathedrals, eight have triple towers, and two have triple towers with spires, not counting St. Paul's, London, which, besides its great central dome rising to a height of 363ft. (including the surmounting cross), has two western towers, each 222ft. high. To these might be added Peterborough, which, besides its central tower containing five bells, has at-

tached to its fine western portico—said by many to be the finest in Europe—on the north and south two lofty turrets flanked at the angles with clustered shafts and crowned with spires. Of the other English cathedrals, as we have already noted, Exeter has twin towers at the transept crossings. Nine have western towers; three have west towers with spires; eight have central towers; and seven central towers with spires. The ancient Cathedral of Peel (Isle of Man) is in ruins, and Bury St. Edmunds has its detached tower, already noted in these articles.

Triple towers also occur at Selby Abbey and Melbourne, Derbyshire, while the little Church of St. Martin-of-Tours, Werrington, Devon, besides having its central west tower has two smaller tower-like abutments with battlements and crocketed pinnacles, each being a small replica of the larger tower. The latter has a fine ring of eight bells by J. Taylor and Co., tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb., erected in 1898.

Melbourne, as all the world now knows since the recent broadcast, has a ring of eight bells which hang in its central tower. This magnificent specimen of Early Norman work stands open to the road without any enclosing churchyard. Besides the central tower there are two small towers at the west end, surmounted by dwarf spires. The church was given by Henry II. to the Bishop of Carlisle, who used it as a retreat when there was any fighting on the border. There were originally four old bells, the first three by members of the Oldfield Foundry and dated 1610, 1632 and 1614 respectively. The tenor was by Hedderley in 1732. In 1882 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. added a treble and tenor, recasting the old bells at the same time, and in 1887 two more bells were installed. These were all rehung in 1935, and the tenor weighs 15 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb. The ringers here stand in the choir before the chancel screen, and before commencing to ring, the stalls on either side, which are hinged, are tipped back out of the way. A number of peals have been rung here by the local company, who in days gone by rang most of the compositions of Grand-sire Triples, composed by A. E. Barnes, of Melbourne, Australia. The band of tourists who went to Australia in 1934, and among other peals rang one at Melbourne there, later visited this tower and repeated the performance.

Selby, Yorkshire, is justly proud of its fine abbey and the glorious ring of ten bells. Originally five were installed by Sellers, of York, in 1710, after the fall of the tower in 1690. A treble was added to these by T. Mears, of London, in 1821, and in 1863 the octave was completed by two trebles, also by Mears, who recast the tenor at the same time. A most disastrous fire occurred on the night of October 19th-20th, 1906, which, besides doing much material damage, destroyed the bells, which fell. After the great restoration, a new ring of ten was pro-

(Continued on next page.)

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TRIPLE TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

vided from the remains of the old bells with additional metal, cast by J. Taylor and Co., with a tenor 25 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb. They are hung in an iron frame. The Restoration Committee paid for the actual casting of the old eight bells, while the difference to increase the ring to ten was collected by the ringers. On November 23rd, 1918, to mark the signing of the Armistice and in honour of the Vicar, Rev. J. Solloway, D.D., being appointed Canon of York Minster, the writer (then Sergeant E. Morris, R.A.S.C.) had the pleasure of conducting Matthews' 10-part peal of Grandsire Triples in 3½ hours.

Like many ascents to central towers, the approach to the ringing chamber at Selby is first by a spiral stairway at the end (inside) of the north transept in the left-hand corner under the north window. At the top of this stairway you come out on a narrow balcony, which takes you back to the south end of the transept, thence up some sloping steps, which brings you to the rather twisting spiral stairway of the tower proper, and so to the ringing chamber.

At the west end of the abbey are two towers with battlements and tall crocketed pinnacles.

(To be continued.)

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT STOKE.

The quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, July 17th, was well attended by members from Allesley, Birmingham, Broughton Astley, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Leicester, Manchester, Nuneaton, Rugby and Stoke.

Various methods were rung during the afternoon and evening. A service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. Ashcroft), assisted by the curate (the Rev. Gosling).

Tea in St. Andrew's Hall followed, the Rector and curate being guests of honour. The Rector was voted to the chair for the business meeting. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. W. Stote, and an invitation from Mr. W. A. Wood, hon. secretary of Hinckley District, to a joint meeting at Earl Shilton on August 21st. This met with approval. Wolvey and Bedworth were selected as the places of the September and October meetings.

The election of Mr. Nolan Golden, of Norwich, at the Nuneaton meeting in June was ratified.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector, the curate, Mr. R. Hayne, who had arranged the tea and the ladies who had prepared it.

Grandsire Caters, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells, Messrs. Argyle, White, Webb, Pervin, Beamish and E. and P. Stone taking part. Mr. C. H. Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Beamish rang tunes on the handbells.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TWICKENHAM.

At a meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at St. Mary's, Twickenham, on Saturday, July 17th, 22 members and friends were present from Burnham, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Egham, Feltham, Hastings, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Ruislip, Twickenham, Westminster (St. Stephen's), Willesden and Windsor. The bells were raised shortly after 3 p.m. and were kept going at intervals till about 8 p.m., some good ringing being accomplished in Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane, president of the association, who invited those present to tea at St. Mary's Hall. After tea a short business meeting was held, at which the secretary read an airgraph letter from the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson, now on service in North Africa, and was asked to convey to him the best wishes of all present for good luck and a safe and speedy return. A vote of thanks was proposed to the president by the secretary for his kindness and welcome, and was carried by acclamation.

ALDERSHOT.—On Sunday, July 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: *John Rowsell 1, Harold Hobden (conductor) 2, Miss Edna Southby 3, Miss Hilda Mills 4, William Viggers 5, Maurice Hodgson 6, Cpl. L. Fox 7, *Douglas Scott 8. *First quarter-peal.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport and Bowden Branch. — Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch. —Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45. Service 6 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Hon. Sec., Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, July 24th. St. Stephen's bells (6) 3-4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Institute, with St. Peter's bells (10) to follow. Numbers for tea to R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Meeting, Measham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea at 4.45. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Debenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 2.30. Teas can be obtained in the village.—W. C. Rumsey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea in Schoolroom.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sandy on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Will arrange tea if possible.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch. —Meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terlington St. John, Wisbech.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—All Saints' (12 bells). An open practice on Saturday, July 31st, 7 till 9 p.m. Sunday, August 1st, for service, 5.55.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 31st, 3 p.m. Tea provided. No food. — F. Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Ringing meeting at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, July 31st, at 3 p.m. No other arrangements will be made. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting of the Eastern District and the Leeds and District Society at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 2s. each, for all who notify Miss D. M. Hawley, East View, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Tuesday, July 27th. Buses leave Selby at 1.30 and 3.30, and leave Leeds Bus Station hourly at 23 minutes past the hour, and trains leave Leeds at 1.5, 2.26 and 5.13 p.m. — H. S. Morley and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Hatfield (8 bells), July 31st, at 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. Rodwell, 349, Broadway, Dunsvill, Hatfield, near Doncaster, before July 26th. Buses leave Doncaster every ten minutes. — W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Newport Pagnell Deanery. — Meeting at Olney, Saturday, July 31st, 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30, 1s. 6d. each. Numbers for tea by Tuesday, 27th. — Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Wigan Branch. — Meeting at Ormskirk on Saturday, July 31st. Bells 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. — S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch. — Meeting at Alsager (8 bells) on Saturday, July 31st. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning and Reading Branches. — Meeting at Sonning on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea (1s. 3d.). Notify Mr. E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading, by July 27th. — B. C. Castle and E. G. Foster, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch. — Meeting Boughton, Saturday, July 31st. Ringing 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Cup of tea provided.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Meeting at Pitstone on July 31st, by invitation of Mr. E. H. Lewis. Euston 1.45, due Tring 2.39. Members only. Ringing at Ivinghoe about 3 p.m. Names by 26th latest to A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION, N.W. District, and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Leatherhead District. — Meeting at Leatherhead on Monday, August 2nd. Bells during afternoon and evening. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible. — D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Worcester, Monday, August 2nd. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided 5 p.m. Bring food. Bells avail-

able at 5.30 p.m.: Cathedral (12), also handbells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6). — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgberrow, Evesham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Maidstone, Bank Holiday, August 2nd. Committee meeting 11.30. Service at 3 p.m. Tea in the Old Palace 4, followed by business meeting. Names before July 26th. During morning bells available at Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8). — Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WOODBIDGE. — Monday, August 2nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Bring own food.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5. Names before August 3rd to J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — A combined practice every Friday at Tonbridge, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WANTED, 'THE RINGING WORLD,' August 1st, 1940, clean for binding. — P. Field, Stoke Wake, Blandford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BALCOMBE.

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild at Balcombe on July 10th when ringers were present from Hartfield, Lindfield, Tunbridge Wells, Twineham, Paddock Wood, Reigate, Wadhurst and the local company, as well as Mr. Clark, of Three Bridges, a visitor from Camberwell and Mr. George Cecil, of Stepney, now living at Haywards Heath.

After a tea the business was soon disposed of. The Vicar sent a note of apology for absence, Mr. Cecil was elected a member, and Messrs. E. T. Exeter, Balcombe, and W. Clayton, Reigate, were re-elected. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. A. Laker for making the arrangements. Those present agreed that 'The Ringing World' was most interesting in these days and approved the leaders dealing with learners.

Further meetings were arranged for Rotherfield on August 21st, and Turners Hill on September 11th.

Before and after the meeting the light ring of eight were made good use of.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, July 10th, when 26 members were present from Doncaster, Eastwood, Felkirk, Barnsley, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, Sandal, Silkstone, South Anston and Sherburn-in-Elmet.

The bells were put to good service during the afternoon, and tea was served in the Church House. The vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, was chairman at the business meeting, at which three new members were elected — Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradley and Miss D. M. Hawley, all of Sherburn-in-Elmet.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, August 14th.

Further ringing followed, both on handbells and tower bells. The methods rung in hand were Bob Minor and Major and Grandsire Triples and Caters. In the tower, Bob Minor and Major, Treble Bob Minor and Major, and Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEIGH.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th, and was attended by members from Horsmonden, Benenden, Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, East Peckham and Penshurst, in addition to Mr. A. Relf (Lamberhurst), Mr. C. Bassett (Wadhurst), Mr. T. E. Sone (Paddock Wood) and two members of H.M. Forces.

Service in church was followed by tea at the local restaurant, over which Mr. W. Gibbons presided. Mr. H. Head was elected a member of the Tonbridge band; Penshurst was selected for the next meeting on Saturday, August 28th; Mr. H. Goodwin proposed thanks to the Vicar and organist, and Mr. A. Batton proposed thanks to Mr. B. Pankhurst for making the arrangements. Some members enjoyed handbell ringing in the vestry, while others kept the tower bells going in methods from Doubles to Cambridge up to 8.30.

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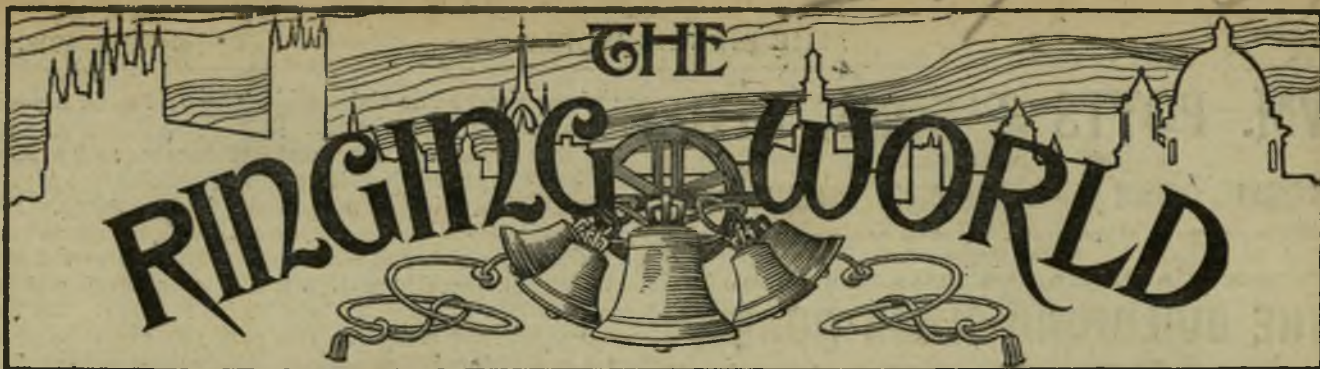
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FRIDAY, JULY 30th, 1943.

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A NOTABLE PEAL.

There is in the Exercise to-day a considerable number of men who feel that, in these days of war, peal ringing is out of place and should be discouraged. And there is a much larger number who think that peals should not be rung for trivial and unimportant reasons, but only for special occasions and events of national and public interest. They do not object to peals being rung for the reason most peals actually are rung, and always will be rung, namely, because ringers enjoy peal ringing as the highest expression of their art; but they do think that to ring a peal for (say) the birthday of one of the ringers, or of one of his nearer or more remote relatives, is, when one considers what bells are for and how wide is their appeal, quite out of proportion.

Some such feeling there has all along been in the Exercise, and it would undoubtedly have been stronger, only that everybody was fully aware that the peal was not really rung for the purpose stated in the footnote. The public knew nothing about the matter, neither probably did most of the band. The man most nearly concerned cared little, but he happened to remember that he, or his wife, or his sister's second cousin had a birthday somewhere about the date the band had arranged to go for a peal, so why not mention it? It was all done in a pleasant and friendly manner, but it very much lowered the value of the peals rung on the comparatively rare occasions when a band really does desire to celebrate some special or national event.

For this reason we think it will be advisable drastically to reduce the number of footnotes to peals, and we hope it will have the effect of throwing into greater relief those peals which express some strong emotion or are themselves of outstanding interest.

Such a peal undoubtedly is that which was rung at Crayford last Saturday, and we are quite sure that every reader of this journal, whatever he may think of peal ringing in general, will agree that it was worth ringing, and will be glad that it was rung. For the two ringers who together completed their thousand peals there will be general congratulations. The achievement of some difficult task, some far-off aim, is always admirable, and is evidence of the possession of outstanding mental and moral qualities. And if there be those who think that peal ringing is essentially selfish, it will be a more than sufficient answer to point to Mr. Coles' career. It has needed the expenditure of much time and energy to score a thousand peals, but he still has found time and energy to be a regular service ringer, to manage the affairs of

(Continued on page 330.)

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one of the great territorial associations, and to do his full share in helping other ringers.

But that is not all. The peal had another and a very special significance. Not long ago Mr. Coles lost a gallant son, fallen with honour on the field of battle. He was not himself a ringer, but he took a great interest in his father's ringing and was looking forward to the approaching thousandth peal. It was a natural and a happy thought to ring that peal to his memory. To his memory, but not muffled. The peal was not a conventional expression of mourning. There was sorrow indeed and regret. But there was also pride and thankfulness for a noble end which, with the sacrifice others are making, will not have been in vain.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. H. EARLE BOLWER'S IRREGULAR TEN-PART.

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

ALFRED H. POLLING	ERNEST J. MUNDAY	5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY	6
NORMAN HARDING	WILLIAM T. BEESON	7
GEORGE E. CLODE	C. ERNEST-SMITH	Tenor

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*CHARLES T. COLES	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY	5
WILLIAM H. HEWETT	REUBEN SANDERS	6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER	*JAMES BENNETT	7
RUPERT RICHARDSON	EDWIN BARNETT	Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

* 1,000th peal. Rung in grateful memory of Capt. Frederick G. Coles, M.O., killed in action in Tunisia, April, 28th, 1943.

SIX BELL PEALS.

GREAT EASTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Cambridge Surprise, two of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

GEORGE SAUNDERS	GEORGE SCHLEUTER	4
FLT./SGT. WILLIAM MITSON	H. WALTER SMITH	5
FRANK HARRINGTON	J. G. JENNINGS	Tenor

Conducted by J. G. JENNINGS.

Rung to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Rev. P. E. T. Widrington as Rector.

SHILLINGSTONE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 16 cwt.

PHILIP H. TOCOCK	FREDERICK H. HART	4
WILLIAM DAMEN	WILLIAM C. SHUTE	5
D. W. CHARLES CHANT	WILLIAM E. TREVETT	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX,
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, July 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

At 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ...	7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

OXFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	5-6
*JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	† MARGARET D. TELFORD ...	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* 100th peal. † First peal of Treble Bob.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

In THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM G. YODNG	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
*MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY ...	3-4	*CYRIL F. TURNER	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' First peal of Major as conductor. Rung as a compliment to the Vicar, Canon Hedley R. Burrows, upon his appointment as Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral and as Archdeacon of Winchester.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, July 25, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

In ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 15 in C.

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

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WEST HALLAM.

At a meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association, held at West Hallam on July 24th, there were present at least 40 ringers from Darley Dale, Ilkeston, Greasley, Duffield, Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's, St. Peter's, St. Andrew's), Alverston and Spondon, and methods rung included Grandsire, Treble Bob, Stedman, Duffield and Double Norwich as well as handbell ringing, in which Messrs. James Paget, J. Bailey, Albert Ward, Fred Gobey, William Parsons, W. Buxton, A. Mould and a visitor from Swindon took part.

Four youthful visitors from Greasley from 12 to 14 years of age delighted the ringers by their handling of the bells in rounds and 'thuds,' and as there is a fairly long draught, they are a decided credit to their instructors.

The Rector (the Rev. Lloyd-Jones) arranged tea in the Church Room, and as all had brought food the picnic spirit was much in evidence.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Melbourne on August 21st. Votes of thanks for the use of the bells and for the tea arrangements were carried.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS AT YORK.

Last week we announced the death of Mr. G. Worth, of the York Minster band. He had reached his golden wedding day on June 29th and two days later another member of the company Mr. T. F. Farnshaw, celebrated his golden wedding. The two had been members of the band for 57 and 55 years respectively. They were of the same age within a few weeks, and both retired on the same day. Mr. Worth had learned to ring on the six bells of Bishopshill.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 321.)

SOME RANDOM REMARKS.

Canon Simpson wrote his book with the definite object of interesting the public in the tuning of bells and of persuading founders to alter their methods of tuning. He completely succeeded in his object, and one reason of his success was the clear and convincing way in which he presented his case. He used quite simple and straightforward language, and he resisted any temptation to go deeply into technicalities and details. Throughout, he carries his reader with him, and, as we read, we feel that what he says is true to experience, so far as we have any knowledge of the matter. It is only after we have studied his book much more deeply that we realise that it raises greater difficulties for the non-expert reader than it solves.

His case, we remember, is that every bell sends forth three important and distinct tones which should be in perfect octaves, but, at the time he was writing, never were. In a ring of bells only one of the sets of these tones was tuned true, and therefore it was no wonder that bells sounded out of tune.

Most ringers know of some bells that sometimes and to some people sound out of tune, though generally they are quite satisfactory to those who are not deliberately looking for faults. There are bells which always sound wrong, but we are not referring to them.

It may happen, for instance, that on a Sunday morning a band has met short and, since they cannot ring, one of them, who knows a little of music, will chime some tunes on the Ellacombe apparatus. Then in some passage a most marked dissonance will occur and someone will say, 'I never knew these bells were so much out of tune before.' Miss Hilda Snowden, in a recent letter in our columns, referred to a somewhat similar experience.

Occasionally we hear bells which, somehow or other, do not sound right, but which puzzle the non-expert ear to say what is wrong.

At rare intervals we may be peal ringing on a heavy ring of bells when the striking and rhythm are excellent, and suddenly and, as it were, without warning, four or five deep powerful notes will boom out, and for a while overpower every other tone and take full possession of the senses. A rare and transitory experience, but striking and quite pleasing while it lasts.

The vagaries of old-style small bells are well known. The trebles of very light rings of eight and ten almost always sounded wild, nor did there seem to be any reason for it. Lord Grimthorpe, who seldom admitted that he did not know, confessed that this was beyond him, and it is probable that the founders had come to the conclusion that the production of really satisfactory small bells was not possible.

In this case the experience was universal and constant, but in the others the experience was quite rare and partial. It was only now and then that otherwise quite satisfactory rings sounded out of tune.

In referring these discrepancies to the over-tones of the bells, Canon Simpson was undoubtedly right, but the question arises: If the bells are always giving out discordant tones, why is the bad effect so seldom noticeable? Surely we should expect it to be heard always or not at all.

(Continued on next page.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Simpson himself felt the difficulty and offers an explanation. Though, he says, there are in every bell (of the old style) three notes very near to each other in pitch, all struggling for the mastery, and each able under given circumstances to assert its supremacy, yet the sets of tones move, as it were, in three separate spheres and do not interfere with each other. You may listen to whichever tone you like, sometimes to one, sometimes to another, and no one interferes with another. Much, we suppose, as one can switch the wireless from one station to another. So that if all the nominals are in tune with each other, all the fundamentals, and all the hum-notes, the bells will not sound out of tune; though unless the three sets are in tune the quality of the bells will suffer.

For this opinion Simpson claims scientific authority, and we cannot contradict him. He may be right, but it does not seem to be probable. It is, of course, true that a few men (more now than in Simpson's time) have trained their ears so that they can distinguish clearly between the various tones of a bell, and can listen, as they wish, to any one of them while ignoring the rest. A similar experience is a commonplace with everybody. A man goes into a crowded room where many people are talking. He can single out one person and can carry on a conversation with him, not paying the slightest attention to the hubbub going on around. But for this two things are necessary. The man must know what he wishes to listen to, and he must exercise will power to discriminate between one noise and another. It is not that he hears one man more than the rest; his ear takes in all the sounds impartially. It is his brain which accepts one and ignores the others.

But the average person who hears a bell knows nothing of its various tones and has no idea of making any selection between them. Yet, according to Simpson, though in a bell there are (among others) three notes all struggling for the mastery, the ordinary listener only hears one at a time. There is a mystery here, and the explanation, if there is one, is probably very complex and difficult.

Simpson was correct in saying that the tuning of continental bells differed from that of English bells. Of this we had a confirmation which is worth recalling. Years ago we had a conversation with the late John W. Taylor, who was then making the experiments which more than anything else rendered it possible to put Simpson's theories into practice. He had just had a visit from Josef Denyn, the Mechlin carillonneur, who had come to England to inspect some famous English bells. Denyn was taken to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and, when there, asked that the tenor and fifth (its octave) should be sounded together. The result made him shudder. 'Are they really as bad as that?' we asked Taylor. 'Not to my ear,' he replied. 'They are better than the average Belgian bells.'

The two men were leading experts and cannot be taken as typical of the two countries, but many Englishmen have thought the Belgian bells out of tune. To Dr. Charles Burney, the historian of music in the eighteenth century, they were 'a very disagreeable jargon.' Canon Simpson was 'struck by the apparent want of harmony in the famous carillons of Bruges and other Belgian towns,' and implies that it was a common experience with Englishmen. On the other hand, to H. R. Haweis, 'day and night in Belgium are set to music,' while in England 'the roughest possible attempt at an octave is thought sufficient, and the most discordant sequences are considered sweet and lovely.' The truth in the case of Haweis was that he had gained a sentimental affection for Belgian bell music, and his ear heard what he wished it to hear, while he judged and condemned English bells and ringing partly in ignorance, but mainly because they are not Belgian. It is only fair, however, to remember that Haweis was an excellent amateur violin player, which necessitates a good musical ear.

The chief difficulty which will strike the reader of Canon Simpson's book is how to account for the fact that before him, during the long centuries in which bells hung in English steeples, these discordances were not noticed, or, if noticed, were not thought worth bothering about. Simpson's explanation is that it was due to ignorance and neglect on the part of the public, and 'bell founders and tuners naturally do not care to take any more trouble than is necessary in order to satisfy the public.'

This explanation will not do. The founders and tuners, like every other class of men, varied considerably, but many of them were true artists who took a pride in their work and would certainly have altered their style of tuning if they had thought it necessary. But they did not think it necessary, yet they had very keen musical ears.

Nor were the ordinary people indifferent as to whether their bells were in tune or not. There is plenty of evidence to the contrary. In our account of Westminster Abbey bells we saw how particular the parishioners of St. Michael's, Cornhill, were that their recast 'Rus' tenor should be in tune; how they paid several professional musicians to test it; and how they rejected several bells before they were satisfied. This was towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and the Londoners of Shakespeare's time did understand and value music. Nor was this the only instance.

When Abraham Rudhall's octave was hung at Fulham, the parish employed John Harrison to superintend the tuning, and at the time Harrison was probably generally recognised as the greatest living scientific authority on tone value.

When the twelve at St. Peter Mancroft were cast, the parish sent their organist, a Mr. Garland, to White-chapel, to superintend the tuning, and Garland was not content to have the bells true to the ordinary major dia-

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tonic scale. Though they are in the key of C, he required them to have the temperament of E flat.

What that means is rather difficult to explain, but briefly and roughly it is this. We usually say that a major scale consists of two whole tones, one half-tone, three whole tones and one half-tone; and, broadly speaking, that is correct. But actually the intervals between the notes are not quite regular. The human voice, or a violin player with a good ear, gives the notes their correct value, but if it is done on a fixed instrument, like an organ or a piano, though the intervals for one key would be correct, for every other key they would be wrong. So what actually is done is to make a compromise.

Now, what Garland did with Mancroft bells was to give them, not the absolutely true scale, nor yet the scale to which the white notes of a piano are actually tuned, but the scale which the white notes would be in if the piano were tuned absolutely true to the key of E flat.

To ordinary ears the difference in the case of bells is probably not noticeable, yet the peculiar charm and quality of the Mancroft ring is usually ascribed to this tuning, whether correctly or not we cannot say. The point which interests us now is that not only was Garland able to ask for this minuteness of tuning, but that the tuners were able to supply it. And all the while four out of the five tones in every bell were hopelessly discordant, not only with each other, but with those of the rest of the bells.

That this minuteness of tuning was not unusual is shown by a passage in 'A Musical Grammar,' published in 1746 by William Tans'ur. Tans'ur, who was born in 1700 (or 1706) and died in 1783, was a composer of psalm and other tunes and the author of several books on

music. His 'Musical Grammar,' which is said by Groves' Dictionary to be 'an excellent work,' went through many editions, the last as late as 1829. Most of his music is now forgotten, but the English Hymnal contains a fine tune by him, No. 300, set to a little used hymn.

William Tans'ur understood bells and ringing and probably was himself a ringer. 'The many disputes,' he writes, 'that have often been amongst lovers of Ringing hath caused me to insert this chapter, and I know well by Experience that not one ringer among a Thousand rightly understands the scale of music; which if he did, he could immediately tell if a Peal of Bells were in right Tune or not. I appeal to all Gentlemen Masters of Bell Tuning whether it is not customary with them always to Tune their Peals in the Sharp and cheerful Key? To which they will answer. It really is (unless desired to the contrary by some very whimsical Persons) from which it is clearly that Tenor, lowest, or greatest bell must always be C (whether in concert pitch or not), all the lesser bells above that being in a regular Diatonic Order.'

It is quite evident that it was not on account of carelessness or indifference, nor yet from any defect of ear that the public and the tuners ignored the overtones of bells.

(To be continued.)

THE HIGHEST POINT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Regarding your paragraph in the Belfry Gossip and Mr. Relfe's reply, I had hoped a more competent correspondent than I would have asked if you had both forgotten the peals of Spliced Surprise Major rung on handbells by the Hertfordshire men a few years ago. In my humble opinion, these performances should be described as the highest point so far reached in method ringing.

Croydon, Surrey.

F. E. COLLINS.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Three ringers have now rung their 1,000th peals on Crayford bells. The first was John Cheesman, who performed the feat in 1935.

At a divisional church parade held at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday, July 25th, twelve serving members of H.M. Forces rang the bells before the service. They are all attached to the division. Two other ringers in the Forces also took part in the ringing.

'The Leek Post and Times' printed recently a letter from Mr. J. Hughes, one of the local band, who is now serving with the North African Forces, expressing good wishes and greetings to his fellow ringers.

On July 21st, Mr. David Wright, at one time of Westerham, then of Croydon and now of Enfield, attained his 83rd birthday. He still rings at Southgate Church.

On July 26th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Giles' in that city the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major.

On the same date in 1936, the Lincolnshire ringers achieved an outstanding feat by ringing nine extents of Minor (6,480 changes) in 125 spliced methods. Mr. George E. Feirn conducted.

The College Youths rang the first peal in Ireland at Waterford Cathedral on July 27th, 1872, the day after the bells were opened. The method was Grandsire Triples.

James William Washbrook was born on July 27th, 1864.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner called a peal of Surprise Major in six spliced methods, his own composition, at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on July 27th, 1935.

William Cooter died on July 28th, 1912, and on the same date in 1937 the first peal of Minamere Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

The Birmingham men rang 7,552 changes of Grandsire Major at Aston on July 30th, 1792.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

There was a good attendance of members at the meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association, held at St. Albans on July 24th.

Ringing began at St. Stephen's at 2.30 p.m., and the bells were kept going to a variety of methods, including London Minor, until 5 p.m.

Tea was provided at the St. Peter's Institute by Mrs. Ferguson with helpers, and as there was no charge, a collection was made of about a shilling a head for the Benevolent Fund. It produced £1 9s. 3d.

Two unattached members were elected, and one from St. Peter's, St. Albans; three probationers were made full ringing members, and five probationers were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at North Mymms on August 14th.

The request from some towers for help on Sundays was debated. This is a difficult matter, as ringers are short, and most of the towers requiring help can be reached only by cycle. Mr. Walter Ayre, who presided, pointed out that the only way help can be given is to ring once on a Sunday at churches where at present the bells are rung twice. The members were asked to give the matter some thought before the next meeting.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicars of St. Stephen's and St. Peter's for the use of the bells, and to Mrs. Ferguson and her helpers for the tea. The bells of St. Peter's were kept going until 8 p.m., the methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Royal.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STURRY.

A meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Sturry on Saturday, July 17th, and was attended by some 28 ringers. The six bells were kept going during the afternoon to various methods, and at 4.30 service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. Risdon-Brown.

Tea was at the Rose Inn. The Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and presiding at tea. Mr. Masters was thanked for his services at the organ.

Among the methods practised were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, the last two methods spliced, and Cambridge Surprise.

PRACTICE MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.

A meeting for practice was held at St. Ignatius', Sunderland, on July 24th, when ringers from Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, South Shields, Bishopwearmouth and the local tower attended.

Various methods, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob Major, 'Mixed' Kent and Oxford Major and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung.

A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies for providing tea was proposed by Mr. W. Sheraton.

At the close a police constable awaited the ringers to inform them that, according to the Defence Regulations, church bells could only be rung on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

ONE THOUSAND PEALS

Mr. J. Bennett's and Mr. C. T. Coles' Achievement

By ringing the Stedman Triples at Crayford last Saturday two more men joined the select group of ringers who have a thousand peals to their credit.

It was an event which had been delayed for some years. Had things been normal, an attempt would have been made for Stedman Cinques at Lincoln Cathedral on September 9th, 1939, but war broke out and peal ringing came largely to a standstill. Then it was decided to meet at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on May 11th, 1940, and once more fate intervened, for at that time Hitler's hordes broke into Holland, and shortly afterwards all ringing was stopped.

When the ban was lifted, Mr. Coles' thoughts naturally turned to the possibility of again arranging an attempt; and, in addition, he wished to ring a peal to the memory of his son, who had lost his life in North Africa, and who had taken a keen interest in his father's ringing, and especially in the approaching 1,000th peal.

Mr. Coles and Mr. Bennett have been for long closely associated. They have rung 295 peals together and among them are some of outstanding merit. Both were in the band which, under the conductorship of William Pye, set itself the task of ringing a peal in every number of Spliced Surprise Major methods, from two to twelve, and did ring one in every number except two. Both were in the record twelve-bell peal—the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne, on August 5th, 1929. Both rang in the first peal of Royal in three Spliced Surprise methods. And both were in the only peal of Caters in three methods.

Mr. Charles Thomas Coles was born at Islington on June 5th, 1882. About the year 1900, under the instruction of William Truss, he learnt to ring at St. George's-in-the-East, one of those churches which with their bells were destroyed in the air raids on London. It was at St. George's on March 30th, 1905, that he rang the tenor to his first peal, one of Stedman Triples conducted by John R. Sharman. Since 1909 he has been attached to St. Mary's, Walthamstow.

In 1903 he joined the Middlesex Association, and in September, 1910, he was made hon. secretary of the North and East District. From that time onwards he has continuously held office in the association, which owes more to him than to any other man for its continued life and prosperity. When Arthur King, who had virtually created the association, retired, Mr. Coles took his place and carried on his work. Nominally joint hon. secretary at first, in 1933 he became what he really had always been, the general secretary of the society. His services were recognised in 1937 by the presentation of a gold watch and later by his being elected the active vice-president of the North and East District. Since 1921 he has represented the association on the Central Council, and is one of the best known and most influential members of that body.

Mr. Coles has had a great career as a peal ringer. This was largely due to his close connection with William Pye, and if he profited by the skill and energy of that great peal ringer, it is equally certain that Pye owed no small part of his success to the work and organising ability of Mr. Coles. The two men rang 621 peals together.

Mr. Coles' first peal as conductor was one of Superlative at St. James', Clerkenwell, on January 14th, 1911, and altogether he has called 272 peals in many methods.

The one thousand peals have been rung in 333 towers, in 47 counties of England, Wales and Ireland. They were rung for 32 associations affiliated to the Central Council, and with 840 ringers. Mr. Coles holds one record which will not easily be beaten; he has rung a twelve-bell peal in 52 different towers. In this he and Mr. George R. Pye were for long on equal terms, but the fact that Mr. Coles is a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths and Mr. Pye is not enabled him to go one better by standing in Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Another performance to which Mr. Coles attaches value is the

Secretaries' peal, arranged by John S. Goldsmith and rung muffled at Southwark for William T. Cockerill.

It would take too much of our space to refer to all the outstanding peals in which Mr. Coles has taken part. We have referred already to some of them. Others include the record length of Cambridge Royal, 10,440 changes, rung at Walthamstow on December 26th, 1925, the 7,392 Cambridge Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow, on December 12th, 1925, the Cambridge Maximus at Exeter on October 15th, 1932, and the only five-bell peal in the City of London—Grandsire Doubles on the pre-Reformation bells of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield—which he called. On three occasions he has rung two peals of Cambridge Maximus in one day.

Here is his full list of peals, the numbers in brackets being those he has conducted:—

Grandsire Doubles 1 (1); Triples 10; Caters 4 (1).

Stedman Triples 118 (59); Caters 104 (54); Cinques 113 (41).

Erin Triples 1; Caters 1 (1); Cinques 1.

Erin, Stedman and Grandsire Caters 1 (1). Minor in three methods 1 (1).

Bob Major 10 (8); Royal 1; Maximus 1 (1). Kent T.B. Major 11 (6); Royal 7 (6); Maximus 3 (1).

Oxford T.B. Major 3 (2); Royal 1 (1).

Kent (Granta) T.B. Royal 1 (1).

Spliced Kent and Oxford T.B. Major 1.

Little Bob Major 1, Maximus 1.

Double Norwich C.B. Major 18 (1); Double Oxford 1; Edmonton Bob 1; Marlborough Bob 1; St. Clement's Bob 1; Winchester Bob 1; Little Albion T.B. 1.

Isleworth Bob Royal 1.

Cambridge S. Minor 1 (1); Major 59 (19); Royal 77 (7); Maximus 75 (4).

Yorkshire S. Major 5 (1); Royal 2 (1); Maximus 1.

Superlative S. Major 101 (33); Maximus 5.

Bristol S. Major 121 (19); Lincolnshire 1; London 81 (1); Londonderry 1; New Cambridge 1; Norfolk 2; Pudsey 1; Rutland 1.

Middlesex S. Royal 5.

Spliced Surprise Major—Three Methods, 1; Four, 14; Five, 2; Six, 1; Seven, 1; Eight, 1; Nine, 1; Ten, 1; Eleven, 1; Twelve, 1.

Spliced S. Royal, Three Methods, 1.

Spliced Superlative and Cambridge Maximus 2.

On handbells—Grandsire Triples 1; Stedman Triples 4; Caters 7.

Mr. James Bennett began his ringing career in 1904 at his native village of Ashbocking, near Ipswich, but he had not progressed beyond Grandsire Doubles when he joined the Royal Marines. This was in May, 1905, and from then until 1911 he had few opportunities for ringing. In 1911 he became attached to the tower of St. Mary's, Chatham, and remained a member of the band, whether he was at home or abroad, until he left the Service on May 8th, 1926. He then joined the band at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, having been elected a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths while on active service during the last war. For the last 14 years he has been attached to St. Mary's, Lewisham.

Mr. Bennett's peals were rung with 934 ringers, for 32 associations, in 47 counties of England, Wales and Ireland, and in 314 towers. Every county in England is included, 49 of the steeples were twelve-bell towers, and a peal was rung on every one of the 366 dates of the calendar. Three hundred and twenty-one of the peals were with William Pye, and the others include the first by a Navy and Army band, and the first rung by Freemasons in the City of London. This Mr. Bennett called. He too has on three occasions rung two peals of Cambridge Maximus in one day.

Some years ago Mr. Bennett rang the tenor at Canterbury Cathedral to a five-thousand of Treble Bob Royal. The number was completed and the bells came round, but during the last three leads the clapper of the eighth bell fell out and the bell was silent until the end. The peal is not included in the following list. Mr. Bennett has conducted 88 peals, and the numbers in the different methods are shown in brackets:—

(Continued on next page.)



MR. J. BENNETT.



MR. C. T. COLES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD RECORDS.

THE FIRST KENT MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the leading article in your issue dated July 23rd, the St. Martin's Guild do not adopt the attitude of the lady who defied being convinced or of the Caliph Omar, but what we do assert is that the early members of the society knew what they were doing in their day, and were also likely to know what was being done by ringers in other parts of the country.

The first peal book states that it was purchased in September, 1822, and contains a correct account of the peals rung by the society as well as the names of those persons who were engaged in their performance since the year 1755 in which the same was established.

Even in those early days the St. Martin's men went about the country, for we find recorded that on June 6th, 1814, they visited Liverpool for the opening of the peal of 12 at St. Nicholas' Cathedral and competed and were awarded a beautiful silver cup valued 20 guineas presented by the town for the best performance of a touch of upwards of 3,000 Grandsire Cinques. On the following day, June 7th, they rang the first peal on the bells, a peal of 5,016 Grandsire Cinques.

Again on May 20th, 1815, they went to Lichfield Cathedral and rang a peal of 5,039 Grandsire Caters, and the footnote to this peal states: 'The above was the first peal ever rung upon these bells, having been hung 127 years.'

The peal of 7,200 rung on April 17th, 1820, is recorded as follows: 'A complete peal of 7,200 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (with the Kent Variation),' and the footnote reads, 'This was the most Treble Bob ever rung on 12 bells and is the first in the Kent Variation.'

You ask in your leading article, 'But what did the Cumberlands ring?' They record it as Cumberland, whereas the St. Martin's men record theirs as Kent Variation, and claim it as the first; not 'new' as you mention in your article.

THOMAS H. REEVES, Hon. Secretary.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

COMMENT BY J. A. TROLLOPE.

What I said about the first peal of Kent Treble Twelve was written before I was Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and as it is not very desirable that this journal should seem to be in controversy with a society like the St. Martin's Guild, I should like to reply to Mr. Reeves in my private and personal capacity.

The real point is not what the Birmingham men did or thought, but whether the peals rung by the Cumberland Youths in 1794 and 1795 were Kent. For a variety of reasons I am quite convinced that it is not possible they could have been anything else, and, therefore, a merely negative statement made by the Birmingham men a quarter of a century later has no value. In the circumstances of the time it would have been almost impossible for the Birmingham men to have known anything about the details of the earlier performances.

The St. Martin's peal book is not first-class evidence for anything which happened before 1822. The first-hand evidence for the 7,200 Treble Twelve is the broadsheet issued by the company directly after they had rung the peal, and an original copy of which is before me now. It is headed: 'A Superlative Achievement in the Art of Ringing,' and says: 'The peal comprised 7,200 Changes of new Treble Bob Maximus; and what eminently combines to enrich the performance is that it was rung at the first attempt, was the first peal of new Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of Changes ever rung on 12 Bells.' The word Kent nowhere appears.

It is perhaps fair comment that if the Birmingham men could ring Kent and call it new Treble Bob, the Cumberlands could ring Kent and call it Cumberland Treble Bob.

That the statement that the peal book 'contains a correct account of the peals rung by the society as well as the names of the persons since the year 1755, in which the same was established,' is hardly accurate, is shown by the fact that I have full details of ten peals rung by the St. Martin's company during the years 1773 to 1786, all of which are omitted from the book and, I believe, completely forgotten in Birmingham. My own opinion is that the statement that the Guild was formed in 1755 is based on nothing more than the fact that the first recorded peal was rung in that year. I believe the Guild is much older.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Oxford on July 17th and was attended by 101 members, all the 15 branches being represented. The officers were all re-elected, and the next annual meeting provisionally fixed for July, 1944, at Oxford.

Tea in the Rectory Room, St. Aldate's, was served by the Oxford Co-operative Society, and 90 sat down. At the service in St. Aldate's Church the Rev. C. E. Webb, Deputy Master, gave an address.

It was much more like an old-time annual meeting than those of the past three years. In 1940 and 1941 there was neither a dinner, nor tea, nor any ringing. Last year there was a tea, but no ringing. This year there was ringing on the twelve bells of the Cathedral, the ten at New College, and the eights at St. Ebbe's and All Saints'.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

ALL SAINTS', HIGH WYCOMBE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The tower of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe, was built in 1522 by the then Vicar of the parish, the Rev. Roland Messenger, an architect of no mean ability. It now contains a peal of twelve bells, tenor 32 cwt., which has developed in four stages. Prior to 1711 the tower contained six bells. In the latter year a new peal of eight bells was installed from the Whitechapel Foundry with a tenor similar in note and weight to the preceding peal (approximately 28 cwt.). In 1756 the fourth was replaced by a new casting from the Reading Foundry. In 1788 two trebles were added by John Briant, of Hertford, increasing the peal to 10 bells. In 1802 the peal was completely reconstructed, the tenor disappeared, several bells were recast and with a new treble of smaller size and a tenor of 22½ cwt. (E flat) a lighter ring of ten came into being. These bells were hung in the old 1711 frame.

Early in the present century, restoration had been long overdue. To arouse interest in the condition of the bells an old friend of the belfry, Mr. W. H. Fussell, defrayed the cost of recasting the flat treble in 1905. Thanks to the generosity of the late Dame Francis Dove (first pupil of Gorton) and her pupils of Wycombe Abbey School, a new treble and a new tenor were presented, with the help of a generous public a four figure scheme was launched. On All Saints' Day, 1909, the present peal of 12 bells was heard for the first time.

Of the 84 peals rung in the tower to date, three of outstanding interest might be mentioned. The first peal on the original eight, on December 28th, 1751, 5,040 of Bob Triples by the Union Scholars, conducted by John Holt. On Easter Monday, April 8th, 1792, 5,040 Grandsire Caters by the Society of College Youths, conducted by John Povey, the first and only recorded peal on the oldest peal of 10. On Sunday afternoon, February 12th, 1933, 5,007 Stedman Cinques by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, being the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung by 12 residents of one parish, rung by the local band, and conducted by Fred Hayes.

The list of peals is as follows: From 1751 to 1940, on old bells 15, on present bells 69, total 84. Stedman Cinques 35, Caters 22, Triples 3, Grandsire Cinques 1, Caters 4, Triples 7, Cambridge Maximus 2, Kent T.B. Maximus 3, Plain Bob Maximus 2, Royal 1, Major 1, Triples 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Erin Caters 1.

FRED HAYES.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BOTTESFORD

On Saturday, July 17th, the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association held a meeting at Bottesford, when 30 members were present from Daybrook, Derby, Bulwell, Basford, Sawby, Southwell, Grantham, Newark, Folkington, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's) and the local company.

The bells were kept going continuously from 3 o'clock until 8, except for the interval for tea. Handbells were rung in the church porch. Two new members were elected, and it was decided to apply for permission to hold a meeting at Cotgrave in August, and at Newark in September.

The ringing did not develop beyond Double Norwich, but, as at Greasley in June, there was a demand for call-changes, which was quite encouraging, as it applied to recruits who had started since the bells were opened again.

A vote of thanks to the authorities and the local secretary concluded a most pleasant afternoon.

ONE THOUSAND PEALS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Doubles in five methods 1.
Minor in 1 to 7 methods 34 (15).
Triples—Grandsire 37 (10); Stedman 108 (4); Union 2; Erin 2; St. Clement's Bob 1; Oxford Bob 1; Plain Bob 1.
Major—Plain Bob 32 (15); Reverse 1; Canterbury Pleasure 2; St. Clement's 1; Painswick College Bob 1; Pulford 1; Double Bob 2; Double Oxford 2; Double Norwich 83 (3); Real Double Norwich 1; Spliced Double Norwich and Plain 1.
Little Bob 1; Little Canterbury Pleasure 1; Dartford Little Bob 2; Crayford Little Bob 1.
Kent T.B. 51 (24); Oxford 13 (2); Spliced K. and O. 3; Cam. T.B. 2. Superlative S. 74 (4); Cambridge 111 (8); Bristol 64; London 81; Norfolk 4; New Cambridge 3; Londonderry 1; Lincoln 2; Yorkshire 7; Rutland 1; Pudsey 2; Painswick 1.
Spliced Surprise—Three Methods, 1; Four, 23; Five, 2; Six, 1; Seven, 1; Eight, 1; Nine, 1; Ten, 1; Eleven, 1; Twelve, 1.
Caters—Grandsire 1; Stedman 48; Erin, Stedman and Grandsire 1. Royal—Plain Bob 3 (1); Isleworth Bob 1; Little Bob 1; Kent T.B. 12 (1); Oxford T.B. 1; Cambridge S. 38. Spliced Surprise, three methods, 1.
Cinques—Grandsire 1; Stedman 66; Erin 1.
Maximus—Plain Bob 1 (1); Kent T.B. 4; Cambridge S. 42; Superlative 3; Yorkshire 1; Spliced Superlative and Cambridge 2.

TRIPLE TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 326.)

Of the English cathedrals that have triple towers, excluding St. Paul's with its towers and central dome, there are Canterbury, Wells, Bristol, Lincoln, York, Durham, Ripon and Southwell. To these might be added Peterborough and, of course, the three-spired cathedrals of Lichfield and Truro. As there has already appeared in these columns that excellent series of articles on 'Bells of English Cathedrals,' by the late Mr. J. R. Jerram, I will confine my notes to commonplace or additional matter to that already published.

Canterbury Cathedral has now a ring of twelve, hung in the south-west tower, with a tenor of 32 cwt. Two trebles were added to the old ten as a memorial to the 56 members of the Kent County Association who fell in the Great War, 1914-18. They were cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1923. Originally there was a ring of eight cast by Samuel Knight in 1726, the tenor having been recast by Pack and Chapman in 1778. Two trebles were added by Thomas Mears in 1802, and the 3rd and 5th bells recast by C. and G. Mears in 1855. As stated above, the completion to twelve was carried out in 1923.

In a pent-house on the top of the south-west tower hangs the 'Dunstan bell,' weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, which, according to its inscription, was cast by Lester and Pack, of London, in 1762, and 'Wm. Chapman molded me.' The original 'Dunstan' bell was given by Prior Molash in 1430. Whether this bell survived until 1758 is not known, but in that year 'Dunstan' became cracked. A futile attempt to mend the crack was made without success. Eventually it was recast within the cathedral precincts in 1762 by William Chapman, then foreman and afterwards partner in the firm of Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel Foundry. While Chapman was moulding the bell he noticed a young man who appeared to be intensely interested in the work: he offered to take him back to London with him to learn the art of bell founding. The offer was accepted. That young man was none other than William Mears, and thus the Whitechapel Foundry came into the hands of the Mears family, who carried it on for several generations.

The central tower contains a call-bell known as 'Bell Harry,' which is usually rung for the last quarter of an hour before services. It was cast by Joseph Hatch in 1635, and concerning it is a legend that the original bell was given by Henry VIII., hence the name by which it is known. From 'Anglia Sacra' it appears that Prior Ernulph gave a large bell about the year 1100, which was recast by his successor Conrad, who added four smaller ones to it. Some 60 years later, Prior Wybert added a sixth of very large size, and it is recorded that it took 32 men to ring it. This shows that the bell must have been rung by treading the plank, and not by means of the rope. Large bourdon bells on the Continent are still rung in this manner even to-day. These bells were hung in a detached campanile, which fell in 1382 in consequence of an earthquake, when doubtless the bells were broken, but there is no record of the disposal of the metal.

The central or 'angel' tower does not appear to have possessed bells until 1317, when Prior Eastry placed

three therein. Archbishop Arundel also placed four bells in this tower about 1390. At the close of the fifteenth century the central tower was rebuilt, and the five bells known as the 'Arundel ring' were removed to the north-west tower, which was thenceforth called the 'Arundel tower.' Other bells remained in the central tower, viz., Eastry's three and two others. These five were confiscated by the Crown at the dissolution in 1540, and their metal sold.

Regarding the bells in the north-west tower, it is recorded that in 1316 Prior Henry, of Eastry, placed four bells therein, three forming a ring and a small bell used to summon the chapter. To this tower, as already noted, the Arundel ring was removed, but there is no further record of changes or additions. It is certain, however, the tower contained six bells in 1726, which were taken down and cast into the back eight of the present twelve. Previous to this date only the 'Dunstan' bell hung in the south-west tower, but from that date the ring was hung here, and the old ten hung in a two-tier timber frame, five above and five below. In 1897 they were rehanging in a massive cast-iron frame, all on one level, designed by the late Mr. J. R. Jerram and executed by Mr. Thomas Blackburn, of Salisbury. At the same time new quarter chimes were added, composed by the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, Precentor of the cathedral.

Like a good many of the cathedral belfries, the approach to the ringing chamber is unusual and somewhat involved, even though the bells hang in a western tower. One starts by climbing a spiral stairway of 77 steps in the south-east turret of the south transept. Then travel along the triforium, through the wall and along the ceiling over the entire length of the south aisle of the nave and so into a room below the ringing chamber, from which a further ladder takes one into the ringing room.

As stated above, the bells were once in the north-west tower, and it is thought the old ringing chamber was on a level with the transept roof, as there are some figures—rather faint—on the west wall of the tower. There is now only one bell in the central, or 'Bell Harry,' tower, approximately the same weight as the 6th of the peal, though a little sharper in tone. In this tower is preserved the large treadmill used in connection with the building of the tower.

(To be continued.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MEASHAM.

At the meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Measham on July 24th, there were ringers present from Ashby, Netherseale, Overseal, Appleby, Ibstock and the local company, as well as Pte. F. G. Bailey, home on leave, and Mr. G. Oliver, of Lichfield.

Tea was served in the Schoolroom, and at the business meeting the new Vicar, the Rev. W. G. Allison, was welcomed by Mr. W. H. Curson and voted to the chair.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at St. Paul's, Burton, on August 28th.

Thanks were given to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the bells, and to the ladies who prepared tea.

The ringing consisted of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Minor, and a few rounds for beginners.

DEATH OF MR. J. C. BLACKWELL.

News has been received of the death of Mr. J. C. Blackwell, of Woburn, Beds, which occurred through an accident while on active service with the Royal Engineers in Irak. He was a newcomer to the Exercise, but was very keen, and was making good progress in the elementary stages before being called up.

THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

MR. GROVER EXPLAINS.
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of your leading article of June 25th last and Mr. Herbert Drake's letter in your issue of July 16th, I ought perhaps to give the following facts:—

At their annual meeting in April, 1939, the members of my Guild, on Mr. Goldsmith's suggestion, committed themselves to provide a sanctus bell for our new cathedral. The plans of the building provide for a turret over the Lady chapel to house a 3 cwt. bell, and it was the provision of this bell that we had in view. The turret has not yet been erected, although the structure of the Lady chapel, which is in the first part of the building to be commenced, is practically completed.

But for the war, the Guild would no doubt long ago have completed its gift and pending the building of the turret the bell would have been hung temporarily in some part of the completed building. Owing, however, to the war and Mr. Goldsmith's health, little was done in connection with the proposal, and at the moment, as the Cathedral authorities deprecate any wide appeal for funds in connection with any cathedral building project, nothing on a large scale is likely to be attempted.

At our last annual meeting it was agreed to proceed with the scheme as a Guild memorial to Mr. Goldsmith, subject, of course, to the consent of the diocesan authorities (as to which we understand there will be no difficulty), and I was authorised to invite subscriptions from members.

The question of widening the scope of the appeal was discussed, but no definite decision on the point was made. Although personally I should prefer this particular scheme to be exclusively a Guildford Guild affair, I cannot answer Mr. Drake's query without referring the matter once again to a general meeting, and we are not likely to hold one until next year.

In addition, we must comply with the wishes of the diocesan authorities as to appeals for funds.

G. L. GROVER, Hon. Sec.

East Clandon, near Guildford.

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

Dear Sir,—According to your leader of June 25th, the provision of a sanctus bell for the new Guildford Cathedral is in the nature of a 'family' memorial by the Diocesan Guild, and it seems hardly fitting that there should be any attempt by the Exercise in general to 'muscle in' on the Guild's own memorial scheme, but rather that an independent and possibly a more ambitious scheme might be launched for the benefit of ringers in general.

In recent years there have been many notable memorials to ringers: the restorations and augmentations at Cambridge, Leytonstone, Tewkesbury, Surfleet and Duffield being but a few examples. The 'Stedman' memorial scheme owes its inception to our late Editor, and the other schemes might not have received such support without the medium of 'The Ringing World.'

Surely the work of John Goldsmith and the incalculable benefit which it has conferred on the Exercise in general is worthy of a better memorial than the mere provision of fittings or even the building of a turret to house a non-ringing bell!

The design of the new Cathedral incorporates a ring of ten of, I believe, medium weight, not unlike Jack Goldsmith's favourite, or at least one of his favourite, peals—St. Mary's, Southampton. On one occasion—I believe it was at the reopening of Albury bells in 1935—he himself told me that he would like to ring a peal at St. Mary's, Southampton, above all other peals. Whether or not he ever achieved this ambition I do not know.

One realises that there will be considerable difficulties to overcome and that the final choice of bells rests with the Cathedral authorities, also that it may be years before the tower is ready to receive the bells, but I suggest there could be no finer memorial than a ring of bells such as John Goldsmith might have chosen himself had the choice lain with him.

The provision of the full ring might prove beyond the capacity of the whole Exercise, but it should be possible to ensure at least a nucleus of the peal, although if certain of the wealthier associations were to make themselves responsible for individual bells, the full peal might not be beyond the bounds of possibility.

Possibly other readers may have alternative suggestions to offer, but one thing is important. Something should be done *now* while the memory is fresh, for with the passing of time the number of those who knew John Goldsmith personally must necessarily grow smaller and already a year has gone by since his death.

Leeds.

R. H. DOVE.

DINDER, WELLS, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, July 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): F. Harvey 1, P. Hull 2, F. Rickards (conductor) 3, R. Webb 4, F. Bird 5, C. Dinham (first quarter-peal) 6.

CHEADLE, STAFFS.—On Saturday, July 24th, at the Roman Catholic Church, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. E. Wheelton 1, J. G. Cartledge 2, E. Steele 3, H. Carnwell 4, W. Carnwell 5, C. H. Page 6, A. Thompson 7, A. W. Hall (conductor) 8.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

'FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My letter seems to have caused rather a discussion. It seems as though I was asking chimers to use 'Fight the good fight' tune only. I was merely explaining the way I use these higher notes. Perhaps that particular ring Mr. Smith heard were, as Miss Snowden pointed out, not suitable. One can hardly say the bells that I pointed out for the finish of 'Fight the good fight' (tune Pentecost) were wrong notes, as they were the proper notes an octave higher. I quite agree it's not advisable to use another bell where a half tone comes in, but sometimes one finds a very beautiful hymn will go except for one half tone and this is where one is tempted to try it.

But what does all this boil down to? Well, the majority of change ringers dislike chiming and will try to discourage it.

I am a change ringer and whenever it is possible I seize the opportunity of doing so, but, as with most bands to-day, we are too small in numbers to do much.

I shall not, however, despise chiming, because I believe it plays a great part towards the public. In my own village 70 per cent. prefer it to change ringing.

After all, it's not what or how we ring, but the spirit in which it is done. Bells, whether chimed or swung, are still bells.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey.

[The notes of a hymn tune played an octave too high or too low are wrong notes, and one incorrect half tone will completely ruin the most beautiful tune.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

MORE SIX-BELL TUNES.

Dear Sir,—In case any would-be chimer with only six bells at his disposal should be misled by Mr. Fox's letter, suggesting there are only four tunes in 'A. and M.' suitable for six bells, below are six more:—

'A. and M.' 29, 94, 266, 268, 286, and the following, whose number I cannot recall at the moment:— 6 6 6 5 4 3 3 4, 2 4 3 2 1 5 5, 2 2 4 3 5 4 3, 4 3 2 1 4 5 6.

With regard to Mr. Harris' letter, my list did not purport to be complete. I have lots of others suitable for chiming, but have not the time to sort them out at present. No. 268 in 'A and M.' is certainly a six-bell tune, using the 3rd in a six or the 5th in an octave as the tonic. On ten bells all these could be got on the front six or the back six.

As Miss Snowden said, all peals are not suitable for chiming tunes. They may sound not too bad when properly rung in changes, but like pans when struck by a chiming hammer. This is due to the fact that a blow from a chiming hammer can never produce the volume of sound that the clapper does when the bell is rung up. The much heavier blow of the clapper produces such a volume of sound as to hide many of the bell's imperfections.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

A FINE TUNE.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent A. H. Fox omits from his list of six-bell tunes in 'Ancient and Modern' No. 109, 'Sweet the moments, rich in blessing.'

For my own part, I would rather hear two musical bells properly chimed in motion, like the two used for the daily offices at Magdalen College, than any number struck by chiming hammers. As, however, chiming tunes is taken quite seriously in various places, I can make one really useful suggestion by way of a change from the usual selection. The fine Welsh tune Hyfrydol, No. 301 in the 'English Hymnal,' can be played on six bells. This air is in its way a masterpiece of composition, as it is a magnificent melody all written on the last five notes of the descending scale, except that a sixth note is introduced in the last line.

It may be of interest to mention that here we have sometimes rung 'Now the day is over' on our five bells.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna, Dorset.

ITALIAN CHURCH BELLS.

Last week the German Overseas News Agency reported from Rome that in the event of enemy action against the Italian provinces of Lazio and Tuscany, warning of a state of siege will be given if necessary by the ringing of the church bells.

WORLINGWORTH, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, July 11th, 720 Bob Major: W. W. Miller, jun. 1, F. Ruffles 2, W. J. Groom (conductor) 3, W. E. Maulden 4, E. G. Curtis 5, T. H. Chappell 6, H. Hall 7, J. H. Hall 8.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Tuesday, July 13th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Church 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. Houghton 3, H. Harding 4, Brian F. Sims 5, L. Bywaters 6.

WILLINGHAM, CAMBS.—On July 11th, 840 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith 1, C. Robinson 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, A. W. T. Finn 4, R. Thoday 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 31st, 3 p.m. Tea provided. No food. — F. Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Ringing meeting at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, July 31st, at 3 p.m. No other arrangements will be made. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting of the Eastern District and the Leeds and District Society at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Buses leave Selby at 1.30 and 3.30, and leave Leeds Bus Station hourly at 23 minutes past the hour, and trains leave Leeds at 1.5, 2.26 and 5.13 p.m. — H. S. Morley and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Wigan Branch. — Meeting at Ormskirk on Saturday, July 31st. Bells 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. — S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch. — Meeting at Alsager (8 bells) on Saturday, July 31st. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning and Reading Branches. — Meeting at Sonning on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea (1s. 3d.). Notify Mr. E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading — B. C. Castle and E. G. Foster, Hon. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Meeting at Pitstone on July 31st, by invitation of Mr. E. H. Lewis. Euston 1.45, due Tring 2.39. Members only. Ringing at Ivinghoe about 3 p.m. Names to A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Maidstone, Bank Holiday, August 2nd. Committee meeting 11.30. Service at 3 p.m. Tea in the Old Palace 4, followed by business meeting. During morning bells available at Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8). — Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WOODBIDGE. — Monday, August 2nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Bring own food.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Worcester, Monday, August 2nd. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided 5 p.m. Bring food. Bells available at 5.30 p.m.: Cathedral (12), also handbells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6). — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgemoor, Evesham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION, N.W. District, and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Leatherhead District. — Meeting at Leatherhead on Monday, August 2nd. Bells during afternoon and evening. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. — D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5. Names before August 3rd to J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — V.W.H. Branch. — Annual meeting at Faringdon on Saturday, August 7th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea before August 3rd. — R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at Handsworth (8 bells) on Saturday, August 7th. For tea, 3 p.m., notify Miss L. M. Kelly, 1, St. Joseph's Road, Sheffield 9. — G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District. — Meeting at Hitchin, Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. — A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — Southern District. — Meeting at Reigate, Saturday, August 14th. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. Names before August 9th. Talk by Mr. A. A. Hughes, 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' 6.30 p.m. — Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

ROMFORD, ESSEX. — St. Edward's (8 bells). Practice second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m. — E. W. Pyc.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

KIDDINGTON, ESSEX. — On Sunday, July 11th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Making 1, H. Backler 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, G. W. Moss 4, J. W. Jennings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

EXETER. — On July 18th, at the Church of St. Thomas, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *E. J. Ryall 1, W. H. Howe 2, J. Hosgood 3, J. J. Hole 4, R. Truman 5, Capt. W. J. Rawlings, R.E. 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, *P. Court 8. *First quarter-peak of Triples.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE. — On Sunday, July 18th, Thurstans' quarter-peak of Stedman Triples: T. Groombridge (conductor) 1, Miss I. B. Thompson 2, E. Fletcher 3, C. J. Baker 4, F. J. George 5, E. F. Goby 6, E. G. Goby 7, H. Beardsley 8.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE. — On July 18th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: D. Scott 1, H. Taylor 2, W. Hector 3, H. W. Gregory 4, J. Saunders 5, B. Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

STOKE-ON-TERN, SHROPSHIRE. — On July 20th, 720 Bob Minor (42 singles): G. Berry 1, W. J. Chester 2, F. N. Golden, R.A.F. (conductor) 3, W. Lyoett 4, F. Price 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6. Also several short touches of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Spliced Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6th, 1943.

[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.

RAISING AND CEASING.

When, about five hundred years ago, young Englishmen discovered that bell ringing could be a first class sport, and so broke away from what had for long been the ordinary usage of Christendom, the very first thing they practised was raising and falling in peal. It had to be so, because the fittings at the time and the manner in which bells were hung did not permit anything else, not even round ringing except as a part of the raising and falling. That was the germ from which all our modern art has developed by a logical process, and we may be certain that it would not have become so popular as it did, and it would not have led on to higher things, if it had not called for the exercise of a very great amount of skill.

So long as bells were without stays and sliders, raising and falling was a necessary part of every piece of ringing, and great attention was paid to the way in which it was done. But when bells could be raised and set at the beginning of a ringing meeting and not ceased until it was finished, and particularly when the superior attraction of change ringing engaged the attention of the best bands, the tendency was to leave the pulling up and lowering to the novices who did it much as they pleased and as best they could. The result was that good raising and falling became a lost art among change ringers, and only survived among the backward and conservative bands of the West.

This was the state of things for a very long time, and it would have continued indefinitely but for the introduction, during the last fifty or sixty years, of ringing before service on Sundays. It does not matter a great deal how the bells are raised on Sundays, provided there is not too much indiscriminate clashing, but it does matter how they are ceased. To pull the bells down anyhow just as the congregation has assembled in church, and after perhaps some excellent change ringing, sounds very bad and largely spoils the effect of any good ringing which has gone before. Good ceasing therefore becomes a necessity and when it is done well it adds to the effect of the bells.

But good ceasing is not easy, and it is to be feared that bands do not give sufficient attention to the proper way of doing it. Since it is for the outside public a very important and noticeable part of the service ringing, it would be no bad thing if a band devoted some of their time now and then to practising it. But that, we imagine, is seldom or never done.

'Raising and ceasing in peal,' as the 'Clavis' says, 'when properly executed, is undoubtedly very pleasant'

(Continued on page 342.)

and melodious,' but ringers should realise that the conditions in which it sounds well outside are strictly limited. In ordinary circumstances six bells are the largest number that can be ceased, so as to give a good effect. There are bands who can bring down eight bells with hardly a miss-blow, but the rate at which the bells must follow one another spoils the outside effect, and however accurately a ring of ten is dropped the result musically is hopeless.

Quite a small number of heavy bells sound far better when they are being dropped than a large number. With a ring of ten the best way is to cease the front six first and then the back four.

LINDOFF MEMORIAL FUND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The committee have decided to extend the date for receiving subscriptions to the Gabriel Lindoff Memorial Fund from July 31st to September 15th. The hon. treasurer of the fund has changed his address to 118, Sandford Road, Dublin. F. E. DUKES.

Dublin.

THE GUILDFORD LIBRARY.

ACQUISITION OF BOOKS.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. C. Hazelden, the librarian of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, which has given us great satisfaction and which will be read with general interest. Mr. Hazelden writes:—

'I thought you might be interested in some additions to our library resulting from the publicity in which you kindly assisted. Mr. E. Morris has sent us a copy each of the two Thompson booklets, a copy of his "Legends of the Bells," and, by no means least, a small 17th century book, "de Tintinnabulis," by Magius, dated Amsterdam, 1664. From the same quarter I gathered information which led to the acquisition of an uncut copy of "The Church Bells of Norfolk," 1874.

'From Mr. Oldnall, of Birmingham, I have had a copy of Ella-combe's "Bells of the Church" (which we already had) and Lynam's "Church Bells of Staffordshire," a very fine book.

'Another correspondent in Oxfordshire sent a copy of Dr. Raven's "Bells of England," of special interest, as it had belonged to Dr. Raven's son and contains all the reviews at the time of publication. It may have been the author's personal copy. This gentleman (Mr. Malings), in return, accepted a copy of your "History of the College Youths."

'Recently one of our members, Mr. Nye, of Bagshot, had occasion to look over a parcel of books which somebody had turned out for salvage, and found a copy of W. C. Lukis' book, "An Account of Church Bells," 1857. It now forms a second copy in our library.'

'De Tintinnabulis,' the book mentioned above, is the second edition of Guslamo Magius' book, and the one which inspired Richard Duckworth to write the 'Tintinnalogia,' the first book on change ringing.

HEAVY PEALS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry for the slip in my letter of June 17th and obliged to Mr. Black for his correction. The peal in question is, of course, at Castle Ashby.

I am afraid that there is a printer's error in the letter regarding Ewerby bells—this peal was augmented in 1896, not 1926.

J. OLDHAM.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ROCHDALE.

The annual meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Chad's, Rochdale, on July 24th, and was exceptionally well attended. Ringing began about 3.30 p.m. and continued until 5, when a break was made for tea.

The business meeting was held under the chairmanship of the president, Mr. W. Crabtree. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Thomas', Moorside, on September 11th, arrangements to be left to the secretary. Mr. Ivan Kay was re-elected secretary for the next two years, and a resolution thanking him for past services was passed. Mr. C. Haynes, of Oldham, was elected a performing member.

After discussion it was decided to offer any disabled member free membership upon application, providing the committee of the association agree. The motion will be put before them at their next meeting.

Thanks were passed to the Vicar, wardens, local ringers and all who helped to make the meeting a success.

The towers represented were Rochdale, Hamer, Todmorden, Cross Stones, Milnrow, Newkey, East Crompton, Moorside, Oldham Parish, Middleton and Shore. Visitors came from Bacup, Friezland, Liverpool, Manchester and Accrington.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

*SGT.-MAJ. J. PRYOR... ..Treble	SGT. J. W. BERRY 5
MISS D. R. FLETCHER 2	J. HARRISON... .. 6
F. G. BIGGS 3	W. LEE... .. 7
MISS K. E. FLETCHER 4	H. WINGROVE ... ..Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by H. WINGROVE.

* First peal.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 5
*GEORGE M. KILBY 2	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 6
FRANCIS KIRK 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS 7
MADRICE F. R. HIBBERT... .. 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* 300th peal. Rung on the eve of St. James' Day for the wedding of Mr. Kenneth Stockman and Miss Jessie Rootes.

KIRTLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 31, 1943, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

*CECIL G. CALCUTT ... ..Treble	*HERBERT W. IMPEY... .. 5
†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 2	JOHN E. SPICE 6
BERNARD S. NICHOLS 3	WILLIAM JUDGE... .. 7
JACK JUDGE... .. 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... ..Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (C.C.C. No. 112). Conducted by J. E. SPICE

* First peal of Major. † First peal on tower bells. First peal as conductor on eight tower bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

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

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee—George E. Fearn.

* First peal of Treble Bob on handbells. † First peal of Treble Bob Maximus on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

*MRS. J. THOMAS ... ..1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... ..5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER... ..3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... ..7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* 50th handbell peal.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 25th, 1,260 Doubles, being 600 Plain Bob and 660 Grandshire: Mrs. E. M. Dennis 1, George Charlton 2, Charles Brown 3, William A. Wood 4, Henry Bird (conductor) 5, Fred Watson 6. Rung in honour of the award of the George Medal to Chief Radio Officer Donald Wilfred Dennis, husband of the ringer of the treble.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

MORE RANDOM REMARKS.

(Continued from page 333.)

Although the bell is one of the very earliest and most elementary of musical instruments, as a tone producer it is one of the most complex. This is due to the fact that, though its whole mass is composed of one substance, it has two distinct functions, which are performed in varying degree by different parts.

One of these functions, and ultimately the most important, is to produce sound. This is the duty of the sound-bow, a ring of metal which vibrates when struck at a greater or less rate according to the pitch of the note of the bell. The other function is to suspend the sound-bow in such a way that it can vibrate freely. This is the duty of the canons and the crown.

It is also the real duty of the waist and the shoulders, but they are not content with doing that duty; they take a hand in the production of sound, and not only vibrate at their own particular rates, but influence and alter the vibrations of the sound-bow.

The bell therefore is not an instrument which produces a simple tone, but a rather complicated series of rings of metal, one above another, each of which produces a tone of its own, and at the same time influences the tones of its neighbours. That is why a bell has what are called overtones.

These are not overtones in the sense that the word is generally used in connection with musical instruments. Every instrument has overtones, even the violin string, which is probably the simplest and most perfect of all. For the string not only vibrates as a whole, but different sections of it have secondary vibrations, and all of them combine to build up and give character to the tone which is heard. In this sense the sound-bow of a bell has overtones, but they are lost among the many other tones of the bell.

A bell is an instrument which produces a number of separate tones of varying intensity, which are not wholly independent of each other, nor yet necessarily have any harmonic relationship with each other. In theory such a thing should be hopeless as a musical instrument, and the fact that it is not so is one of the mysteries of the bell.

Now since there are these various tones in the bell, there must be one of two things to make it tolerable to any ordinary musical ear. Either the tones must be brought into harmony with each other, or else by some means, or for some reasons, the presence of the lesser and discordant tones escapes attention. The first is the idea which lies behind the systems of modern tuning; the other is the idea which in effect governed the older style.

Some people have thought that the old founders and tuners deliberately adopted inharmonic overtones (such as flattened seventh hum-notes) in order to get certain desired and desirable effects; but that certainly was not so. There is indeed one ring of bells in this country—the octave at St. Andrew's, Kingsbury—which was cast with that intention. They are very fine and very musical bells, but they stand alone. Until the closing years of the nineteenth century, founders and tuners in their endeavours to produce good and tuneful bells simply ignored the overtones; and, though there is a general sameness about all the best of the old bells, the overtones of different bells, even in the same ring, vary considerably in relative pitch.

The old founders knew quite well that the different

parts of a bell do produce different notes. No one can handle bells without noticing that. And it is probable that their ears did at times take notice of the various tones of a bell when it is rung, but they looked upon overtones as defects, and were well content if, when their bells were struck, none was noticed by the hearer.

It is said that in the Low Countries during the seventeenth century the best of the founders, especially the Hemonys, of Amsterdam, understood and practised tuning on a five-tone principle, and it seems that the majority of their bells are fairly correct in that respect, though whether they have ever been subjected to the rigorous tests the modern English founder applies to his bells we do not know. In any case, it is quite unlikely that the Hemonys had investigated the matter and understood tuning in the way it is understood at Loughborough and Croydon and Whitechapel. Men in those days did not work on the scientific lines that men do to-day. The best craftsman did his work and got his results because he was a good craftsman, but how he got his results it would have puzzled even himself to say. This was so much the case that it was customary to think, when a man did superlatively good work, he was influenced by outside powers. Men said he had a genius, not, mark you, that he was a genius. The idea which lies behind the doctrine of the verbal inspiration of the Bible is the same idea raised to the highest plane. When Hemony said that a good bell should have three octaves, two fifths, one major and one minor third, these were the results which he had noticed in the best of his bells, not the standard to which he consciously and deliberately aimed. And it is most unlikely that he had enough even of empirical knowledge of the way a bell produces its tones to be able to control seven or even five tones.

It is the introduction of scientific knowledge, scientific instruments and scientific methods which chiefly distinguishes modern tuning from the old style.

(To be continued.)

THE PEAL AT CRAYFORD.

After the peal of Stedman Triples at Crayford, reported in our last issue, the band and some friends spent some time in social intercourse, during which Mr. Rupert Richardson asked for attention. He said that the peal, besides being the 1,000th by Messrs. Bennett and Coles, had been rung to the memory of a very gallant young officer, Capt. Freddy Coles. 'I had the pleasure,' Mr. Richardson said, 'of knowing him for many years, and watched him grow up into a fine specimen of British manhood. He obeyed his calling up notice willingly and cheerfully, and in the Army he did well. From letters received from his C.O. and brother officers, which I have read, there is no doubt that he had the confidence of his men, who would follow him anywhere, and the esteem of his fellow officers. He was killed at the head of his company, when leading it into an attack. Only a few weeks previously he had been awarded the Military Cross for a very gallant similar action, after the then company commander had been killed. I ask you now to drink to the memory of a very brave young man, and to join with me in sympathising with his wife and parents in their great loss.'

Mr. C. T. Coles thanked the company for their sympathy, and said the peal was actually rung on the eve of his son's wedding day just a year ago. He wished to pay a tribute to the help he had received from the late William Pye, with whom he had rung the majority of his peals, and who laid the foundation of his success in attaining four figures; and to acknowledge the help received from Bob Pye, whose health prevented him being in the peal. He also coupled the names of James George and the late John S. Goldsmith with the peal, both of whom were to have been in previous attempts abandoned owing to the war.

Mr. Bennett said he wished to identify himself with all that Mr. Coles had said about William Pye and Bob Pye, and desired to thank the band, and especially Mr. Barnett for arranging the peal attempt.

CHESTER.—On Saturday, on July 31st, on the front six at the Cathedral, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Fox 1, R. Sperring (conductor) 2, T. Taylor 3, J. Worth 4, J. W. Clarke 5, H. Parker 6.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the Sheffield and District Society's meeting at Handsworth tomorrow, the ringing will begin at 3 o'clock, not the tea as announced last week.

Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, has given a series of five lectures to three separate units of the R.A.P.C. His subjects were bells, bell-ringing, bellfounding, bells of all nations and carillons. These lectures have been popular and much appreciated.

Sixty years ago to-day the Cumberland rang the first peal on the bells of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, London. The method was Kent Treble Bob Major, and two men were needed at the tenor. These bells, which have a definite place in the story of bell tuning, have since been moved with the tower and the whole church to Kingsbury, Middlesex.

Fifty years ago to-day, James W. Washbrook called the first peal—one of Grandsire Caters—on the heavy ring at Yeovil in Somerset. Mr. Edwin Shepherd is the solo survivor of the band.

On August 1st, 1828, four of the Cumberland Youths rang on handbells, 'up in hand' at the Sign of the Green Dragon, Poplar, the first handbell peal of Grandsire Triples. Edmund Giles rang 3-4 and conducted.

The twelve bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, were opened by the College Youths on August 3rd, 1735, and the twelve bells at Quex Park by bands of Cumberland and College Youths on August 4th, 1819.

The record peal of Cambridge Maximus, 15,312 changes, was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929.

Ten years later on the same date the first peal of Airdale Surprise Major was rung at Northowram, Halifax, and the first peal of Gonville Bob Major at Chester.

On August 6th, 1821, the Huddersfield band rang 5,600 changes of Superlative Surprise Major. The composition was false.

The first peal of Lancashire Surprise Major was rung at Oswaldtwistle on August 7th, 1922.

THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with the spirit of the letter in this week's 'Ringing World' from Mr. R. H. Dove, but I altogether disagree with the details.

What good would it do ringers generally to provide a new peal of bells for Guildford Cathedral, or how would that be a fitting memorial for the late Mr. Goldsmith? The cost would be heavy, much more than ringers would be justified in spending in the present or future circumstances, and very few ringers would ever have an opportunity of hearing the bells. Guildford has already got two good peals of eight and, I believe, one or two sixes, and if the town wants another peal it is only right that it should provide it itself. Besides, the tower is not built and will not be built for a good many years. The Guildford diocese is, for its size, richer than almost any other, and the people ought to pay for their own cathedral, and, according to Mr. Grover, that is their intention.

It was a very nice thing for ringers to provide the Stedman memorial, but it is a fair question to ask: What real good has it actually done? And how much better is Stedman known because of it?

'NORTH COUNTRY RINGER.'

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

COMPOSITIONS WANTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwin Jennings and I are at present engaged on the task of collecting the figures of all peal compositions rung for the Hertford County Association since its inception.

Should any of your readers have called any peals for the association or know the figures of any peals called by conductors now dead, I should be pleased if they would forward them to Mr. Jennings or myself.

We do not need the figures of well-known compositions, but only of those peals which are not identifiable from the published report.

H. G. CASHMORE.

24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LLANSTEPHAN BELLS.

(Continued from next column.)

it was quite in order, and in any case the bells were rung. The Church said it had tried to get eight persons, and to this day it has not yet been straightened out, and nobody knows if any interest has been paid out during recent years.

I tried to find out if the ban on ringing for 2½ years did not entitle the Infirmary to the interest, but there was no reply.

Such was the feeling in the parish about this bequest, and so divided was the parish, that the Bishop of St. David's came down to intervene, but the dispute still remains. The bequest is now in the hands of the governing body of the Church in Wales, and they discussed it recently, but, strange to say, the Infirmary authorities are not interested in the matter.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

LLANSTEPHAN BELLS.

THE STORY OF A WILL.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Llanstephan is a beautiful little village about eight miles from Carmarthen and well known to holiday-makers who desire a very restful and peaceful time. As one approaches Ferryside on the railway and looks across the water, the old Castle and Church can be plainly seen.

The Castle was the scene of very heavy fighting in the 11th and 12th centuries, and was said to have been destroyed in 1136 by the sons of Gruffudd ab-Cyan; this name is frequently mentioned and known to students of early Welsh history.

The ancient church, with its Norman tower, embattled with a corner turret, and substantially built, shows great age. In ancient times the church was served by itinerant preachers sent from the Monastic Priory of Carmarthen, who probably owned the tithes. On the dissolution of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII., the Rectory of Llanstephan was granted by the Crown to one of the Earls of Northumberland, and has since passed with the Rectorial tithes through various hands.

The characteristic features of the church are its massive barrel vaulting roof, and its rude Gothic arches, which have neither mouldings, splay, nor capitals: these arches have the appearance of having been cut out of the walls after the latter have been built. The place of the holy water stoup is still to be seen in the south porch, and above the inner door of the same porch was the niche which contained an image of the Virgin.

GIFT OF BELLS.

In 1756 George Lloyd Mears, of the Plas, Llanstephan, presented the church with a chalice, two patens and a flagon, all silver and each article beautifully inscribed. The chalice is known as the 'Cocoanut Chalice,' and the top is formed from the shell of a special kind of cocoanut, and is mounted on ebony, has silver bands encircling, and bears the above inscription. There are only three of these in existence, and it was in use up to a recent date.

The Rev. J. T. Wade-Evans, one time Vicar of Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos, in his great work, 'The Church Plate of Carmarthenshire,' gives a good description of this chalice.

In 1875, Henry Parnell, who was a wholesale clothier of Bishopsgate Street, London, presented a peal of eight bells with tenor about 19 cwt., together with a chiming apparatus, cast by Mears and Stainbank, and these bells are reputed to be the best for tone in the county of Carmarthenshire. I do not know what system of tuning was employed, and perhaps Mr. A. A. Hughes could settle this point. A team of 'Ancient College Youths' came down from London at the donor's expense, and remained in the village for a fortnight. It is recorded that these bells were first rung on January 1st, 1876, to ring in the new year. The 'College Youths' rang a peal of 'Grandsire Triples,' and taught local people to ring and formed a local band of ringers before returning to London.

By the will of Ann Parnell, the donor's sister, dated November 26th, 1891, she left £400 for the ringers, and instead of this bequest being a great help to the village, in recent years it has divided it and created discord. The clause in the will reads:—

'I give and bequeath the sum of £400 to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of Llanstephan to invest same, and apply the interest thereof amongst eight persons, to be of sober and respectable mien, as shall be employed by the Vicar and Churchwardens as Bell-ringers to ring the Bells of the Parish Church of Llanstephan aforesaid in such proportions and at such times as the Vicar and Churchwardens and their successors, or the majority of them in case of difference may in their discretion think proper and expedient. And I declare that such last-mentioned bequest of £400 is made on condition that the aforesaid bells be rung in the usual course regularly on each Sunday, and in default thereof I give the last-mentioned sum of £400 to the Treasurer of the Carmarthen County Infirmary for the general purposes of the Infirmary.'

A PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY.

On February 29th, 1898, an enquiry was held into the various charities of the village, and the House of Commons ordered on February 20th, 1899, that the proceedings with the evidence should be printed. At this enquiry it was stated that the annual income of the bequest of Ann Parnell was £9 4s., and same was divided by the Vicar amongst the bellringers, who are 10 in number, in proportion to their respective attendances. The names of the bellringers, together with the number of attendances made and the sum received by each of them quarterly, are affixed to a board which is hung up in the church porch. The accounts, too, are published every year.

In 1929, when the present Vicar was inducted into the living, several of the ringers had left the parish, and some of the St. Peter's band at Carmarthen went down to assist. The Vicar tried to keep the bells going, and put certain proposals before the ringers, which they claimed were not in accordance with the bequest of Ann Parnell. All the ringers left, and the Vicar had to resort to the chiming apparatus.

In the local Press, a wordy warfare went on. One side claimed that the bells were not rung, and the £400 should go to the Infirmary. The other side claimed that as Parnell paid for the chiming apparatus (Continued in previous column.)

TRIPLE TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 337.)

Somerset is the county of grand church towers and noted for its heavy rings of bells. These include the heaviest ringing peal of six (Queen's Camel) and ten in the kingdom. The latter are in the south-west tower of the grand Cathedral of Wells, and the tenor weighs 56 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

Wells Cathedral bells have a long and interesting history. The Fabric Rolls show that in 1586 the 'Great Bell' to be placed by the Master of the Fabric in the Tower, and the fragments of metal to be sold.' The next year we read that 'Harewell's great bell to be recast by Joseph Carter, of Reading.' In 1627 the Corporation gave 40s. towards recasting the Cathedral bells. In 1670 'Mr. James, of Bristole, gave for metal for Harewell's bell £17 15s.,' and cost of 'agreement between Thomas Purdue and Dean' was 2s. Purdue was paid £23 for 'forming the bell called Harewell.'

For many years the ring numbered eight being the heaviest octave in England, but in 1891 it was decided to have them rehung and augmented to ten. This was done and two trebles added by Mears and Stainbank, and the rehanging in an iron frame carried out by Messrs. Blackburn and Greenleaf, of Salisbury. The 9th and tenor are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and dated 1877. When the ring was opened, members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild were engaged for the occasion, and after the dedication a peal of Stedman Caters was started with the late J. W. Washbrook as conductor. He called his own composition and attempted to ring the tenor single-handed. The rest of the band were: Fred White 1, G. H. Philott, M.A., 2, Charles Hounslow 3, T. Blackburn 4, Rev. H. A. Cockey 5, Rev. F. E. Robinson 6, Wm. W. Gifford 7, James Hinton 8, Richard T. Hibbert 9. Washbrook rank the tenor for 3½ hours and then turned it over to Wm. Greenleaf, still retaining his position by the bell and finishing the conducting. It was a magnificent heavy-bell performance, for with the old style of plain bearings it was a rare thing for a bell to go well until it had been rung, for some time.

Washbrook completely eclipsed this feat some four years later, and actually turned it in single-handed to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, an outstanding heavy-bell performance. The day following the peal at the Cathedral, Washbrook*turned the 29 cwt. tenor at St. Cuthbert, Wells, into a peal of Double Norwich Major, while the next day he conducted a peal of Stedman Triples at Prestbury, and another of Caters at Cheltenham. Since those days other peals have been rung at Wells, but only on rare occasions has the complete 5,000 been accomplished.

Although Bristol possesses more rings of bells than almost any other city in England, yet, strange to say, its cathedral, which has three towers, can only boast of four bells. These hang in the central tower. The small-

lest, 28½ inches diameter, has an inscription in black letter alphabet, with invocation to Saint Clement. It also bears a shield placed sideways, depicting a bleeding heart pierced with nails, and the letters I.N. in Lombardic capitals on either side. This is a rebus on the name of Abbot Newland, alias 'Nailheart,' who died in 1486. The second bell, 31½ inches diameter, has an invocation to St. Margaret, also in black letter alphabet. The third, 35½ inches diameter, in highly ornamented Lombardic capitals, says, '+CLARA: VOCOR: ET: CLARIOR: ERO' '(I am called Clara, and will be clearer). The largest, 48½ inches diameter, was cast by Robert Purdue in 1670, and in large Roman capitals bears an inscription in Latin, meaning, 'The Cathedral Church of Bristol, the house of the Lord, call a solemn assembly.' The two western towers bear the names of Bishop Butler and Edward Colston.

The glorious Cathedral of Lincoln now possesses a grand ring of twelve, tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. The history of bells at Lincoln is very comprehensively given in North's 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire,' but briefly it is as follows: Two bells were given by Robert de Chesney, fourth Bishop of Lincoln, in the middle of the 12th century, and were hung in the western towers. Two more were placed in the central tower between 1307 and 1311. Others were added at various times until the 18th century, when we find a ring of six in this tower. These were commonly known as the 'Lady Bells.' The four larger ones were cast by Robert Quernbie and Henry Oldfield in 1593. At that time the old Great Tom hung in the north-west tower and weighed 88 cwt. 1 qr. 10½ lb. This was cracked in 1827, and after several attempts to remedy it an estimate by T. Mears was accepted for casting a new Great Tom and two quarter bells from the metal of the old bell and the six Lady bells, all of which were shipped off to London on June 23rd, 1834. The new bell, weighing 5 tons 8 cwt., was cast November 15th that year, and brought to Lincoln by road, arriving on April 30th, 1835, amid great rejoicing.

In 1880 the two quarter bells were replaced by four bells arranged for the Cambridge chimes, the largest weighing 27 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. At this time there was a ring of eight, with a tenor 16½ cwt., in the south-west tower. In 1913 these were all recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., the old 7th and tenor being retained as service bells. In 1928 four additional bells were added as a memorial to the ringers of the diocese who fell in the Great War. The tower itself was completely restored and the bells lowered some 30ft. The ceiling and roof of the tower removed and replaced by a lantern roof resting on reinforced concrete piers. The lower louvres have been closed, and the sound therefore travels uninterrupted to the top of the tower before escaping. Thus the sound of the bells is moderated in the vicinity but carried in full mellowness far across the surrounding country. Since their inauguration a number of fine peals

(Continued on next page.)

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TRIPLE TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

of Cinques and Maximus have been successfully rung on the bells. An account of the ancient 'Companie of Ringers' formed here in 1612 will be seen in my 'History and Art of Change Ringing.'

The vastness of York Minster—or Cathedral of St. Peter—with its forest of clustered pillars, its unrivalled ancient stained glass, its importance as the metropolitan church of Northern England, combine to make this splendid structure one of the most interesting in the kingdom. The central tower, rising to a height of 216ft., is the largest in England. It is one of the greatest achievements of the 15th century (1410-1433), and is one of the finest in the world. The east window is the largest window in England retaining its original glazing, although in actual size is surpassed by that of Gloucester. In the north-west tower hangs Great Peter, the third largest bell in England, recast in 1927 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and now weighing 10 ton 16 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb. Its note is E flat and is said to be the deepest-toned church bell in Christendom.

In the south-west tower hangs the grand ring of twelve (with additional semitone). As the full history of these bells has already been given in these columns, all that I need add is that the whole ring were recast with additional metal in 1926 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and rehung in a new iron and steel frame. The tenor is now 60 cwt., the third heaviest in existence—it will be fourth when Liverpool bells are completed. The writer had the good fortune to be stationed in York for two years during the Great War (1917-18), and during that period did most of the conducting of Sunday service ringing on the old ring, tenor 53½ cwt., the chief and most eventful occasion being when, on the proclamation that Armistice was signed, he called the touch for the special service of thanksgiving at which over 5,000 people attended. The two western towers are 201ft. high.

Durham Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary is the glory of this ancient city. Its two west towers are 144ft., and the central tower 218ft. high. The present structure, which replaced an earlier one, was begun in the 11th century, and much of it is Norman. The Galilee chapel is a notable feature, as are the central tower and the chapel of the nine altars. For some very interesting notes on the ancient customs of ringing the bells here in mediæval times, copied from 'The Rites of Durham, being a description of all the ancient monuments, rites and customs belonging to or being within the Monastical Church of Durham before the Suppression, written 1593,' I would refer the reader to my letter in these columns of September 29th, 1939. All I need add is that in 1693 the bells were cast into a ring of eight by Christopher Hodson, of London. Three of them have since been recast, the treble in 1780 by Pack and Chapman, the third in 1781 by Chapman, the fourth in 1896 by Mears and Stainbank.

Mr. W. Story, of Newcastle, writes: 'The approach to the belfry is first by a broad flight of spiral steps from the north-west corner of the south transept, thence a long walk under the roof of the transept to a narrow spiral stairway in the north-west corner of the central tower—a tremendous climb! I rang the tenor to the first peal on the bells many years ago by candle light before they were rehung; and later the same bell to the third, both in the same time, 3 hours 22 minutes.'

Peterborough Cathedral, besides having a central tower, has two lofty western towers, or turrets, flanked at the angles with clustered shafts and crowned with spires. Its noble west front is said to be the finest portico in Europe. Records of bells here date from very early times, and as early as 1250 we find that Abbot John de Caletto gave a great bell to the monastery at Peterborough. A little later Richard de London, sacrist, gave two more bells. Numerous other notes on the bells occur in later years, till at the time of the Commonwealth we find that a heavy ring of ten bells was hanging in the tower. It is recorded that Cromwell's soldiers were quartered in the cathedral for some time, and that they used to amuse themselves by jangling the bells at all hours, night and day, much to the annoyance of the inhabitants of Peterborough, who managed secretly to remove the clappers and hide them, and so put a stop to the nuisance. The tenor of this ring must have weighed 60 cwt.

In 1709 Henry Penn, the Peterborough bell founder, agreed to cast a tunable peal of ten out of the four largest of the above-mentioned ring with a little additional metal, taking for his payment the front six bells. A ring of ten, with a tenor 32 cwt., was then erected, when, after being in use for over 120 years, the 9th became cracked. At that time the tower was deemed unsafe, and it was resolved to sell the front five bells, with the idea of reducing the strain thereon. This was done, and William Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk, bought them, at the same time recasting the 9th (now the fourth) in 1831. Thus Peterborough Cathedral still only has this part ring of five bells, although just prior to the present war a scheme was advanced to restore the tower and erect a ring of twelve.

(To be continued.)

THE BLOCKING UP OF WINDOWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The architect for the Borough of Blackpool, Mr. Robinson, writes to inform me that he was never consulted regarding the building up of St. John's Church tower windows, and the suggestion that the interior lining of the bell chamber would be affected by sound waves was not made by him. I beg to apologise to Mr. Robinson for the implication and hope he has suffered no inconvenience.

The gentleman who made the statement was in no way connected with the municipality.

C. SHARPLES.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Thursday, July 22nd a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 10 callings: Mrs. H. Chandler 1. T. Jones (conductor) 2. J. Preece 3. L. Evans 4. B. Ellsmore, R.A.F. 5. J. Petrie (first quarter-peal) 6. Rung half-muffled in memory of Sergt. W. J. Preece, a former member of the band and the church choir.

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NOTICES.

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

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon on Saturday, August 7th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Handsworth (8 bells) on Saturday, August 7th, at 3 p.m.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Rededication of six bells at Newnham on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Service at 3 p.m.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, on Sat., Aug. 14th, 3 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney Aug. 15th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Reigate, Saturday, August 14th. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. Names before August 9th. Talk by Mr. A. A. Hughes, 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' 6.30 p.m.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The annual meeting at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Deanery.—Meeting at Radstock, Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names before Aug. 11th to E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 2s. Notify Mr. G. West, 25, The Square, Wentworth, near Rotherham, before Aug. 11th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Yelvertoft on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Bring own food. A cup of tea provided.—C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 14th, at North Mimms, at 3 p.m. Names for tea by August 11th to R. W. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Caerleon on Saturday, August 14th. Bells 3 o'clock. Business meeting 4 o'clock.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheddleton (6 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Names for tea to Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, before Aug. 7th. No card, no tea. Cheadle meeting Aug. 28th.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Meeting at Haxey, Isle of Axholme, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Bring own tea.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK.—Ringing meeting, Aug. 14th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—C. W. Pipe.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Halesowen, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in Church School. Bells afterwards to 9 p.m. Also handbells. Numbers for tea by 19th.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Surfleet on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Service 3.15. Tea at Glyn Garth 4 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 17th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scunthorpe on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Further particulars next week.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild at Rotherfield, Saturday, Aug. 21st. Details next week.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Crewe on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Further particulars later.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. W. H. Wilson, Hon. Treasurer, Lindoff Memorial Fund, has changed his address to 118, Sandford Road, Dublin.

BIRTH.

WORRALL.—On July 24th, 1943, at the Chester City Hospital, to Edith (nee Sanders), wife of R. W. Worrall, Hillcroft, Vale Road, Hartford, a son.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT PULBOROUGH.**

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th, when ringers were present from Billingshurst, Chichester, Goring, Haywards Heath, Heene, Henfield, Lower Beeding, Lymminster, Storrington, Warnham, West Grinstead, Wisborough Green and the local band. The bells were put to good use during the afternoon and evening, the ringing including rounds, Doubles, Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

After tea a meeting was held in the church, presided over by the Rector, the Rev. E. I. Frost, who also conducted the service. Miss Joyce Humphrey, Chichester, and Mrs. L. Stilwell, Pulborough, were elected members and Mr. J. H. Paice and Mr. H. Colley re-elected. Lymminster was selected for the next meeting, to be held in September.

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SILVER BELL INKSTANDS



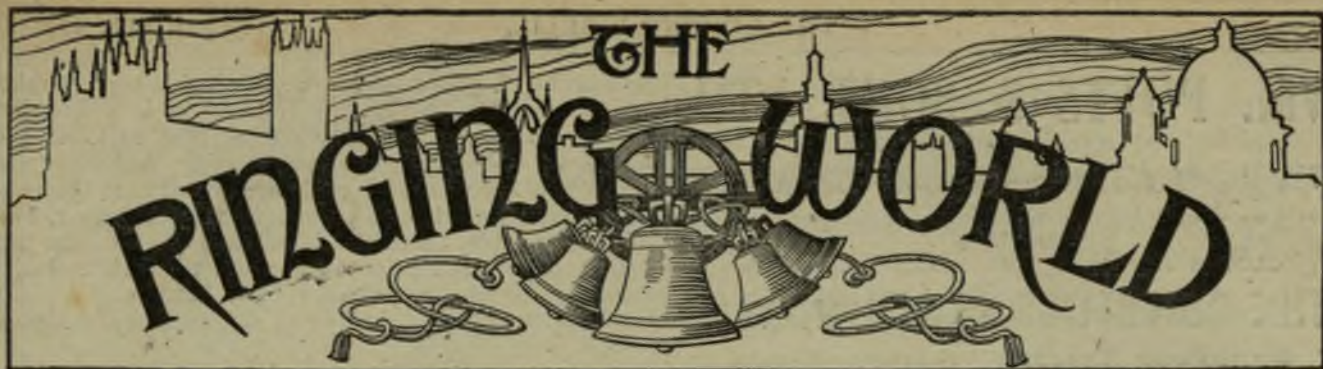
WE MUCH REGRET

that we are no longer permitted to make
SILVER BELL INKSTANDS, and our
reserve stock has now gone.

When normal times return we hope we
shall renew the pleasure of supplying
our numerous bellringing clients.

T. E. RUSSELL, Jeweller,
29, CHERTSEY ROAD, WOKING

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13th, 1943.

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

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THE THING WHICH MATTERS.

In our art, the thing which matters is not what you do but how you do it. That may sound like a platitude, but really it is worth considering by ringers if they wish to get out of ringing the greatest amount of satisfaction to themselves and to give the most pleasure to other people. Perhaps the greatest charm of change ringing lies in the fact that it sets before the ringer a difficult task which calls for the exercise of the best, intellectual and physical, that is in him; and it provides him at the end of it with the opportunity of saying he has done something worth doing.

That is quite as it should be. The number and quality of the methods a man can ring and the number of peals he has scored are a very fair test of his ability and standing as a ringer; but they are anything but a complete or final test, though it so happens that they are the only test which can appear in a published record.

Two peal reports appear side by side in 'The Ringing World.' One is Treble Bob, the other London Surprise, and every reader naturally thinks, consciously or unconsciously, that the second was the better performance and was evidence of greater ability and greater skill. Very likely it was, but it need not necessarily have been so. The two bands may have been equal in ability and experience, either able to do anything the other could have done, and yet it may easily have been that the one which rang the Treble Bob exercised more skill and showed more ability in that particular performance than the other did in ringing the London.

No one who understands and values our art will be little either method ringing or peal ringing. They provide almost the summit of a good ringer's ambition, but by themselves they are nothing. They need other excellences which are as difficult to acquire, but which give as much pleasure and satisfaction to the man who possesses them and far more to those who have to ring with him, or to listen to his ringing. A man may be justifiably proud of himself if he can ring London and Bristol Surprise. He has more cause still for pride if he can strike any bell, however false and odd-struck it may be, and put it exactly in the place it should be put. A first-class band is not necessarily one which can ring many methods, but one which can and does ring even Grand-sire Triples so that critical hearers approve and admire.

It is to be feared that modern conditions tend to set up false, or at any rate defective, standards. It is easier to gain a reputation as a method ringer than as a good striker. Open meetings provide abundant opportunities

(Continued on page 350.)

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Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

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for learning methods. They never provide opportunities for learning good striking. Indeed, it is a question whether in that matter they do not tend to lower the standard. The old prize-ringing meetings had many undesirable features, and no one could wish to see them revived, but they did set a premium on good ringing, and it is rather a pity that there is nothing which can be put in their place. It would not be a bad thing if, now and then, at meetings a really first-class band rang a short touch of Grandsire to show what ringing can and should be like.

Meanwhile it cannot be impressed too often or too strongly on beginners (and others) that they miss more than half the pleasure and the interest ringing has to give if they do not from the beginning and always make how they ring the most important thing. They can rest assured that, if they do so, method ringing will come far more easily and will be much more worth while when it does come.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 31, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*FREDERICK CHAPLIN... ..Treble	RICHARD W. STANNARD ... 5
MRS. R. F. DEAL 2	RICHARD F. DEAL 6
ARTHUR C. CHAPLIN... .. 3	ERNEST W. PYE 7
ERNEST W. FORBANK 4	JAMES BULLOCK ... ..Tenor

Composed by THOMAS DAY.

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

* First peal in the method. First peal on the bells since augmentation to eight.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

*ROLAND HILL ... ..Treble	LEONARD W. CARBUTT ... 5
MRS. E. BRADLEY 2	ERNEST BROOKES... .. 6
MISS D. M. HAWLEY 3	EDWARD BRADLEY 7
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 4	DANIEL SMITH ... ..Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

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

SIX BELL PEAL.

HODNET, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 12 cwt. 24 lb. in P.

*FRED LEECH ... ..Treble	F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... 4
WALTER LYCETT 2	†GEORGE BERRY 5
FRED PRICE 3	WILLIAM J. CHESTER ...Tenor

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor 'inside.'

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT HATFIELD.

Ringers from Arksey, Doncaster, Campsall, Thorne, Barnby Don, Sprotborough and Rawmarsh, as well as the full local band, were present at a meeting of the Doncaster and District Association, held at Hatfield on July 31st. The Vicar, the Rev. B. G. Brown, presided and entertained the company to tea. He expressed the hope that the society would come again soon. The next meeting was arranged to take place at Campsall on August 28th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 1-2	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6
†EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by J. E. SPICE. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.' Also first handbell peal of Double Bob for the Guild.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPILARS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 20, WEST ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

LEONARD E. PITSTOW ... 1-2	WALTER AYRE ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	ALFRED E. PITSTOW ... 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE (Birmingham) ... 1-2	
FRANK E. HAYNES (Cambridge) ... 3-4	
JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6	
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (Oxford) ... 7-8	

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal of Grandsire and the first of Triples for the Association.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in B flat.

*FRANK E. HAYNES ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	†FRANK E. PERVIN ... 7-8

*REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

Umpire—Albert Walker.

* First peal of Treble Bob Royal. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal 'in hand.' First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

PTE. WILLIAM G. YOUNG ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
(Dorset Regt.) ... 3-4	*SGT. ROY C. HURST (Dorset Regt.) ... 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Witness—F. S. Wilson.

* First handbell peal. Messrs. Young and Hurst are of the Poole St. James' band.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 343.)

THE STRIKE-NOTE.

The Christian bell—the bell which Catholic Church of the West hung in her towers—was evolved during the course of many centuries; and when, at some time in the Middle Ages, it reached the form which, with minor modifications, it has kept ever since, it produced five principal tones approximately in an harmonic relationship. This has led some people (including Canon Simpson) to think it was deliberately designed so that the tones should be, not merely in approximate harmony, but in true harmony; and that the discrepancies, which always were present, were due to the ignorance or indifference of subsequent founders. It cannot, however, have been so. The men of the Middle Ages had not sufficient knowledge on which to base such a design, nor had they the instruments or the means by which to gain that knowledge.

Neither had they any scientific knowledge of music. They had a good natural appreciation of musical values, but it is likely that the scale which seemed right to their ears was not quite the same as the modern scale. To the ordinary people, including the founders, it is probable that a minor scale was the correct one for bells, and there is evidence that most, if not all, of the fives which were cast and hung in England between the years 1440 and 1500 were minor fives. As that century was passing away a great change took place in ideas concerning music (as of almost every other thing) due to the movement called the Renaissance; and in England there was a great development of music which reached its climax at the time of Shakespeare. One result of this may have been that the minor fives were turned into major sixes by the addition of tenors, and recast and new fives were usually in the major scale.

But in whatever manner the rings were tuned, there were still the discrepancies between the tones of the individual bells. These discrepancies were accepted by the keen ears of musical people, and it was not until much later, when composers and scientific men had studied the structure of music, that a few persons began to take notice of them; and it was not until recent years that any attempt was made to understand them, and from the knowledge gained to control and eliminate them.

The five tones which, according to present-day standards, a bell should produce, are the fundamental, the octave below (the hum-note), the octave above (the nominal), a minor third (the tierce), and a fifth (the quint). Why it should be a minor third and not (as we might naturally expect) a major third, we do not know; but that is only one of the many things connected with this subject we do not know.

In any old-style bell all these tones are never in true harmonic relationship. The hum-notes are usually nearly half a tone sharp; the nominals are usually about a quarter of a tone sharp; the tierce and the quint may be either sharp or flat. In no instance are the divergences the same in all the bells in a ring. They are purely accidental, and are not (as some have supposed) the result of design in order to obtain some desired effect.

It sometimes happens that a man, trying to illustrate the difference between the tones of old and new-style bells, will strike a chord on a piano, or (as W. W. (Continued on next page.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Starmer does in Groves' Dictionary) set one down in musical notation. It is not easy to see how else it can be done, but these illustrations may be very misleading. No bell ever gives a sound like a musical chord, and it is well that it does not. A heavy bell which gave forth a common chord would, when rung singly, undoubtedly be very pleasing, but a number of such bells striking rapidly one after another, either in changes or in a carillon, would hardly be tolerable.

Actually, to ordinary ears every bell has one note which is so prominent and important that it completely overwhelms the other tones. 'A good bell when struck yields one note, so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is.' That is Haweis' dictum, and everybody will agree with it, though some (like Simpson) will qualify, expand, or explain it. Ringers will agree, for the whole of change ringing and all that is meant by striking depend on it. The founders and tuners, modern as well as old, act on it. They call the note the 'strike-note' or the 'tap-note.'

But what is the strike-note? W. W. Starmer in Groves' Dictionary says it is the fundamental. Simpson does not use the actual word but infers that it is the nominal, though in some instances it may be the fundamental, or even (in the case of small bells) the hum-note. Taber Jones, a professor of physics, and a leading American authority on sound, says, that it is 'close to an octave below the fifth of the component partial tones,' which is a scientist's way of saying pretty much the same as Simpson had said.

We ourselves long ago formed the opinion that the strike-note is not any one actual tone of the bell, but the general effect of all of them on the brain of the hearer. It was not a considered opinion based on knowledge or observation. It was no more than a conjecture, a suggestion which seemed to offer the best explanation of the very contradictory factors in the problem. It had no authority of any sort and, though doubtless other people have thought the same, it would not be worth referring to, even in such random remarks as these, were it not that the latest scientific authorities seem inclined, though haltingly, to arrive at a somewhat similar conclusion. At any rate, this is what is said by Dr. E. G. Richardson, lecturer at the Universities of Durham, London and Dublin, and the author of a text book on sound, the third edition of which was published in 1940. He has been describing the 'partial tones' of a bell, which he says are five in number, and he goes on: 'Besides' (notice the word), 'besides these tones there is another tone which immediately after striking overpowers these but decays more rapidly. This is known as the striking-note, and its pitch, by which the founder names the bell, seems to lie near to that of the octave or second in the series of partial tones; in a good bell the striking note is made coincident with or harmonic to this second overtone, even if the other overtones have to be left inharmonic to each other. The occurrence of this striking tone is very curious and has so far baffled explanation. The partial tones can be elicited by resonance with a tuning fork, but not so the striking-note. Its origin may be subjective—formed in the ear itself—but its abnormal intensity is against this idea; however, Biehle found that it was most prominent when the lower tones of the bell were loudly

produced, and as it dies out rapidly compared with the normal tones of the bell, it may be formed in the ear by the large "forcing" of the initial stroke. On the other hand, Taber Jones thinks that the phenomenon is an aural illusion; that the striking note is really the fifth partial (double octave) but that its tone location is masked by the lower overtones making it seem in the lower octave.'

Reading this last sentence we remember that Simpson said that the English founders always tuned the nominal (the upper octave) but always gave the pitch an octave lower than it really was.

Turning to Taber Jones' own book, we read: 'One curious fact about the pitch of a bell is that the pitch which the ear assigns is often not the pitch of any normal mode of the bell. Studies of the reason for this remarkable situation have shown that the strike-note which is heard as the pitch of the bell is close to an octave below the fifth of the component partial tones. When a bell is struck on her soundbow it is found that the fifth partial is at first the most prominent, and it seems probable that in many bells this fifth partial determines the pitch of the strike-note, the strike-note from these bells being just an octave below the fifth partial.'

The 'fifth partial' is the nominal or upper octave, and the reader should notice in the above quotation the use of the expressions 'close to an octave,' 'just an octave' and 'seems probable.'

After we have read these quotations we realise that a description and explanation of the five tones does not exhaust all that can be said about bell tuning, and we begin to think that it may be possible to do full justice to the excellences of modern bells and tuning without the need of a general condemnation of all the old-style bells and their makers. Perhaps in the mysterious character of the strike-note we shall find the best explanation of the difficulties which the non-expert and non-technical bell lover meets in this question of tuning.

We may notice that there are three distinct planes on which bells and their tuning can be considered, and three angles from which they can be viewed and judged.

First there are the pure scientists who treat the subject as one of the production of sound and of natural laws. They work in lofty altitudes where it is unnecessary and largely impossible for the average person to follow them.

Then there are the expert tuners. They work on the basis of exact knowledge; the tuning fork is their test, and their standard is whether bells actually are in tune or not. This they can judge almost to a vibration.

Finally there is the general public, the outside hearers who listen more or less to the sound of the bells. Their test is their own ears, and their standard is not whether bells are in tune, but whether they sound in tune.

The comment of the tuners on this will be that if bells are actually in tune they will sound in tune; and it is a good and unanswerable argument, so far as it goes. But the converse is not true. If bells are in tune they undoubtedly will sound in tune, but it does not necessarily follow that if bells are not in tune they will sound out of tune. There is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. It may be that one irregularity counteracts and balances another. It may be that the ear—the keenly musical ear, not merely the average ear—naturally ignores some dis-

crepancies. Or it may be that some discords are transmuted into some quality which gives character and individuality to a peal.

Otherwise, how can we account for the reputation of some of the famous rings and the charm they undoubtedly exercise? It is no uncommon experience for ringers to inspect some well-loved bells in a foundry where they have been conveyed for restoration. They are struck round and their defects are patent to the dullest ear. Hard by perhaps is a ring of modern bells tuned according to modern ideas. They, too, are struck round, and the difference is enormous. Neither prejudice nor affection can resist the conclusion that the modern bells are by far the more musical. But the curious fact is that when the old bells are rehung in their steeple, unaltered it may be or very little altered, the judgment is not confirmed. The bells once again make their old appeal and exercise their old charm, undiminished in any way.

Why is this so? Is it due to the peculiar acoustic properties of the tower? Possibly to a larger extent than is generally supposed. It may very well be that the great reputation some bells have is really due not to their own virtues but to the steeple they hang in. In bygone days London ringers used to be jealous of the reputation of the Mancroft ring, and claimed that Cornhill bells were just as good. Change the peals over, they said. Put St. Peter's bells in Cornhill tower, and St. Michael's bells in Mancroft tower, and Norwich will still have the peal which sound the best.

Or is it the case that the old-style bells have regained their charm because they no longer have to face the competition of a more musical modern peal? It may be so to some extent, but there is the undoubted fact that in the

case of these latter the verdict formed in the foundry is not always fully confirmed in the steeple. After a time some men will complain that the bells lack character. They do not deny their musical qualities, but 'when you have heard one of these rings you have heard the lot.'

So far as this criticism is true it means that all these modern rings reach the standard which authority says is necessary in a good bell, and the complaint is really that the bells are free from the old-style defects. There is something in human nature which dislikes anything which completely reaches a general standard, anything 'faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null.'

But though this is a reasonable criticism of some modern bells, it is only valid in the case of ringers. They go about the country listening to many rings, and it is not unnatural if a sameness of excellence sometimes produces monotony and disappointment. But ringers, after all, are few in number and relatively of no great importance. The people who live in a particular parish have no great grievance and certainly feel none if the musical bells they hear Sunday by Sunday can be matched by exactly similar ones in a dozen or a score other parishes in different parts of the country.

We may not be very far wrong if we hold the opinion that divergence from strict harmony does in some cases produce in the ears of non-expert and non-technical hearers qualities which give just that character and individuality which make some rings of bells attractive. And if that be so, a man may avow his liking and even preference for peals such as Painswick, or Mancroft, or Fulham, or even St. Paul's without laying himself open to the taunt that his ear is defective and his taste faulty.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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of twelve for
Liverpool Cathedral
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Sixty years ago to-day, the Burton-on-Trent band rang at Rhyl the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in Wales. William Wakeley conducted and Mr. Joseph Griffin, the only survivor of the band, rang the fourth.

Fifty years ago last Saturday, at Crawley, Mr. Frederick Dench rang his first peal of Double Norwich.

Fifty years ago to-day, the first peal of Major was rung at Pinner. Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham conducted. Mr. J. E. Davis rang the sixth, and Mr. James George the tenor.

On August 8th, 1749, the Union Scholars 'rang a complete Peal of five Thousand and Forty Plain Bob Trebles on the Eight Smallest Bells.' John Holt conducted.

On the same date in 1842 the members of the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang at Aston, 'in a masterly style,' the first peal of Stedman Triples composed or rung with only two singles. They were, however, in-course singles, which are not now considered allowable.

The first peal of Hertfordshire Surprise Major was rung at Bushey on August 11th, 1934; and the first peal of Wheatley, Surprise Major at Erith on August 14th, 1937.

The Leicester men rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Margaret's on August 12th, 1776.

William Willson was born on August 12th, 1868, and William Pye was born on August 14th, 1870.

Edwin Barnett, sen., died on August 13th, 1932.

On the same date in 1929 the Middlesex Association rang at Willesden the first peal in ten Spliced Surprise methods.

The Leicester men rang a peal of Princess Mary Surprise Royal on August 14th, 1923. They afterwards renamed the method Goldsborough.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS.

Will all readers kindly send their names and addresses to me? On a postcard, please, surname first, and in block capitals.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Secretary.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD RECORDS.

THE FIRST KENT MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The comments by Mr. J. A. Trollope on my letter published in your issue of July 30th are very interesting, but as regards the first peal of Kent Maximus are hardly convincing.

I believe it is a fact that even to this day, with the exception of Mr. Trollope, no official of the Cumberland Society has ever claimed that the peals rung by them in 1794 and 1795 were Kent. On the other hand, the St. Martin's men, whilst calling their peal on the broadsheet 'New' Treble Bob Maximus, within three years of its performance record it in their official peal book as 'Oxford Treble Bob with the Kent Variation,' and it is reasonable to assume that most of the men who took part in the peal were alive at that time.

As regards the peals not recorded in the peal book, we are fully aware that some were omitted. The late Henry Johnson left a record of some of these, but unfortunately gave no reason why they were excluded. If Mr. Trollope knows perhaps he will be good enough to inform us. It would also be of general interest if he would publish what he knows of the earlier history of the Guild prior to 1755.

THOMAS H. REEVES, Hon. Secretary.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

DEATH OF MR. H. A. HEYWOOD.

The death is announced of Mr. H. A. Heywood, of Christleton Lodge, Cheshire. He was the cousin of Sir Arthur Heywood, some time president of the Central Council, and brother of Dr. Bernard Heywood, formerly Bishop of Southwell, and later of Ely.

Although not himself a ringer, Mr. Heywood had always taken a very keen interest in ringing affairs. He was a life member of the Chester Diocesan Guild and, at one time, its secretary. He had been an active member of the Guild Committee for many years and was chairman of the Chester Branch. He was seldom absent from meetings.

Mr. Heywood was 84 years of age and until quite recently led a very active life. His work for the welfare of the Chester Guild through 40 years cannot be over-estimated.

The funeral at Christleton took place on Saturday, July 24th, and was attended by a number of ringers, including the Master of the Guild, Mr. J. W. Milner. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE ARCHER

OLD DISS RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. George Archer, of Diss, which occurred on August 3rd.

Mr. Archer, who was 72 years old, was born in the Suffolk village of Palgrave, but had lived for over 70 years at Diss, where during nearly 60 years he was employed at Messrs. Aldridge Brothers' matting factory.

He joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1889 and the Suffolk Guild in 1928. He rang in 166 peals for the former, including three on handbells. On March 15th, 1930, he rang the tenor at Quidenham to an 8,096 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 4 hours 49 minutes. He also took part in two peals for the Suffolk Guild. He conducted one peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Diss.

Although in failing health for several months, he took part in ringing up till Sunday, July 4th, when he rang for morning and evening services at Diss.

The funeral was at Diss Cemetery on August 7th, and the Rector, the Rev. J. A. Appleton, took the service. Handbells were rung over the grave by A. G. Harrison 1-2, C. J. Moore 3-4, Mrs. J. Tonge 5, Miss V. Gooderham 6, D. Whiting 7-8. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the local company of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Diss.

In the evening and again on Sunday morning the bells of Diss Parish Church were rung half-muffled to touches of Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Bob Major. Those taking part were C. J. More, T. Ford, E. Whiting (Pulham), H. Todd (Eye), D. Whiting, W. Elsey, F. Roper, W. Musk, A. G. Harrison and G. Kemp.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT EDENHAM.

The first meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild since April, 1940, was held at Edenham on July 24th and was attended by ringers from Peterborough, Spalding, Bourne, Deeping St. Nicholas, Market Deeping, Morton, Rippingale, Billingborough, Folkingham and the local band. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and some touches of Minor.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. H. Stainsby, who welcomed the branch, and tea was provided on the Vicarage lawn, thirty persons being present.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting and was elected an honorary member of the Guild. A letter from Mr. Rupert Richardson (Master of the Guild) was read expressing his regret at not being able to be present. He wished the meeting success and hoped it would be the forerunner of regular meetings again.

Six new ringing members were elected, Mr. J. Smith, of Bourne, Mr. J. Semper, of Lamptoft, Mr. G. Beever, Mrs. M. Coupland and Miss V. Williamson, all of Rippingale, and Miss F. Day, of Market Deeping.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Rippingale in October, and the annual meeting was provisionally fixed for January, 1944, at Grantham.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and those who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WEST MONKTON.

At a meeting of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at West Monkton on July 17th, about 25 ringers were present from three of the Taunton towers, Trull, Hardington, Mandeville and the local band. The Vicar, the Rev. R. K. Pagett, presided at the business meeting in the Church Room and welcomed the members.

A letter from the Guild Ringing Master and Hon. Secretary was read containing advice and suggestions designed to help bands and individual ringers, and urging increased support for 'The Ringing World.' The branch secretary, Mr. W. H. Lloyd, made a statement covering the up-to-date activities of towers in the deanery, and, referring to 'The Ringing World,' he said that he believed the Central Council was considering the future of the paper and would, no doubt, issue a statement as soon as was possible.

Milverton was chosen for the next meeting.

Several new members were elected.

Mr. Lloyd announced that the James Hunt Memorial Scheme was nearing completion.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and Mr. H. Phillips, of the local band.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOUGHTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Boughton on July 31st. Ringing began at 3.30 p.m. and was followed by service, conducted by the Rev. G. E. Stevenson.

Refreshments were served in the Rectory Garden, and the business meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin. A vote of thanks was accorded the Rector and the Boughton ringers for their welcome and the excellent arrangements.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT. J. MAYNARD.

OLD WALTHAMSTOW RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert J. Maynard, of Walthamstow, which took place on Monday, August 2nd, as the result of a stroke a day or two earlier.

Although in poor health for some time, his condition gave no real cause for anxiety until he was taken ill on the Saturday before his death, and it was then probably a merciful release that the end came soon. On Saturday, August 7th, after a service in the old church, he was buried in the family grave in St. Mary's Churchyard, under the shadow of the tower in which he had rung for well over 70 years. The Rev. Canon Barton, of Parkstone, Dorset, officiated, in the absence of the Vicar, Canon Oakley, who sent his regrets at being unable to be present.

Among the congregation, besides three ringing sons, Robert, Henry J. and Frederick C. Maynard, a ringing grandson, Frank Maynard, and other members of the family, were many ringers, including John H. Wilkins, H. Rumens, H. Strange, F. C. Taylor, H. Street, E. E. Holman and C. T. Coles, of the St. Mary's Society, Mr. A. A. Hughes, representing the Ancient Society of College Youths, and Mr. J. Chalk, representing the Essex Association. Mr. Coles represented the Middlesex County Association. After the committal service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave.

Mr. Robert J. Maynard was born on September 23rd, 1856, and was thus 86 years of age when he died. He learned to ring at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, at the age of nine, and was connected with that tower for about 77 years. For a few years during his younger days he was also towerkeeper at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, and practically the whole of his ringing was done at these two churches.

He kept no record of his peals, but on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1936 he stated that he had probably rung about 200, all of which, with only one exception, were rung at one or other of the two Walthamstow towers. The one exception was a peal of Double Norwich at St. Mary's, Woodford, on May 9th, 1936. The great majority of his peals were, of course, rung at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, where at one time he was always happy on the tenor-box. Indeed, his timing of the tenor to Caters was perfect, and he was on more than one occasion complimented on this by William Pye. In later years he was content to ring a small bell, and he rang the fifth to his 80th birthday peal nearly seven years ago, one of Stedman Caters, conducted by his eldest son. He rang the tenor to a 6,003 Stedman Caters for his 70th birthday, this also conducted by his eldest son, and he rang the treble to a 7,011 Stedman Caters on January 8th, 1921, conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles. His name appears on 27 tablets and boards in the belfry, the earliest, which was his first peal, dated 1890. It was conducted by his brother, Thomas Maynard.

Mr. Maynard had rung for all Coronations and Royal funerals during his time, and had never missed ringing for early Christmas morning and New Year's ringing, except during war years. He rang for Victory ringing last November, on Christmas Day (his last touch of Stedman Caters), and for two or three Sundays on the lifting of the ban. Then failing strength caused him to give up.

He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1877; he became a member of the Essex Association at its foundation, and was a member of the Middlesex Association even before the present County Association was formed. He was also a member of the London County Association, but preferred to call himself a St. James' Society member.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

By invitation of Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, members of the Ancient Society of College Youths paid a visit on July 31st to Buckinghamshire. The party travelled from Euston to Tring and were met at the station and conveyed to Ivinghoe for an hour's ringing, the methods being Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Tea was at Sunnyside, the home of Mr. Lewis, where everything was glorious, the lawn, apple trees and garden being especially appreciated.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. A. Trollope, J. E. Smallwood, A. Walker, T. Reeves, F. W. Perrens, F. E. Haynes, G. E. and H. Fearn, the last named six sending their best wishes from Birmingham.

A letter from Mr. W. Hibbert told the sad news of the death of Flying Officer R. Kingham and Sergt. Pilot D. Nash, of Basingstoke. Both were 20 years of age and they joined the College Youths on the same day. The members present stood for a few moments as a tribute to their memory.

Greetings were received from overseas from Corpl. Kenneth Arthur, R.A.F., and Pte. Eric Rapley.

Mr. F. E. Gollins brought greetings from Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, of Ferndown, Dorset.

On behalf of those present, the Master thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lewis for their warm welcome and hospitality, and Mrs. Hooton and the other ladies for helping to make everything such a success.

The members present were the Master, Secretary and Treasurer and Messrs. F. E. Gollins, D. Cooper, G. F. Hoad, H. Hodgetts, H. Hoskins, C. H. Kippin, E. H. Lewis, C. M. Meyer, W. H. Pasmore, J. G. A. Prior, J. H. Shepherd, E. A. Young and Mr. Fred Reeves from Tring.

NORBURY CHURCH, CHESHIRE.

ITS BELLS AND RINGERS.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.

The old chapel at Norbury, or Northburie as it used to be called, was built about the year 1600 as a Chapel of Ease to Poynton. Its site was somewhere on the Macclesfield Road, but no trace of this remains. In 1773, the Rev. David Simpson was the curate, but he was not approved of by the congregation owing to his sympathies with John Wesley, and was suspended. In 1774 he built a chapel in Bullock Smithy, the former name of Hazel Grove, a village which was then growing very fast, but was set some distance from Norbury Chapel. Simpson disposed of his chapel to the Wesleyans in 1786, and it was opened by John Wesley in that year. Simpson then went to Macclesfield as Vicar of the new parish of Christ Church, and built a new church. He vowed that his church tower would be higher than St. Michael's. It is, and, being built of brick with the bells set in the top storey, many ringers have met their Waterloo there. No doubt the rapid growth of Nonconformity in Hazel Grove had something to do with the siting of the present church at Norbury, which was erected nearer the village. The consecration of this church took place on July 2nd, 1834, when the old chapel was pulled down.

About this time the parishioners of Disley were considering replacing their peal of six as they were apparently not satisfied with the bells then hanging in the tower. So in 1837 the old bells were presented to Norbury and a new peal of six replaced them. No records are left to show whether this old peal was hung for ringing when transferred to Norbury. It is reputed that at one time they were chimed by means of a barrel, the holding bolts of which are still to be seen in the west wall of the ringing chamber. According to the old ringers' log book, nothing other than Bob Doubles had been rung previous to 1896.

Like many other ringers, the ringers of Norbury fell into disgrace, and a clean sweep was made. Under the guidance of the late Mr. R. J. Fletcher, a young men's Sunday class was held in the ringing chamber, and these young men formed the new band of ringers.

Although the ringers then in office, 1896, had been in possession for several years, they had never been stirred by any ambition to become scientific change ringers until they were approached by the Rev. H. Leigh-Mallory, of Wilmslow, who put them in possession of the following particulars. There was in existence an institution called 'The Cheshire Guild of Change Ringers' (now called the 'Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers'), which was divided into branches, and he, the Rev. Leigh-Mallory, was hon. secretary of the 'Stockport and Bowdon Branch,' and as this belfry was in the district covered by the branch, he requested that the ringers should become members of the Guild. After due deliberation they decided to do so. This was early in July, 1896. They set to work in real earnest, and a practice night was arranged. Valuable aid was given by that well-known ringer, Mr. J. S. Wilde, of Hyde; to him the ringers were greatly indebted for their rapid progress.

On Sunday, September 13th, 1896, for morning service, 720 of Bob Minor was rung by S. Fernley (conduc-

tor) treble, J. Dean 2nd, G. D. Warburton 3rd, S. Rutter 4th, A. Fernley 5th, and J. Shallcross tenor, and the time taken was twenty-seven minutes. This was the first 720 in which any of the band had taken part, and when it is considered that they had only been in practice for two months with the 'tenor' a working bell, it was not a bad performance.

As Jim Wilde was coaching the band, good striking was the main thing, and it was only natural that he directed them towards Treble Bob. The first 720 of Kent was rung for morning service on Sunday, February 7th, 1897. Ringing began at 9.50 a.m., and all went well for twenty minutes, when something went wrong. A fresh start was immediately made, and at 10.30 a.m. (time to cease ringing) the 720 was going strong and well. The conductor decided to go on to the end, if possible, and the 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor was accomplished seven minutes after the service had commenced, notwithstanding the fact that for the past five minutes the irate choir-master had been vigorously pounding on the door for ringing to cease.

The band was as follows: J. Dean treble, S. Fernley 2nd, G. D. Warburton 3rd, S. Rutter 4th, A. Fernley 5th, and J. Shallcross (conductor) tenor, and the time taken was twenty-six minutes. The Oxford variation was next tackled, and the first 720 rung on Sunday, March 28th, 1897.

Besides practising these new methods they had been putting a very promising pupil, James Fernley, through his paces, and on April 5th, 1897, two months after he began to handle a bell, he rang his first 720, the first of a thousand or so. The time spent on him was not wasted, and he was not loth to pass on his knowledge to others, with the result that he built up a band that it was a pleasure to ring with, and one that made ringing history as far as multi-method peals are concerned.

Making use of their new-found knowledge, a date touch in three methods was rung on May 26th, 1897. It was recorded as the longest and best peal so far rung by the band and on the bells, and, after the 5,040's they eventually did ring, their 1897 record caused many laughs. June 19th, 1897, saw them launching out in another direction. There was a ringing contest at Didsbury Parish Church; they entered for it, and rang 720 Kent. The striking, however, was not very good, no doubt owing to the over-anxiety of some of the band, and they were placed third. They now turned their attention towards scoring a 5,040, but the bad go of the bells put the brake on this effort, and for a year or so the bells were unringable.

During 1899-1900 the bells were rehung, and practice was resumed, with the result that on November 10th, 1900, a 5,040 in seven methods was rung in two hours and fifty-three minutes by: W. Wild treble, J. Fernley 2nd, J. Dean 3rd, A. Fernley 4th, S. Fernley (conductor) 5th, G. D. Warburton tenor. (As, I believe, W. Wild died a few months ago, none of the band now remain.) This was the first peal on the bells, by all the band, and the first in seven methods by any band in the Stockport and Bowdon Branch of the Chester Guild.

The Rev. A. T. Beeston put in many hours' practice and rang many peals with the Norbury Company. That they were good peals, is to say the least of it, for both Jim Fernley and Mr. Beeston were sticklers for good

striking. Their efforts were directed towards ringing 'spliced' peals, and they were rewarded with some measure of success. The Great War of 1914-1918 retarded progress. Seven ringers from the Norbury band joined the Forces and, considering that the bells were rung for practically every Sunday service during that period, chiefly on account of old ringers returning to fill the gaps, the tower of St. Thomas', Norbury, had something to its credit.

All, with the exception of H. Williamson, who died of wounds, returned to man the ropes, and practices began in earnest. Mr. Beeston again joined in, and soon things began to move. It is not necessary for me to give details of their achievements. It was a big disappointment when Beeston had to give up ringing. His last peal was rung on January 2nd, 1922, at Norbury, a seven-method peal of Treble Bob Minor, but he did not lose interest, and no one was more pleased than he when the Norbury company rang the famous thirty-five method peal on Tuesday, December 4th, 1923.

These six bells were a mixed lot, rather light and not of good tone, but they served their purpose. About the time the thirty-five method peal was rung, a movement was set on foot to have them recast and augmented, a movement which came to a successful conclusion in 1925. On April 16th the last peal was rung on them, and on the following Monday Messrs. John Taylor and Co. began the work of dismantling them. The old third and fourth, both cast by Henry Oldfield in 1617, were not touched but placed in the west porch. The third is inscribed, 'Ihesvs be our Speed,' and the fourth 'God Save the King.' In addition to the inscription and date, there are the mark of Henry Oldfield and the arms of the Leighs of Lyme (a ram's head issuant out of a ducal coronet). The old treble, 2nd, 5th and tenor were recast and four new bells added, making a ring of eight with a tenor of 14½ cwt.

The old and new inscriptions are as follows:—

Treble.—(Peter Lee, Esq., 1750.) Recast 1925 as the gift of the Nonconformists of Hazel Grove.

'Behold how good and joyful a thing it is,
Brethren to dwell together in unity.'

2nd.—(Peter Lee, Lord of Lime, 1748, Daniel Hedderley, Fr.) Recast 1925. In memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918. 'For God, King and Country.'

3rd.—Ringers' bell, 1925. In memory of Private Herbert Williamson, Loyal North Lancs Regiment, who died December 15th, 1918, aged 38, for many years a ringer at this church.

4th.—Dedicated by the Freemasons of Hazel Grove and district, 1925 (Square and Compasses).
'Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.'

5th.—(God save this Church. Thomas Leigh, Esq., Lyme Park, 1837.) Recast 1925.

6th.—(All people may behold and see the workes of good Sir Peeter Leigh, 1682.) Recast 1925.

7th.—Te Deum Laudamus. A thank-offering from the congregation, 1925.

Tenor.—Nisi Dominus Frustra, 1925.

Arthur James Humphreys, B.A., B.D., Vicar.
Edward Donovan Reeman, B.A., Curate.
John W. Fernley, } Wardens.
John T. Coles. }

In addition to the inscriptions, the bells bear the mark of the founders, Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

It is often said that when Hazel Grove folks set themselves to do a job they do it gradely, and this restoration was no exception to the rule, for, in addition to the bells, the following work to the church was undertaken: The building of a new chancel, extension of the vestries, repair and reslating of the roof, outside pointing, renewal of windows, removal of organ from the west gallery, reseating of the galleries, electric lighting, re-decoration of the church inside and out and a new clock, which was provided by Joyce. The total cost was over £5,000.

Saturday, October 24th, was a great day. The consecration of the new chancel and the dedication of the bells by the Bishop of Chester took place amid scenes of great rejoicing. The celebrations did not end that day but were carried on for a week, culminating with a bell-warming day on Saturday, October 31st. During the week services were held at 7.30 p.m. each day, and the bells were rung by selected bands from neighbouring churches. As far as ringers are concerned, the bell-warming day was a fitting end to a week of festivities.

The first peal on the new octave was rung on November 26th. It was a spliced peal of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, conducted by James Fernley. It was rung with the bells fully muffled to the memory of Queen Alexandra. Good use has been made of the bells since, and peals have been rung on them. Nine years after the opening James Fernley passed away, and on the day of his funeral, October 20th, 1934, a very good peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung with the bells half muffled. So came to an end a ringing career of no mean achievement.

RAISING AND CEASING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Years ago I belonged to an eight-bell tower where we used to ring on Sunday mornings and fall the bells before service. A new Vicar came to the parish and soon after he came he sent for our captain and asked him what the ringers were trying to do on Sunday. It seemed to him that they were trying to see how fast they could ring the bells, and he did not want that sort of thing.

The captain explained that the bells had to be dropped, and the reply was, 'I don't know anything about that. If you must drop the bells you will have to drop them at a slower rate. I am not going to have them raced round like that.'

It was, of course, ignorance, but it does show the result of trying to drop too many bells at the same time.

'AN OLD RINGER.'

YORKSHIRE RINGER KILLED.

Sergeant Navigator George William Brothwell, of the R.A.F., has been reported killed in action. He was one of the band at St. Mary Magdalene, Whiston, Yorkshire, and a member of the Yorkshire Association and of the Sheffield and District Society.

On July 24th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung at Whiston with the bells half-muffled by Mrs. Elsie Chaddock 1, John E. Lewley 2, Mrs. Dorice Kelly 3, Gordon Grahame 4, John W. Brothwell 5, Percy Jervis 6, Herbert C. Chaddock 7, Sgt. N. Chaddock (conductor) tenor.

Sergeant Brothwell is the second Whiston ringer to be killed in action. Two others are prisoners of war and two on active service.

LEWISHAM.—On Sunday, July 25th, at the Church of St. Mary, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, F. E. Pitman 2, Miss H. Oakshott 3, F. W. Richardson 4, G. James 5, C. H. Walker 6, J. Bennett (conductor) 7, R. W. Boyce (first attempt for a quarter-peal) 8.

FRINDSBURY.—On Saturday, July 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 1, W. Easter 2, T. Beaumont 3, H. Springate 4, A. Bloxham 5, E. A. G. Allen 6, C. E. J. Norris 7, A. H. Haylor 8.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BURBAGE.**

A meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Burbage on July 24th, and 40 ringers and friends attended from Broughton Astley, Burbage, Coventry, Croft, Earl Shilton, Hinckley, Sapcote, Stoke Golding and Wolvey. The methods rung on the tower bells include Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob.

Mr. H. Bird presided at the meeting, and reference was made to the death of William Jones, a past member and for 40 years captain of the Stoney Stanton ringers, who was interred that afternoon.

An airgraph message of good wishes was received from Frank T. Long, a member now serving in North Africa. The meeting congratulated Mrs. E. M. Dennis, whose husband, Chief Radio Officer Donald Wilfred Dennis, of the Merchant Navy, had been awarded the George Medal for gallantry at sea. The citation of the award refers to the courage and strong leadership displayed by Radio Officer Dennis, whose coolness and steadfastness undoubtedly helped to save many lives when his ship was torpedoed, although he himself was suffering severely from burns and this was the third time he had been torpedoed.

Mr. C. H. Webb was congratulated on having a photograph of himself and his sons ringing the handbells reproduced in 'Home Words,' the official organ of the Church Magazine.

Various change methods and many tunes were rung on the handbells, most of the members taking part.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and to Mr. Frank Measures for making all arrangements was carried.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT MANGOTSFIELD.**

A special meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Mangotsfield on July 24th and was attended by ringers from Abson, Warmley, Stapleton, Henbury and the local band.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, and the singing was led by the choir and organist.

Tea in the Parish Room was provided by Mrs. Wise, the Vicar's wife, and was followed by a short business meeting, at which the Vicar took the chair. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at St. Ambrose's on August 23rd, when the policy of the branch, now that ringing has been resumed, will be discussed. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, Mrs. Wise, the organist and the choir.

During the afternoon and evening good practice was made on the light ring of eight, the methods being Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Major.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**JOINT MEETING AT SHERBURN.**

A joint meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society was held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on July 31st and was attended by about 50 ringers from Armley, Beverley Minster, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Felkirk, Goole, Headingley (St. Chad's), Handsworth, Hemingbrough, Howden, Idle, Leeds, Pontefract (St. Giles' and All Saints'), Selby Abbey, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Triangle and York Minster, as well as Mr. C. W. Woolley and Mr. M. Sawyer, of Figheldean, Wiltshire.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Reeder, who gave an address on the history of the church and the bells.

Tea was served in the schools by ladies of the church and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by Mr. F. Cryer, vice-president of the Yorkshire Association, and Mr. J. F. Harvey, president of the Leeds Society. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, choir and organist was passed, and, in his reply, the Vicar welcomed the associations and complimented them on the good attendance. A vote of thanks to the local company and the ladies serving at tea was responded to by Miss D. M. Hawley.

Four new members were elected to the Yorkshire Association, Messrs. J. Silk, of Selby Abbey, and T. Winter, G. Braithwaite and H. Turgoose, of St. Mary's, Beverley.

Eastrington was selected as the next place of meeting for the Yorkshire Association, and East Ardsley for the Leeds and District Society. A collection for the Yorkshire Association's Bell Repairs Fund realised £1 2s. 6½d.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Little Bob and Double Norwich Major.

SOUND CONTROL.**AN EXAMPLE FROM BRADFORD.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think that it is up to the ringers and the church officials to remove the nuisance of noisy bells as far as possible.

We at Bradford had complaints for many years about the noise, mostly from the G.P.O., which is right underneath the tower, and I might say they had cause to complain. They were a very bad peal and very noisy. Eventually they started running very badly and the ringers decided to give up unless the bells were made ringable again. We were told that the church was too poor to do anything, so the bells stood for about two years, then the public wanted them to ring again, and eventually there was a subscription list opened and the money came in so fast that the bells were sent away to be recast. Then there was the question of the noise. To get over this the louvres were covered up with wired glass in a wood frame made to open if required, then about two-thirds of the tower roof was cut out and lifted up 4 to 5 ft. with wire netting to cover the opening. This keeps birds out and the bells and bell chamber are kept cleaner.

When we got the bells back and got them ringing again, it was the ringers who complained about noise. It was too much for us, and we had to put wadding in our ears to ring them. To get over this we had another floor or roof put in the ringing chamber with 18in. space between and some sound-proof felt about ½in. thick laid on top. This did the trick and now everybody is happy. The sound now goes out of the top of the tower and leaves a very pleasant sound round about the church, and they can be heard from four to five miles away.

After ringing our first 5,000 the churchwarden went to see the postmaster to see if he had any complaints. He told him that we could ring any time and as long as we liked. He liked to hear them now.

J. HARDCASTLE.

72, St. Margaret's Road, Bradford, Yorks.

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

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Guild was held at Stratton on July 23rd, and, in addition to the Parish Church, two other belfries were available, Bradford Peverell and Charminster. The learners went to Bradford Peverell and were in good charge.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. F. Godley, who gave an address. Canon A. W. Markby read the lesson and Mr. J. E. Brown was at the organ.

Tea on the Rectory lawn was enjoyed by 55 members and friends, and the business meeting followed, presided over by Canon Markby, the branch chairman.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary, owing to an accident which had happened to Mrs. Jennings the day before. Members expressed the hope that she would make a speedy recovery.

It was decided to accept the invitation of the Rev. T. R. Teague to Preston on Saturday, September 11th. Owing to transport difficulties, the meeting arranged for August had to be postponed. Col. and Mrs. R. E. Power were elected hon. members.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the members to the Rector and Mrs. Godley, to the ringers, and to the organist and choir.

Ringing continued until late in the evening and the following towers were represented: Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, Fordington, Frampton, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Upwey, Wyke Regis, Hazelbury Bryan and Halifax. Members of H.M. Forces were present from Buckfastleigh and Torrington.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, August 1st, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Sgt.-Major M. J. Pryor (first quarter-peal in the method 'inside') 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove 6, Sgt. J. W. Berry (first quarter-peal in the method as conductor) 7, Gnr. A. Ogden 8.—On Tuesday, August 3rd, in the belfry, 1,280 Bob Major: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3-4, Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Sgt.-Major M. J. Pryor (first quarter-peal on handbells) 7-8.

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NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, on Sat., Aug. 14th, 3 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney Aug. 15th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The annual meeting at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 14th, at North Mimms, at 3 p.m.—R. W. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Meeting at Haxey, Isle of Axholme, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Bring own tea.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK.—Ringing meeting, Aug. 14th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—C. W. Pipe.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Halesowen, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in Church School. Bells afterwards to 9 p.m. Also handbells. Numbers for tea by 19th.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Surfleet on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Service 3.15. Tea at Glyn Garth 4 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 17th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild at Rotherfield, Saturday, Aug. 21st.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting with Sussex County Association at Rotherfield, August 21st. Service 4.30. Tea in Institute at 5 p.m. Advise the Rev. H. E. Collins, Rotherfield.—C. A. Bassett and J. Downing, Hon. Secs.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting at Clay Cross on Saturday, August 21st, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea provided. Notify J. W. Price, 1, Bertrand Avenue, Clay Cross.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Melbourne Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea at nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION and WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Earl Shilton on Saturday, August 21st. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names must be sent to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, near Leicester, by Wednesday, August 18th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Billesdon (6 bells) on Saturday, August 21st, 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by August 18th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Hadleigh, August 21st, during afternoon and evening.—H. B. Herbert, 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Winchester on Saturday, August 21st. Central committee 2.15. General meeting 3.15, followed by tea, all at Dumpers Restaurant, High Street. Service in Cathedral 5.15. Names for tea to Mr. W. Andrews, 11, Culver Road, Winchester, not later than Wednesday, 17th. Ringing arrangements later.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 212, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Henlow, Saturday, August 21st, at 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Meeting Milverton, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names for tea to me not later than August 16th.—W. M. Lloyd, Branch Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton, Somerset.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Blackwell on Saturday, August 21st. Bells 5 o'clock. Service 6 to 6.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in the Old Library at a moderate charge to those who notify Mr. F. Lord, Campana, Bushfield Road, Scunthorpe, by the Wednesday previous.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Cotgrave, Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting follows. Names for tea to Mr. Walter White, Post Office, Cotgrave, by Wednesday, August 25th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Annual meeting at Leyland Parish Church on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, August 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Let Mr. G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, know by Tuesday, August 24th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, September 4th. Bells 4 p.m. Further details later.—George H. Cross.

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'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's*.

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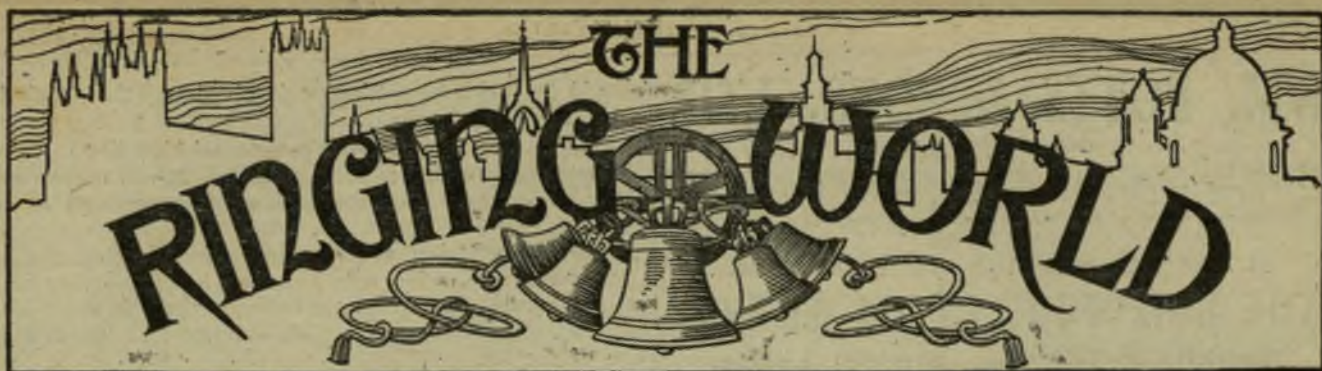
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[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE BEST METHOD FOR TEACHING.

Some weeks ago we asked the question, Which is the best method to use when teaching beginners? We did not attempt to answer the question and, as it is one which generally interests ringers, it may be worth while to return to it.

All questions of this sort have, of course, to be decided largely by local and temporary considerations, by the quality of the beginners, by the weight of the bells, by the traditions of the belfry, by the capacity and preferences of the instructor, and so forth. But that does not mean that there are not general principles which should be understood.

In the first place beginners should not be taught to ring any method, whether Plain Bob, or Grandsire, or another, as an end in itself, even if the ambition and the capacity of the band reach no higher than Plain Bob or Grandsire. The aim should be to make the beginners into ringers.

Now to be a good ringer a man must make full use of all his faculties, and he must so use them that they work in harmony, one helping and supporting the others. Ringing calls for the exercise of arms, and eyes and ears; all should play their part, and not one should be neglected for the sake of paying greater attention to another.

Yet that is what is almost always done, and we fear the usual methods of teaching encourage it.

Method ringing is primarily a matter of sight. It is by watching the sallies and the arms of the other ringers that a man finds his way, whether it be a simple or a complex way, among the bells; and therefore it is not unnatural that a teacher will concentrate on getting his pupil to use his eyes properly. But that by itself is not enough. Altogether apart from good striking, the ears have a function to perform in ringing, and the training of the use of the ears from the very start is just as important as the training of the use of the eyes.

How can it best be done? It is, and always has been, the complaint of the beginner that he cannot hear his own bell among the others. As Jasper Snowdon said, 'he doubtless feels that, as his attention is taken up in finding out what rope he has next to follow, he can scarcely be expected to wait and listen to the blow resulting from his previous effort.' Usually he is told that if he has patience it will all come right.

That, we feel sure, is not quite the right way to go to work. Patience he must have, and all will in the end come right. But the difficulties of seeing and hearing

(Continued on page 362.)

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should be tackled together and solved together, and the problem is how to do it.

Perhaps the best and the easiest solution lies in using the smallest possible number of bells. It will make rope-sight easier, and (perhaps even more important) it will make correct hearing easier. And now let us remember that correct hearing does not mean merely that the beginner must hear his own bell and know whether it is struck in the right place. It means that he must hear all the bells, one equally with another and his own as one of the lot.

We believe that this can be done quite easily, certainly with the best sort of beginners, if they are taught to listen carefully to the bells when others are ringing, and if, when they are ringing themselves, the right method is used.

But what is the right method? Not Grandsire Triples. Not Bob Major. Not Grandsire Doubles on six bells. Bob Minor, perhaps, but, best of all, Bob Doubles without a cover.

Many competent ringers will not agree, and we respect their opinion. The reasons for our preference (which is based on personal experience) are these. Though the presence of a covering tenor may seem to aid the ear in grasping the rhythm of the bells, it really attracts too much attention to itself and induces the ear to slur over the sound of the other bells. And we prefer Plain Bob Doubles to Grandsire Doubles because on backstroke work, and not on handstroke work, nearly the whole of change ringing is based.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LOUGHTON.

A district meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th, was attended by 64 members from Chelmsford, Dagenham, Liverpool, London (Bishopsgate), Woodford, Wanstead, Brentwood, Erith, Cheshunt, Walthamstow, Leytonstone, Broomfield, S. Weald, Ealing, Romford, Ipswich, Springfield, Waltham Abbey, Hornchurch, Barking, Willesden, Stepney, West Ham, and the local band.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. N. Lake, after which an excellent tea was served in the Church Hall. The business meeting followed, with the Rev. M. N. Lake in the chair. The Master, Mr. J. Chalk, extended a welcome to those present, to Mr. Trollope, the editor of 'The Ringing World,' to Mr. T. Coles, of the Middlesex County Association, and to Mr. J. Rann, of the local band. He hoped it would not be the last occasion they would visit the association. Those present were then asked to stand in silence for a few minutes in memory of an old member, Mr. R. J. Maynard, of St. Mary's, Walthamstow, who had been buried earlier in the day. He was 86 years of age.

Eleven new members were elected. The next meeting will be held at Stanford-le-Hope on September 11th.

At the last meeting it had been suggested that the secretary should send a circular letter to all towers in the district asking for details of Sunday service ringing, practice ringing, and the present strength of the band, so that a summary could be compiled. This, the secretary reported, had been done, and a number had been received, but a few more had yet to be returned.

The Chairman asked Mr. Trollope if he would address the meeting on the future of ringing and 'The Ringing World.' Mr. Trollope dealt with the present arrangement of 'The Ringing World,' and then spoke about the future of ringing. He stressed the need for the ringers and the Church to work together.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. T. Coles, to the Rector for conducting the service, to the organist, to the local band, and especially to the ladies for a most excellent tea.

During the service a collection made for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to £1 10s 1d.

The bells were kept going until 8 o'clock and several different methods were rung.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

*MEYRICK M. MARTIN ... Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 4
†MRS. G. WARHAM ... 2	HAROLD WHITE ... 5
MISS PEGGY MARSH ... 3	LIONEL H. PINK ... Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD WHITE.

* First peal. † First peal on an inside bell.

CRANFORD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTON,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob,
Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	GEORGE M. KILBY ... 4
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 2	THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 5
JOHN THOMAS ... 3	WILLIAM H. COLES ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM H. COLES.

First peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size II in G.

MISS JESSIE CHICK ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	MISS MARY E. DAVIS ... 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY.

FELKIRK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, August 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 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 J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

TRIPLE TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Chichester might have been added to the list of cathedrals with three towers, beside the detached bell tower, which was mentioned among the instances a few weeks ago.

By the way, why do many call a bell tower a campanile? Surely the English name will do, and probably many who know nothing of Italian read the word as three syllables instead of four.
W. C. B.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I recently had the occasion to select suitable tunes for a six-bell tower in the country and it may be of interest to the would-be chimer, that the following tunes were selected:—53, Quam Dilecta; 65, Hyfrydol; 91, Narenza; 94, St. Sylvester; 111, St. Philip; 181, Æterna Christi munera; 212, Dolomine chant; 235, St. Guron; 243, Newland; 246, Martyn; 449, Lux Perpetua; 530, Langdon's chant; 539, Narraghmore; 583, Lux Benigna; 592, St. Perpetua; 597, St. Lo; 604, Wesley; 620, Eudoxia; 625, Peacefield; 654, Tres Magidi Gentibus; 766, Voller Wunder.

The above numbers and tunes were taken out of the Irish Church Hymnal, and for this reason words are not given, as in some cases they carry different tunes in Hymns A. and M.

FRED E. DUKES.

11, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin.

TOWER HUNTING.**A WEEK-END CYCLE TRIP.**

During the August week-end the Bedfordshire contingent of the N.U.T.S. enjoyed a ringing trip by cycle round some Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire towers. On Saturday, at Campton, where the company met, Mr. Lawrence was waiting, and the five light bells (tenor about 9 cwt.) were soon raised by peal and touches all round enjoyed. The tower is at the west end of the south aisle and the bells are rung from the ground floor, but the go is all that can be desired.

Meppershall came next, another five with a 12 cwt. tenor rung from the chancel floor. Before ringing the choir seats have to be lifted back to make standing room. This peal is rather fine in tone and the time limit was slightly extended in consequence. Tea came next, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence in their charming cottage. After tea a fine set of handbells was produced and several touches rung and hymn tunes were played.

A good run to Gravenhurst followed, where the tone of the five bells was not so good and a little time was gained; then to Silsoe, nearly three miles down hill and a grand ride. At Silsoe there is a handy little ring of five with an 8 cwt. tenor. At Flitton there are six pretty bells, with the tenor about 8 cwt., rung from the ground floor. This brought Saturday's ringing to a close.

Monday found the company, after a journey of 20 miles, at Simpson in Bucks. The ringing chamber here is reached by climbing a wooden ladder which passes a few feet right over the pulpit to gain the very small central tower. Drayton Parslow came next, where there is a handy ring of six with a 9 cwt. tenor. The foundry of Chandler cast many bells here during the 17th and 18th centuries. Another nice little six awaited the company at Mursley, and these were made good use of. A delightful run through waving fields of corn reached Great Horwood, where a fine-toned six with a 17 cwt. tenor was found. The 'go' is not all that can be desired and the 'circle' exists only in imagination. The Rector, the Rev. G. Davies, welcomed the company and provided refreshments in the Village Hall. Padbury, the next tower, contains a ring of six with the tenor about 12 cwt. and very nice to ring. Buckingham was reached rather late, but Mr. Townsend, the captain of the tower, was waiting to greet the party and conduct the members to the spacious ringing chamber. Here is a noble ring of eight with a 27 cwt. tenor. At Passenham the only five of the day was found, a pleasing ring with a 17 cwt. tenor which go well. At Calverton, close by, a peal of six were soon going, and these we liked very much. Old Wolverton church has six bells which hang in a massive tower. They behaved very well and some good touches were obtained. Well over a hundred miles had been covered during the week-end. Miss Vela Tysoe was one of the party and, although only 15 years of age, has 'collected' her 58th tower.

THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'North Country Ringer' voices an opinion on the erection of memorials to ringers, which is shared by many. There are only a few men whose achievements in the world of ringing merit anything in the nature of a national memorial, and in most cases the provision of an additional bell or bells is a very suitable memorial to a ringer whose activities have been chiefly local.

When considering the memorials to some of the giants of the past I feel sure I am not alone in thinking there is something unsatisfactory about many of them.

The passing of J. S. Goldsmith brought to my mind that feeling of dissatisfaction with memorials to the leading ringers who had gone before, and I sincerely hope that whatever memorial is decided upon it will be something worthy of the man to whom ringing owes so much.

If it is to be the provision of bells, nothing short of a complete job, in which the ringing Exercise bears the whole cost, should be attempted. To be part of a scheme will, in my opinion, reduce the dignity of the memorial and it should be left well alone.

The future of 'The Ringing World' is a matter upon which many of us are awaiting news with interest, and I know I am not alone in saying that no finer memorial to the late John S. Goldsmith could be visualised than to ensure the continuity and expansion of this journal.

If the scheme which is being prepared to ensure the future of this paper could be launched as a memorial scheme to its founder, every active ringer could join in, feeling that not only was the late Editor's memory being preserved, but it would be of inestimable value to the Exercise.

One thing is certain—no time must be lost. Decisions must be made and a scheme launched while memory is green. Every week and month of delay reduces the chances of bringing to fruition any scheme worthy of the memory of John S. Goldsmith.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

GREAT BADDOW.—On Sunday, August 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Geo. Green (conductor) 1, Gunner P. Green, R.A., 2, R. Trift 3, H. Allen 4, D. A. F. Symonds 5, E. Clark 6, Dr. Spencer Phillips 7, Frank Payne 8.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 353.)

SOME ILLUSIONS.

To the pure scientists the strike-note is a somewhat mysterious tone, separate from and different to the five normal tones of the bell. It is an unexplained phenomenon which may not be real, but only an aural illusion. The modern expert tuner gets over the difficulty in a very practical and efficient manner. As a result of the way in which he tunes his bell, the strike-note is brought into unison with the fundamental (the middle octave of the five normal tones), and therefore it does not matter to him in the least how the strike-note is produced, whether it is the same tone as the fundamental, or whether there are two tones of the same pitch. He understands the fundamental and the part of the bell which produces it, and he can safely leave the other (if there be another) to take its chance.

The outside hearer deals with the strike note in an entirely different but equally effective manner. To him it is the only tone of the bell which matters; indeed, normally it is the only one he is conscious of or listens to. What it is and how it is produced, and whether there are other tones in the bell are questions which do not concern or interest him, and of which usually he is completely ignorant.

It is worth while just to notice these two points of view and their difference. To the expert, what matters is the tones the bell actually produces. He sees to it that they leave the bell in perfect harmony, and he has full faith that they will have the desired effect on the ears and brains of those who hear them. But that is not his business. On the other hand the hearer does not trouble in the least about what happens in the bell. What concerns him is what happens in his own ear and brain.

We must make quite clear that the 'hearer' we are referring to is the man with a normally good musical ear, who hears a bell in the ordinary way but is not consciously and deliberately trying to analyse it or distinguish its quality or various tones. We exclude the men who have made a study of this subject and are always more or less expecting to hear overtones. They only complicate the matter, for they are not experts like the tuners, nor unbiassed witnesses like the ordinary listener.

We believe we are correct in saying that when an ordinary person hears a bell the effect on him is that of a single recognisable note which seems immediately to drop an octave. The scientists tell us that he hears first of all the mysterious strike-note which decays rapidly and is then succeeded by the normal tones of the bells and especially by the one which they call the fundamental and the founders call the hum-note. (The scientists use the word 'fundamental' in a different sense to the founders.) Now if this be so, the ordinary listener hears in old-style bells two notes in a widely inharmonic interval. He should (we imagine), if he has a good musical ear, experience an unpleasant jar, but so far as we are aware he never does. We never heard that musical ears find any fault in this respect in such bells as the old tenor at Bow or the present tenors in many an old peal.

Here is another unsolved difficulty in this question of tuning, and will it seem to fantastic if we carry the scientists' idea a little further and suggest that every-

thing the ordinary listener hears is something of an 'aural illusion'? If the strike-note may be 'formed in the ear' and not in the bell itself; if 'the pitch which the ear assigns is often not the pitch of any normal tone of the bell,' is it not possible that what the listener hears, including the apparent dropping of an octave, is not one or more actual tones of the bells but the effect they all have on the brain of the hearer? Many people have noticed a rather curious phenomenon when they have been standing on a railway platform and a fast train passes. The engine emits a loud, high-pitched whistle which seems as the train passes to drop an octave. It does not, of course, drop an octave. It is only an aural illusion. Can it be that something of the same sort happens when one ordinarily hears a bell? It would be very nice to think it was so, because then the question of the old-style and new-style tuning would be so much easier to understand for the non-technical and non-expert bell lover. Such a theory cannot, of course, be brought to any test, for directly a man carefully tries to ascertain what he does hear, the illusion (if there is an illusion) is broken.

It seems pretty certain, however, that the old tuners did hear, and the ordinary listener does still hear, something different from what modern trained ears hear and the tuning fork reveals. We believe it is a fact (but we are open to correction) that the old tuners finally judged a bell, not by the note they heard when they were actually working on the bell, but by the note heard at a little distance; for instance, in the next room. Between the two there might be an appreciable difference.

If that be so, we can easily see why an old-style ring of bells, when taken to the foundry and struck round, so often sounds badly out of tune. We can easily see, too, why the old tuners, with all their care and in spite of their keen musical ears, so often left bells which fail to reach the modern standards. That they were right to tune their bells so that, when hung in the steeple, they satisfied ordinary musical ears, can hardly be doubted.

It is worth noticing that some people, when they are judging and criticising a bell, do not trust the effect it normally has on their ears. They rely on the tuning fork as a test, or, if that is not available, on a very careful and minute aural analysis of the overtones. Canon Simpson affords an example of this. He praised Great Paul, but he gives the impression that he admired it, not so much because it has a fine tone, but because two of its overtones are perfect octaves. He thought the hum-note was also an octave, but his instruments did not enable him to be sure. If he had been sure it is pretty certain he would have admired the bell still more. In the same way there are people who judge a bell not by the way it normally sounds to them, but by whether they know its overtones are correct or not.

The question is, Which is the more important for a bell or a ring of bells—to be in tune or to sound in tune? Which is the final test, the tuning fork or the human ear?

As we have already pointed out, modern tuning solves the difficulty by removing any discrepancy between the two tests. But when we are judging old-style bells it is a real and important one.

In some respects the tuning fork is far more sensitive than the human ear, but in other respects the human ear is far more sensitive than any tuning fork. The fork

can respond to variations of pitch almost of a single vibration. Only the more musical ears have any very keen sense of pitch. On the other hand, while the fork takes little or no note of the quality of sound, the human ear can distinguish the minutest differences in an infinity of sounds. A man may be almost insensible to variations of musical pitch, and yet able to pick out unerringly the voice of his friend, his cough, or even his step. There is a reason for this. When the human ear was being developed and trained in primeval times it did not matter much what note it was the man heard. It mattered a lot whether it was the wind rustling the forest trees or the stealthy approach of some tiger through the grass.

And so it happens that many men are fully conscious of the differences in the quality of the tone of bells who have no great sense of whether they are strictly in tune or not.

It must also be remembered that, though the tones of a bell reach the ear as physical phenomena and the effect is passed on to the brain by a physical process, when it gets there it is subject to all sorts of complex influences, and the effect may be quite different from what a scientific analysis of bell tones might suggest.

Everybody knows it is so with the eye. When we see anything we do not see it as a photograph records it. Some features are ignored; some are slurred over; some are brought into prominence. And what are called optical illusions are the commonplace of every-day life. For the lines of a building to look upright it does not necessarily mean they must be upright; indeed, sometimes they must be the other way. There is a rather curious instance of this which, because it will interest our

readers, we will refer to, although it is a digression from our present subject. In the old days the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow always looked as if it leaned a little out over Cheapside. So much so that people said and wrote in books that it did lean so many inches out of the perpendicular. To-day you can walk along Cheapside and the steeple still stands, but solitary. And it is bolt upright. The difference is so marked that people are now saying that the explosion of the bombs which destroyed the surrounding houses forced the tower back to its original perpendicular position.

That, of course, is absurd. What has happened is that the slightly receding lines of neighbouring houses have disappeared and an optical illusion has vanished.

Here is a parable. If the eye can be subject to illusions of this sort, why not the ear also?

(To be continued.)

LONG SERVICE REWARDED.

On August 1st, Mr. Jonathan Owens and his five grandsons rang the bells of Bronllys, Breconshire, for service. The ages were: Treble, 22 years; 2nd, 13 years; 3rd, 11 years; 4th, 15 years; 5th, 22 years; tenor, 80 years.

Mr. Owens, who has been verger for over 40 years, reached his 80th birthday on August 3rd, and several touches of Grandsire and call changes, conducted by Mr. D. H. Bennett, were rung in honour and Mr. Owens was presented with a pipe and tobacco and cash, subscribed by the ringers and the P.C.C.

Mr. Owens' father was verger before him, and between them they have given over 100 years' service to the church.

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Saturday, August 7th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Bennett, sen., 1, J. Pearson 2, G. Short 3, P. Markham 4, A. H. Bennett 5, Sapper C. Wander, R.E., 6 (conductor).

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On August 15th, at the Church of All Saints, 720 Bob Minor: W. H. Pratt 1, F. Warrington (conductor) 2, L. Fisher (first 720) 3, C. Young 4, M. Gunn, R.A.F., 5, J. Perkins 6.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Grandsire Triples rung at Bournemouth on August 9th was Miss Mary Davis' first attempt for an eight bell peal. She celebrated her thirteenth birthday last Tuesday.

The first peal of Cambridge Maximus was rung by the Norwich Diocesan Association at Ipswich on August 15th, 1908. James Motts conducted, and the band was made up by local men with one or two from London, including William and George R. Pye and Bertram Prewett.

On the same date in 1925 the Midland Counties Association rang the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal on the light ring of ten at the Loughborough bell foundry.

What was claimed as the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise Major in the North of England was rung at Keighley on August 18th, 1811. The composition was by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, a famous composer, but it cannot have been true.

Thomas Thurstans, of Birmingham, whose name is so well known as the composer of Stedman Triples, died on August 16th, 1811. Thurstans rang the tenor at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820 to the long peal of Kent Maximus.

On August 19th, 1765, a heavy ring of ten bells from the Whitechapel foundry was opened at York Minster by the Norwich Scholars.

The late Rev. A. T. Beeston called the first peal of Hereward Bob Major at Reddish on August 20th, 1914, and Mr. J. D. Johnson called the first peal of Pershore Bob Major at Pershore Abbey on August 20th, 1927.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS.

Will all readers kindly send their names and addresses to me? On a postcard, please, surname first, and in block capitals.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Secretary.

45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM

ITS PEAL BOOK AND RECORDS.

I am afraid I cannot tell Mr. Reeves definitely why certain early peals were not included in the St. Martin's records, but the most likely explanation is that when the company started its peal book they collected all the information they could find, but (as was inevitable in the circumstances) they missed a good deal. Some of the members, notably John Hopkins, continued the job and got together more records, mainly, no doubt, from private sources.

I have full details of twenty peals rung in Birmingham and district during the eighteenth century and not included in the peal book. Ten of them are definitely said to have been rung by the St. Martin's Company, and some of the others evidently were mainly, if not wholly, by St. Martin's ringers.

Some of these records are from John Hopkins' collection, which, I believe, is now lost. Ten of them are from the private peal book of William Martin, which disappeared long ago, but of which a transcript made about one hundred years ago is extant.

I cannot add anything about the early history of the St. Martin's Youths to what I wrote in 'The Ringing World' in June, 1940.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

A VISIT TO OXFORD.

On August Bank Holiday, some of the young enthusiasts who call themselves the N.U.T.S. spent a very enjoyable day in Oxford, where the arrangements made by Mr. J. E. Spice enabled them to ring at St. Thomas' (6), St. Ebbe's (8), St. Aldate's (6), Magdalen College (10), Merton College (8), New College (10), St. Mary Magdalen (6), Carfax (6), St. Martin's (8) and the Cathedral (12). During the day the following methods were rung: Grandsire Doubles, Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Doubles, Triples and Caters, Plain Bob Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus, Kent Minor and Major, Cambridge Minor, Major and Royal.

The party consisted of E. Hartley, R. Spears and Mr. and Mrs. J. Botham (Willesden), Mr. and Mrs. Darvill (St. Albans), Miss E. Bedford (Uxbridge), the Rev. K. C. Davis (Swindon), W. Stote (Coventry), H. Bishop, C. Gardiner, W. Daniels, G. Wells, W. Court, J. Berry (Swindon), J. Spice, W. Lesse, W. Judge, N. Alnut, R. Post, Miss M. Cross (Oxford) and Pte. Keely (Lyme Regis).

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The 63rd annual general meeting of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers was held at Maidstone on August Bank Holiday, and was well attended. Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davies, and soldiers stationed in the area.

The usual lunch could not be provided, and the ringing was confined to the morning and early afternoon, when the bells at All Saints' were in great demand. Other towers open for ringing were Aylesford, Leeds, Linton and West Malling.

The committee met at 11.30 and had a long sitting.

Service in the church was conducted by the Rev. A. O. Stanton, Vicar of Maidstone, and Mr. E. A. G. Allen, of Frindsbury, was at the organ.

The address by the Vicar was most encouraging and uplifting. He said there had been no parallel in history for the three years' silence of the bells. Usually, things were taken for granted, but it did not seem to be so with ringers. The old proverb says, 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder,' and nothing was truer than that in our ringing. 'Be ye also ready'—it was so with ringers. When the time came they were ready. They never despaired and now the bells were pealing out again. He congratulated them on their patience and readiness and thanked them.

A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £1 15s. 9d.

TEA AND BUSINESS.

Ninety-six sat down to tea in the Old Palace, and this was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) presented the annual report, which was adopted with thanks.

The balance sheets, presented by Mr. G. H. Cross (the hon. auditor) were adopted.

All the officers were re-elected, and Mr. J. Wheadon, of Dartford, was elected to the vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Mr. W. Haigh. The vacancy as trustee, through the death of Mr. W. J. Jeffries, was left in abeyance, pending a proposed alteration in the trusteeship of the association.

A long discussion took place over a resolution submitted by the Tonbridge District as follows:—

'That the Tonbridge District views with alarm the manner in which reports of meetings are curtailed in "The Ringing World"; the district has held meetings regularly during the whole of the ban and little, if any, notice has been taken of it.'

In submitting the resolution, Mr. Collison (Tonbridge Wells) said that all through the ban on ringing the district had met regularly and had tried to keep the interest alive in ringers and ringing. Various accounts of their meetings had been sent in to 'The Ringing World'; sometimes a very abbreviated account was inserted and sometimes nothing at all. He did not think that was encouraging to them to try and get more subscribers to their ringing paper.

In supporting, Mr. Luck, secretary of the Canterbury District, said that only last week a large Divisional Regimental Service was held in Canterbury Cathedral, and by special request of the Commander, a band of ringers attached to the division rang the twelve bells for the service. He had taken the trouble to climb to the ringing chamber and obtain all the ringers' names and home town, and sent them to 'The Ringing World,' feeling sure that it was an item of exceptional interest, and he was surprised to see only two or three lines in the Belfry Gossip recording the ringing and two pages of an article on Simpson Tuning.

The General Secretary explained to the members the reason why no six-bell ringing had been arranged.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Many members spoke on the resolution, all agreeing that no dictation could be made as to what was published, but thought that some of the articles appearing only appeal to the few. What they wanted was to create interest in ringing, to let members know what was going on, and to get new subscribers.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the hon. secretary was directed to forward a copy of the same to all interested in the publication of 'The Ringing World.'

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated a well-attended meeting.

The annual report was as follows:—

'Thank God! The ban on ringing that has existed for three years has been removed and ringing can be resumed as usual at all reasonable times. Now this is possible we must be careful in the way we resume our activities. People have got used to the bells being silent, and if ringing is overdone complaints may be made and a controversy started, as there are some who would be only too glad to raise objections. First and foremost we must concentrate on Sunday ringing, and would advise in populated districts that practices should be held, say, once a fortnight. Peal ringing should be left to very special occasions for the time being.

'Many difficulties will be encountered in getting bands to ring the bells owing to so many being away in H.M. Forces, and much hard work will have to be put in to encourage others to take up and teach them the Art, as we all know it takes months and years to make a ringer. We were getting good bands together after the ravages of the last war, and now have to start all over again. Let us not be discouraged, but go forward in the Service of God and be assured that our efforts will be rewarded.

'We are sorry indeed for those members who are being deprived of ringing at their own tower through enemy action, and would urge them to associate themselves with nearby towers who will be grateful of their help.

'During the ban some of the districts seem to have lost interest in the association, and we now appeal to them to renew their activities and revive the interest.

'MEETINGS have been held in the Tonbridge and Lewisham Districts, which, considering the ban on ringing, were well attended. Our thanks are extended to the incumbents of the towers visited and to those who offered hospitality to the members.

'MEMBERSHIP.—The number of subscribing members has fallen to 202 (to date). Now that activities can be resumed we are looking forward to these shortcomings being rectified.

'DEATHS.—Since our last meeting many of our old and trusted members, all of whom did yeoman service in their respective ways, have been called to "higher service" and the following 14 members have recorded between them 691 years of faithful service as follows:—Philip Hodgkin (Headcorn), Foundation Member, 63 years; W. Haigh (late Gillingham), 60 years; W. H. Andrews (Canterbury), 60 years; W. Latter (Tonbridge Wells), 58 years; W. Hunt (Rochester), 57 years; F. J. Ring (Swanscombe), 57 years; W. J. Jeffries (Deptford), 47 years; W. S. Lane (Swanscombe), 46 years; H. Seal (Penshurst), 46 years; W. E. Pitman (Canterbury), 45 years; F. Belsey (Chatham, enemy action), 41 years; C. R. Milway (Dover), 39 years; E. Trendall (Canterbury), 39 years; W. J. Wood (Queenborough), 32 years.

'We have also lost Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton (Life Member), Messrs. F. Sharp (Marden), J. Aitken (Frindsbury), G. H. Simpson (Canterbury), A. C. Kay (Ashford), E. W. Powell (enemy action, Ashford), H. F. Humphrey (New Romney), W. Roots (Bethersden), killed in action, T. Tabrutt (Ashford), and Messrs. W. J. Nevard, C. R. Lilley, F. E. Dawe, T. Flint and A. Jones (killed in action), non-residents.

'To the relatives of all departed members we extend our sympathy.

'OFFICERS.—We regret to record the deaths of Mr. W. J. Jeffries, who has been a trustee of the association since that office was created, and Mr. W. Haigh, a serving member of the committee. Vacancies occur for these two posts.

'Changes in district representation have been made and we welcome Miss Brenda Richardson (Tonbridge), who has made history in being the first lady ringer to serve on this committee; Mr. W. J. Unwin (Canterbury) and Mr. J. E. Bailey (Lewisham).

'PEALS.—Twenty-eight peals were rung on handbells during the year as follows: Grandsire Doubles, 1; Minor, 3; Grandsire Triples, 4; Major, 16; Grandsire Caters, 1; Royal, 2; Maximus, 1. Of these Mr. J. E. Spice has conducted 16, and is to be congratulated on the remarkable progress he and his young colleagues have made in handbell ringing, having added three new first performances in "hand" for the association.

'FINANCE.—Four grants of £5 each have been made from the Benevolent Fund to deserving members during the year and, owing to the income not reaching this amount, the balance has decreased to £336 0s. 1d.

'No application has been made for assistance from the Belfry Repair Fund and the balance has increased to £172 10s. 4d.

'It will be noted that no allocation of funds has been made to the Belfry and Benevolent Funds, owing to prevailing conditions, and the balance in the General Fund has increased to £104 15s. 6d. This will enable us to meet the extra commitments which will have to be met this year.

'The total worth of the association has increased to £1,092 19s. 1d.'

FRED M. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM JONES.

OLD STONEY STANTON RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Jones, of Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, who passed away on July 21st.

Mr. Jones joined the Midland Counties Association in 1890, and for over 40 years was an active member of the local company. During most of that time he was the tower-keeper and leader. He was not a peal ringer, and only four peals appear in the Midland Counties Association records to his credit, but he was a good and regular Sunday service ringer.

The local society rang the bells muffled on July 24th, the day of his funeral at Stoney Stanton Cemetery, and at a meeting of the Hinckley district at Burbage reference was made to his death.

TRIPLE TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 346.)

Ripon Cathedral also has two west towers and a central tower. Its erection occupied about three centuries, and consequently it displays all style of architecture, from the Norman apse through the Transitional transepts, to the Perpendicular work in the choir. It replaced an earlier building, the crypt of which still remains. Ripon grew up around an abbey founded in the 7th century, Wilfred, to whom the cathedral is dedicated, being the first abbot. Thomas Gent, in his 'History of Rippon' (1733), gives a copy of the inscription of five bells then hanging in the south-west tower. In the north-west tower was a large bell, 51in. diameter, said to have been brought from Fountain's Abbey.

In a cupola at the north-west angle of the central tower (St. Wilfred's steeple, as Gent calls it) was a bell 25in. in diameter. This was later broken up, and a fragment of it is still preserved in the vestry. The bells quoted by Gent were taken down in 1761 and recast by Lester and Pack into a ring of eight, and on a board in the ringing chamber were these rules:—

'Orders made and agreed upon the second day of February in the year of our Lord, 1764, by the Society of Ringers, and to be observed by strangers and others that enter the belfry.

'Every person refusing to keep his hat off after having been requested by any member to do so, shall forfeit sixpence.

'Every person making a bell sound with hat and spur on shall forfeit sixpence. Every pearson swearing, giving the lie, offering to lay wagers, guilty of any other abusive or indecent language, or behaving himself in any disorderly manner, shall forfeit one shilling.

'Every person guilty of malicious or unwarrantable practice of spoiling or besmearing the painting, or cutting or marking the wood, or plastering of this belfry, or otherwise obliterating or defacing any part thereof, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence, and lastly, all the above forfeitures for every time such respective offence may be committed, shall be immediately paid to the President or Treasurer for the time being of the said Society, or in his absence to such member thereof here present then to be appointed to receive the same, and it is earnestly requested by the said Society that all persons here assembled would be very still and keep strict silence whilst they are ringing.'

Mr. J. Eyre Poppleton, in his 'Notes on the Bells of West Riding,' gives a copy of inscriptions of the 10 bells in the south-west tower. These hung in an iron frame. In 1933 the entire ring was recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and the tenor now weighs 23 cwt. 24 lb., and is in E flat. On Wednesday evening, March 1st, 1933, at the Loughborough Bell Foundry, a broadcast wireless talk on bells was given by Mr. E. Denison Taylor. During the proceedings, and to illustrate the art of change ringing, a perfectly struck bob-course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the back eight of these new Ripon Cathedral bells, then in the foundry yard, by H. J. Poole 1-2, E. Morris 3-4, C. Harrison 5-6, H. Stubbs 7, J. P. Fidler tenor.

Southwell Minster or Cathedral dates mainly from the 12th century. It is a beautiful cruciform building, with

Norman nave and towers, and Early English choir. The chapter house is especially notable, and it retains some marvellous stone carvings. The central tower is 103ft. high, while the two western towers, which are crowned with square spirelets, reach a total height of 150ft. Bells are mentioned here at an early date, the gift of two being noted by Archbishop Kinsius of York, who died in 1060. Four hundred years later—in 1475—the first peal for matins is mentioned, while in 1478 we are told 'the clerks do not toll the curfew at 8 o'clock, but often after half-past or even later.' In 1481 the churchwardens do not diligently attend to the bells as they ought to do. In 1503, Edmund the clerk and others do not ring the bells for Matins and Vespers long enough, and a further complaint is registered in 1519. The Archbishop of York in his visitation in 1635 notes that 'the clock and chymes are very much neglected.' On November 5th, 1711, a violent thunderstorm did much damage to the cathedral; fire broke out in the south-west tower, and practically destroyed it, and spread to the roofs of the nave and transepts. Also the great central tower. The organ was destroyed and bells melted. In 1712 Thomas Clay, of Leicester, agreed to recast, renew and make good the bells thus damaged, but his work was not satisfactory. In 1721, Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, undertook to recast the ring, and of his work the 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 bells still remain. In 1819, the 4th and 5th were recast by T. Mears, and in 1849 the 2nd was recast by C. and G. Mears. The tenor is approximately 28 cwt. In 1897 two additional bells for the chimes were installed by J. Taylor and Co., but these are not hung for ringing.

The ringers' 'gallery' at Southwell is peculiar. The central tower is nearly 40ft. square, the gallery being 60ft. high and 28ft. square, with an opening in the centre 20ft. square. The ropes comes down—two on each side—to the ringers' gallery wrong way round, i.e., anti-clockwise. Rising up before each ringer is a balcony, 4ft. of wood and 3½ft. of interlaced wire. The ropes fall 10ft. apart. At the back of the ringers a passage runs round the whole four sides of the tower. The approach to this curious gallery is via a spiral stairway in the transept up to the clerestory. Thence a walk across this clerestory to the central tower. A spiral leads to the top of the tower, if necessary, or step into the ringers' gallery, clockroom, bell chamber, and then to the top. Only one other such gallery exists in England, that at Merton College, Oxford, where the ringers stand in a similar manner, two on each side near the walls, and a 20ft. opening in the centre looking down on the tessellated floor far below. In spite of these difficulties, Southwell retains a good band of ringers, and full peals of 5,000 changes have been rung in Grandsire, Stedman, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise.

Lichfield is chiefly famous for its cathedral, built mainly in the 13th and 14th centuries, but largely restored in the 19th.

Features of this beautiful building are the west front, the chapter house, the lady chapel and the three spires. Of these the central one is 258ft. high, and the two west ones 198ft. An early record states that there was a bell tower at Lichfield, which was consumed by fire, together with the bells it contained, in 1315. No more records occur until the 15th century, when Dean Heywood gave the 'Jesus bell.' This bell was destroyed during the

Commonwealth wars. In 1670, Bishop Hacket contracted for 'six bells becoming a Cathedral.' In 1687 these bells had become 'bad and useless,' and so a scheme was launched to replace them with a ring of ten. This was carried out by Henry Bagley, and thus the present ring was provided, with a tenor of 30 cwt. The treble, 9th and tenor were later recast, treble by Thomas Rudhall 1764, 9th by Abel Rudhall 1758, tenor by Thomas Mears 1813. In the central steeple is a small bell known as the 'Goe bell.' It was soon after the tenor was recast that the first peal on the bells was rung, viz., 5,039 Grandsire Caters, on May 20th, 1815, by St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, composed and called by Henry Cooper. Lichfield is also famous as the birthplace of Dr. Samuel Johnson (September 18th, 1709).

The only other English cathedral possessing three spires is that at Truro. This was begun in 1880, the old Parish Church of St. Mary forming the south aisle. The building is in the Early English style, designed by J. L. Pearson. The nave was completed in 1903, and by 1910 the western towers were finished. The central spire is 250ft. and west spires 200ft. high.

The ring of 10 bells, tenor 33 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb. in C sharp, was dedicated on June 21st, 1910, and hangs in the north-west tower, which was strengthened to take the bells. There are less louvres than in the south-west tower, and more masonry to give a good foundation for the bell frame. The bells are an entirely new ring, cast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., and were given by various donors. The legend from a canticle is inscribed on the first band of each bell; the name of the saint to which it is dedicated on the second; the date MCMIX and donor's name on the waist. In these cases a special motto is added. The canticle, 'Nunc Dimittis,' has been omitted, as it is hoped that some day a Bourdon bell will be placed in the King Edward, or south-west, tower, and it will be inscribed on this bell. The north-west tower is called the Queen Alexandra tower.

Actually Truro has four spires, the small tower, with its copper-covered spire on the south side, which is the west end of St. Mary's aisle, being part of the old Parish Church of St. Mary. In this tower are the clock and six bells. The hour bell, cast in 1770 by Pack and Chapman, weighs about 17 cwt., and is hung for ringing. The four chime bells were cast in 1904 by J. Taylor and Co. The other, cast in 1771 by Pack and Chapman, is unused. The first peal on the 10 bells was on December 26th, 1911, when a band from Plymouth rang Grandsire Caters. Since then several other peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, Kent and Cambridge Royal have been rung.

WITLEY, SURREY.—On Friday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *R. Cole 1, A. J. Bartlett (conductor) 2, F. Bowden 3, M. Smither 4, H. Mullard 5, F. C. Hagley 6, R. J. C. Hagley 7, *F. Woods 8. *First quarter-peal. Rung to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ashdown. Mr. Ashdown rang in the first peal on Witley bells in 1893. It was conducted by Mr. Frank Bennett, then of Guildford.

GOOD STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some while ago, when the Editor of 'The Ringing World' called attention to and emphasised the vital importance of good striking, I was pleased, and entirely in agreement with him. From my school days I have been deeply interested in church bells and ringing, and have listened out to many peals in various localities, but my pleasure has often been discounted by indifferent and sometimes really bad striking.

This fault jars upon the ear of the man in the street and in the house too, and lowers the prestige of ringers as a body.

I am now residing at Stratford-upon-Avon, and am more than pleased to be able to record that the ringers at Holy Trinity Church—Shakespeare's resting place—under the leadership of V. B. Hunt, have realised the importance of really good striking. On Sunday evening, August 1st, they rang for service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, and from beginning to end not a bell was out of place or beat. In fact, it was the best struck touch of that length I have ever heard. The band also excel in that they preface and complete the ringing period with an excellent rise and fall, too often neglected in other towers, or even omitted.

And now a few words about another matter, namely, tune playing on church bells or carillons. I have heard these latter played upon, both on the Continent and also in our own country, but all have left a bad impression on me by reason of the fact that the bells cannot be damped at will, the result being a discordant jangle; in other words, there is a continuous clashing of notes, which, to a musical ear, is very distressing.

The organ note is sustained only so long as the relative key is depressed, and the piano note is damped down by pedal when required, in fact, the use of this pedal is of first importance in good playing.

I cannot see how this damping at will is to be accomplished with church bells at the moment, but as we are proud to have the predominant carillon makers of the world in this country, I think we can safely forecast that it will come.

For many years I played in public melodies and tunes on a fine set of handbells made for me by Tom Miller, and there the difficulty is overcome by damping the tone as and when required by replacing the bell mouth down on the padded portable table I use.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the wonderful way in which our valued mouthpiece, 'The Ringing World,' is being conducted in spite of the many restrictions imposed by the war.

WILLIAM A. CLARK.

The Swan's Nest Hotel, Bridge End, Stratford-upon-Avon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WALKDEN.

A meeting of the Bolton Branch of the Lancashire Association was held on August 14th at St. Paul's, Walkden, at which the local branch towers were well represented, and there were visitors from Standish, Newhey, Worsley and Leatherhead, as well as Mr. J. Ridyard, the vice-president, from Southport.

The bells were going early and, with the exception of a short break for tea, full use was made of them until 8.30 p.m. There were some well struck touches, and learners made good use of the opportunity. Handbells were also in demand.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. Lawson, visited the town during the afternoon and welcomed the visitors. He also presided at the business meeting.

It was decided not to hold another meeting until October as the association's annual meeting is to be held in Bolton on September 25th.

Moving a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to Mr. John Potter for his hospitality, Mr. Peter Crook said they looked forward to visiting Walkden, where they were always assured of a hearty welcome, not only from the Vicar, but from the band, and especially from Mr. John Potter.

Mr. Crook also moved congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Potter and Mr. and Mrs. John Denner on their golden weddings. He hoped a peal would be rung and a peal board erected to record the occasion.

The Vicar said he hoped all four would enjoy many more years together. He also replied to the vote of thanks.

WILLESDEN. — On August 9th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Mrs. Lancaster 1, E. Lancaster 2, J. Botham 3, *R. Spears 4, Mrs. Botham 5, G. Kilby 6, E. Turner (conductor) 7, H. Kilby 8. *First quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise.

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.*

During the past academic year, the Oxford University Society has continued to flourish, amid conditions more difficult than before. Membership has been maintained at about the usual level; large numbers of recruits came at the beginning of the year, and by the end of it about 14 remained. The society has done a good deal of propaganda, in one way and another, during the past year. Various senior members of the university and others have been introduced to ringing by the enthusiasm of members, and until the removal of the ban the Oxford University Society continued to ring handbells for evensong at St. Mary's. Handbells were rung as part of the sound effects in a production of the mystery play, 'Everyman,' and in May the Master gave a talk on campanology, illustrated by handbells, to the Oxford Rotary Club.

Progress in handbell ringing has not been so marked as previously; fewer of the recruits showed any real aptitude in this direction, and although a dozen or so learnt to ring Bob Major, the level of handbell ringing has slightly declined. Nevertheless, some progress has been made with Stedman, and by dint of considerable practice a band was able to ring a course of Cambridge Surprise Major and a touch of Stedman Caters at the annual lunch.

Relatively few peal attempts have been made, illness and examinations being mainly responsible. Altogether 14 were rung—seven Bob Major, one Minor in three methods, and the following first performances for the society: Minor in seven methods, Grandsire Triples, Bob Royal, Kent Treble Bob Major, Reverse Bob Major and Double Bob Major.

When the ban was lifted, although the society had only two active members who had ever rung on open tower bells, most of the others had had considerable experience of handling a bell, and were able to take their place in the belfry and ring creditable rounds at once.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

In an airgraph from India, Mr. A. P. Cannon writes: As far as I know, the three heaviest fives are Kingsdon, Somerset (26 cwt.); Castle Ashby, Northants. (23 cwt.), and Ludham, Norfolk (22 cwt.). All these have had one peal on them. Peterborough Cathedral has five with a tenor of 30 cwt., but these have not been rung since before the last war. Other heavy rings of five on which peals have been rung are Yelminster, Dorset (19 cwt.); Long Clawson, Leicestershire (19 cwt.); Barrow, Suffolk (19 cwt.); Northill, Beds (20 cwt.); Blusham, Beds (20 cwt.); and Mancetter, Warwick (20 cwt.). Isleham, Cambs, are reported pretty heavy, but I have never been able to verify their weight, which was once passed on to me as 25 cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BILLINGSHURST.—On Sunday, August 1st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: P. Wood 1, R. Wood, sen. 2, T. Adams 3, E. J. King 4, L. Stilwell (conductor) 5, C. Longhurst 6, W. Wicks 7, T. Newman 8.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, August 1st, 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1, H. Backler 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, J. W. Jennings (conductor) 4, Gunner N. Hough, R.A. 5, L. Wright 6.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, August 1st, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. E. Wheeldon (conductor) 1, S. B. Bailey 2, W. C. Corfield 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, J. P. Ryles 5, J. Walley 6.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—On Sunday, August 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. J. Prince 1, W. Rawlings 2, H. Price 3, F. C. Lyne 4, W. Cockings 5, C. R. Steed 6, V. B. Hunt (conductor) 7, H. Brooks 8.

TRING.—On Saturday, August 7th, 504 Grandsire Triples: R. Ransome 1, D. Campbell 2, F. J. Reeve (conductor) 3, H. Bull 4, C. Badrick 5, Sergt. H. C. Jones 6, H. Heley 7, N. Brackley 8.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On August 1st for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: M. Martin 1, Mrs. G. Wareham 2, Miss P. Marsh 3, L. H. Pink 4, H. White (conductor) 5, G. Wareham 6. First quarter-peal on the bells by a local band.

BROMLEY, KENT.—On Thursday, August 5th, at St. Luke's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, P. J. Spice 2, Miss H. Qakshett 3, G. H. Kite 4, G. F. James 5, H. Marcon (Lincoln) 6, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 7, C. Cullen 8.—Also 1,264 Bob Major: C. Cullen (first quarter-peal of Major) 1, F. E. Pitman 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, G. F. James 4, H. Marcon 5, J. Lyddiard 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, P. J. Spice 8. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to the Vicar of St. Luke's, the Rev. Canon Hassard-Short, who attained his 70th year on that date, and to commemorate his 20th year as Vicar.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, August 15th, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, in 47 minutes: C. W. Ottley 1, A. Jones 2, C. E. Massell 3, N. G. Miles 4, W. Malins 5, W. T. Elson (composer and conductor) 6, W. T. Winter 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

WISTASTON.—On a recent Sunday, for evening service, a 720 of Bob Minor: F. Barnard 1, E. Clarke 2, Pte. A. Thomas, R.A.O.C 3, R. T. Holding 4, F. H. Crawley 5, A. Crawley (conductor) 6.

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NOTICES.

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WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Halesowen, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in Church School. Bells afterwards to 9 p.m. Also handbells.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Surfleet on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Service 3.15. Tea at Glyn Garth 4 p.m.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild at Rotherfield, Saturday, Aug. 21st.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting with Sussex County Association at Rotherfield, August 21st. Service 4.30. Tea in Institute at 5 p.m.—C. A. Bassett and J. Downing, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Melbourne Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea at nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION and WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Earl Shilton on Saturday, August 21st. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Billesdon (6 bells) on Saturday, August 21st, 3 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Hadleigh, August 21st, during afternoon and evening.—H. B. Herbert, 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Winchester on Saturday, August 21st. Central committee 2.15. General meeting 3.15, followed by tea, all at Dumpers Restaurant, High Street. Service in Cathedral 5.15. St. Maurice's bells available 1.30 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 212, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Henlow, Saturday, August 21st, at 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30 p.m.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Meeting Milverton, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—W. M. Lloyd, Branch Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton, Somerset.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Meeting at Wistaston (6 bells) on Saturday, August 21st. Ringing 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided at 4.30 p.m. (Bring sugar.)—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Extra meeting at Shifnal, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. No tea arrangements.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, on Sat., Aug. 28th, 3 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney, Aug. 29th, 9.30 a.m.—A. P. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Old Windsor on Saturday, August 28th, 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring tea, if required.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheadle R.C. (8 bells) on Saturday, August 28th, from 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own sandwiches.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Ottershaw on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (6) at 5 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Ringing after until 8.45 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) available at 4 p.m. Teas in advance at nearby cafe.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Maidwell on Saturday, August 28th. Cup of tea provided.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at East Ardsley on Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Cafe near church, but those bringing food can have tea mashed in Schoolroom. Business meeting in the tower 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Cotgrave, Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting follows. Names for tea to Mr. Walter White, Post Office, Cotgrave, by Wednesday, August 25th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Campsall on Saturday, Aug. 28th, at 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Bradley, Station Gatehouse, Norton, near Doncaster, before August 22nd.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Practice meeting at Congresbury on Saturday, Aug. 28th, at 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. James' Church, West Derby, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by the meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but bring own food.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Annual meeting at Leyland Parish Church on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, August 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Let Mr. G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, know by Tuesday, August 24th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Davenry Branch.—Meeting at Staverton (6 bells), Saturday, August 28th. Usual arrangements. Notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, William Terrace, Davenry, Northants.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, September 4th, at 5 p.m. Bells 4 p.m. and after meeting. Make own arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West and North and East Districts.—Joint meeting at Ruislip, on Saturday, September 4th, at 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea may be provided in Church Room, Bury Street, followed by meeting, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells (8) available 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bus from Ruislip Church to Pinner every 20 minutes.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea in the Parish Church Hall, Moorgate, at 5 p.m. at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head. Those requiring same must notify Mr. T. C. Ryder, 19, Middle Lane South, Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, September 1st. Business meeting to follow.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Chicheley on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea by August 28th to P. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bleckley.

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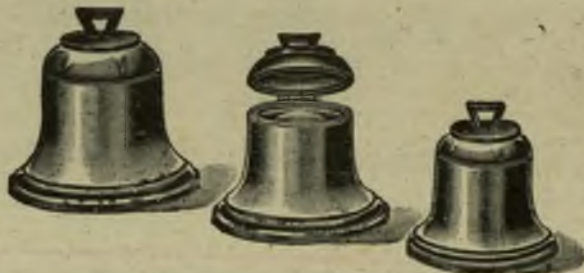
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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

The members of the Kent County Association view with alarm the manner in which reports of meetings are curtailed in 'The Ringing World.' So they declared by resolution at their recent annual meeting. The Tonbridge District has suffered badly. Meetings have been held regularly through the ban, and little, if any, notice has been taken of them. Various accounts have been sent to 'The Ringing World,' and sometimes a very abbreviated account has been published, and sometimes nothing at all.

And now here are some facts. Throughout the four years of war, no report received from any association has been suppressed, and none has been curtailed except in the course of the usual and necessary process of sub-editing. During the last twelve months the Kent Association advertised fourteen meetings, and reports of thirteen have been published, as well as a fairly long paper read at one of them. For one meeting no report was received.

It must be remembered that the way news items are published by any newspaper, the style, and the words used, are the concern and the responsibility of the journal, not of the persons who send them in. The material sent to any newspaper, whether by its own reporters, or by outsiders, is always subjected to revision so it may conform to the style and standards of the paper. In the case of 'The Ringing World' this process consists mainly of cutting out words which serve no purpose, and occasionally of sentences which are unnecessary or, for some reason, inadmissible. Curtailment is not done for the sake of curtailment. In these things reports differ from letters to the editor and signed articles, which are printed, if they are printed at all, substantially as they are received.

We can quite understand that a secretary, who has devoted much time and thought to writing a report, sometimes feels disappointed when he sees how little show it makes in print. That cannot be helped. The reports we receive rarely exceed two sheets of manuscript, and that does not go far when it is set up in type.

The truth is that, though meetings are among the most useful and most enjoyable of ringers' activities, there is not much that can be said about them. The bells were raised at three o'clock and various methods were rung until five, when there was a service in church, conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address and welcomed the ringers. Tea at the Parish Hall was much enjoyed and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar

(Continued on page 374.)

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took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, one or two new members were elected, and a vote of thanks was passed. There was more ringing in the evening, and the members dispersed to their homes well satisfied with a very successful meeting.

Fill in the names of particular places and people and you have almost as much as can be said, or usually is said, about any meeting. Even so, there are things in this account which are quite unnecessary. Readers of 'The Ringing World' do not need to be told that the bells were raised before they were rung, or that the ringers went home satisfied. Those things always happen. Nor is the Exercise deprived of any interesting or startling news when (as has always been the custom of this journal) all reference to the reading of minutes is deleted.

The things which really make meetings worth while cannot be put down in words. Sometimes men try to write round the subject and use a lot of unnecessary words. Sometimes they make references to the weather, which is forbidden. Sometimes (but we are glad to say rarely) they try to be humorous, and introduce obscure references to persons and things which nobody understands. But we thankfully acknowledge that for the most part our correspondents understand the situation and accept things as they are.

There was one remark at the Maidstone meeting which was rather suggestive and somewhat amusing. In the old days people used to complain that there was nothing in 'The Ringing World' except reports of peals, which interested nobody but the peal ringers; accounts of meetings, which nobody read; and notices, which took up far too much space. Why could they not have something interesting and instructive? Now that it has been made possible (not without trouble) to print such articles, the complaint is that some of them appeal to the few. It would be a strange sort of 'Ringing World' which contained nothing except what appealed to everybody. There would not be much of it, and we doubt if there would be any full account of the activities of the Tonbridge Branch of the Kent County Association.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Another heavy ring of five is at Thorncombe, Dorset (20 cwt 24 lb.), on which a peal has been rung, the tenorman being the late Mr. N. P. G. Rainey. This is, I believe, the heaviest ringable five in Dorset. Yetminster, mentioned in your issue of August 8th, has been augmented to six.

Stoke Wake, Blandford, Dorset.

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

'ROYAL'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you tell me when and why changes on ten bells are called 'Royal,' as I have noticed in the early days they were described as 'ten in.'

E. G. HIBBINS.

Cambridge.
The earliest title given to ten-bell ringing was by the College Youths, who called the peal they rang at St. Bride's in 1725 'Bob Major Royal.' In 1733 they rang 'Bob Major Royal double.' In 1740 they rang 'Treble Bob on ten Bells.' 'The Clavis' (1788) said that 'all ten bell peals whatsoever are distinguished by the general appellation of Ten in'; Plain Bob on ten bells was 'commonly called Plain ten in, but more properly Bob Major Royal.' Shipway was the first writer who uses the term Royal for all ten-bell methods alike. It seems that the word was for long used exclusively for Plain Bob, but the need for a distinctive title for ten-bell methods generally led to its extended use. Maximus was the term usually applied to all twelve-bell methods from the time of the first peal rung by the College Youths in 1725, but 'Twelve-in' was occasionally used.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... Treble	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 5
*SHIRLEY BURTON ... 2	HAROLD G. JENNEY ... 6
*HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3	†JOHN E. SPICE ... 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE ... 4	ERNEST MORRIS ... Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* 100th peal together. † First peal of Surprise.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

RICHARD J. COLLINS ... Treble	CHARLES H. PERRY ... 5
D. REES JAMES ... 2	ERNEST STITCH ... 6
ALBERT J. PITMAN ... 3	GLYN I. LEWIS ... 7
FRANK ROWSELL ... 4	DAVID HUGHES ... Tenor

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. H. PERRY.

Rung to welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. T. Jones, to St. Illtyd's.

SIX BELL PEAL.

SILKSTONE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 21, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 changes each of Capel, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Sandal, College Exercise, Norbury and Duke of Norfolk.

Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.).

WILFRED BROADHEAD ... Treble	ERNEST BROOKES ... 4
ROLAND HILL ... 2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5
CLIFFORD ROBINSON ... 3	DANIEL SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by DANIEL SMITH.

Rung for the victory in Sicily.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOHN E. SPICE ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4	†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8
†REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10	

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

* First peal of Stedman Caters in hand. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal of Stedman Caters, and first of Stedman in hand.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*HAROLD J. POOLE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8
†ERNEST MORRIS ... 9-10	

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal of Grandsire in hand. † First peal of Grandsire Caters in hand. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Margaret Morris, daughter of the conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2	*JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
†HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4	†ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8
*REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Double Bob Royal. † First peal in the method. The first peal in the method for the Association.

SHEFFIELD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT 2, WOODVALE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D flat.

*MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 1-2	
JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... 3-4	
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) ... 5-6	
JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... 7-8	
*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 9-10	

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells.

KINSON, DORSET.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT "WEYMANS", MILLHAMS ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 11 in G.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	MRS F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
------------------------------	-----------------------------

MISS MARY E. DAVIS 5-6

Conducted by MRS F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Rung as a compliment to ringer of 5-6 on her 13th birthday.

LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,

AT 27, ANCASTER ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

JOHN E. SPICE ... 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 7-8

*MISS JOAN HOULDSWORTH 9-10

Composed by S. MARSH. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First attempt for Treble Bob Royal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

MEETING AT HADLEIGH.

The Suffolk Guild held a meeting at Hadleigh on August 21st, and ringers attended from Ipswich, Sudbury, Earl Stonham, Rushmere, Lavenham, Haverhill, Colchester, Newton, Grundisburgh and Leytonstone. They were welcomed by the Ringing Master (Mr. C. J. Sedgley) and the hon. secretary (Mr. H. G. Herbert).

During the afternoon and evening the bells were rung in Kent Treble Bob, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise. Mr. L. Wright had cycled 30 miles to be present, and Mr. G. Dawson was also a friend from a good distance. It was decided to hold a meeting at Stowmarket on September 18th.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT WENTWORTH.

At a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Wentworth, near Rotherham, on August 14th, members were present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, Sandal, Silkstone, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

Twenty-three members sat down to tea at the Rockingham Arms, and the business meeting followed with Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, in the chair. One new member, Mr. G. West, of Wentworth, was elected. An apology was received from the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. Barnard, who was unable to be present. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hoylandswaine on September 11th.

Good use was made of the tower bells, the methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranging from Stedman Doubles to Cambridge Surprise.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 365.)

There can be no doubt that bell founding in England has vastly improved during the last half-century, and there can be as little doubt that the improvement is much more marked in some kinds of bells than in others. Carillon bells used to be the speciality of the foundries of the Low Countries, and English bells cast before the year 1890 are totally unsuited to the purpose. Now the English carillon bell can more than hold its own against any in the world.

The English foundries may fairly be said to have exploded the myth of the very big bell. In former times there were here no extra heavy bells, and even one or two of more than usual weight, such as Peter of York and Tom of Oxford, were small compared with the monsters on the Continent. Travellers from abroad talked about the great bells at Moscow and Paris, Cologne, Vienna and elsewhere, and the impression was created that the bigger the bell the grander is its sound. We know now that it is not so. The amount of metal in a really good bell is conditioned by the pitch of its note. If you want an extra deep note you must have a very heavy bell, but when the note is lower than a certain limit, it ceases to be impressive. It is probable that no grander sound can be got out of bell metal than is produced by the bells of eight to ten tons cast by the English foundries.

These improvements are very largely, though not entirely, due to tuning on the five-tone principle. So, too, is the great improvement in small ringing bells. It is almost absurd to compare old-style light peals with modern ones. Think of the twelve at Quex Park and the twelve at Surfleet. Admit to the full that both are far too light for that number. Remember that the Birching-ton ring was cast by a man who was a master of his craft. Then we can realise something of the debt which is owed to the men who introduced and perfected five-tone tuning.

But when we turn to medium weight and heavy-ringing peals the improvement is not nearly so striking. That there has been improvement in average quality can hardly be doubted, but whether it is entirely due to tuning may be another matter. We cannot tell. There have been improved methods of casting and of finishing the bell when cast, as well as alterations in the system of tuning, and it is interesting, though futile, to speculate what sort of bell would have been turned out now, if the tuners had continued the old custom of concentrating on the strike-note.

One inevitable result of the five-tone tuning is that the overtones of a bell are made much more prominent. In the old-style bell they were hardly noticeable. In the modern style they sometimes force themselves on the attention. And, for good or for evil, the old traditional quality of bell tone has been changed.

It was for this reason that the new style of tuning was at first greatly disliked by many people. Ringers complained that the bells 'howled,' and certainly the fuller tone and greater amount of vibration are not always so pleasing for the purposes of change ringing.

Perhaps the most remarkable and most interesting criticism of new-style tuning came from Thomas C. Lewis, who was himself a bell founder. Lewis was a

builder of organs and a maker of pianofortes. He had a fine reputation, and he turned out some splendid work. He was an artist to the core, and would never sacrifice any of his ideals for financial reasons. He showed it when he undertook bell founding in addition to his other activities. He believed that a bell should never be tuned. It must be cast true in all respects, for if once the surface of the metal is removed by the tuning machine the bell will suffer in quality of tone and resonance.

To cast a bell that need not afterwards be altered—a 'maiden' bell,' as it was called—had always been the ideal of the old founders, but it was not easy to do, and it sometimes happened that bells were left slightly out of tune in order to claim a quality they really had no right to. Lewis would not tolerate anything of that sort. If a bell was not exactly as it should have been, he broke it up and cast another. It is said that before he could produce the eight bells for St. Andrew's, Wells Street (now at Kingsbury) as he wanted them, he had to cast over twenty bells. It was most admirable devotion to a high ideal, but it did not pay, and, after he had cast a few bells, he was forced to abandon founding.

Lewis had strong opinions on the quality of tone in musical instruments, and he published a little book protesting strongly against what he considered were wrong and harmful views and tendencies in his time. So far as bells were concerned, his protest was mainly against the ideas introduced by Lord Grimthorpe, which found full expression in such rings as those at Worcester Cathedral and St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, both of which have since been recast. Lewis totally rejected Canon Simpson's ideas, but it must be remembered that his protest was published before the founders had been able to turn out any rings in the new style. It is hardly likely he would have approved five-tone bells in general, but it would be interesting to know what he would have thought of such a ring as (shall we say?) St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. We will let him speak for himself, and here is his protest in full:—

A protest against the modern development of unmusical tone in organs, church bells, and pianofortes, by Thomas C. Lewis, Organ Factory, Brixton.

The evidence of the development of unmusical tone is constantly on the increase. Organs, Church Bells, Pianofortes, and some of the Orchestral Instruments manifest this downward grade in constructive aims. Seemingly the deviation from pure tone is cultivated deliberately with a pride in its achievement. The evil has proceeded so far that I cannot refrain any longer from raising my protest against it, well assured that I am not alone in deploring it.

How and why this vulgar and baneful tendency has become so assertive—whether it is due to sheer incompetence to judge, or to a hankering after notoriety, or to a common submission both on the part of the makers and of the public to the bad influence of certain examples—it is not my purpose to enquire. I take note of it . . . and I strongly feel that those who have the position and the power to influence should make their voices heard in combined efforts to stay the general decadence.

That is Lewis' general opening remarks. He then proceeds to deal with organs, on which he certainly could speak with authority. He comes next to bells.

Bells of modern make tell of errors, excess of weight and a craze for improvements. A very general belief

has been instilled into the minds of purchasers that bells, to be of good and even of superior tone, should be heavy in quantity of metal used and thick in the casting; and beyond this there is another belief, coming from the musician's notion that the tone of the bell should be brought to accord with his rules of theoretic harmony.

The instances in which these teachings have been followed are, as far as the true bell is concerned, lamentable failures. Not content with the ancient and genuinely characteristic tone which in itself is unique, and belongs to no other instruments for the production of sound, these modern intruders, mostly amateurs by profession, clamour for bells the thickest and heaviest that can be made to do the work, consequently the most poor and vulgar tone is poured out from many of our church towers.

Not very long since a large bell was required, but it must be the heaviest or none at all, so the directing head of affairs had decided. The size, however, was limited to the dimensions of the passage through which by necessity the bell would have to be passed. Weight, nevertheless, remained master so, not to contravene amateur dictation, the bell had to be designed of exceeding thickness to get the weight. In the result it is doubtful whether the bell can be heard even a quarter of a mile away, and in consideration of the office and purpose of a large bell there can be no greater condemnation.

People who are ignorant of, or are unable to recognise, what should be the proper bell nature shown in tone, are similarly circumstanced to those who are no judges of organ tone, who with preconceived notions rail against the mixtures, and what they please to call in their academic way, consecutive fifths.

These people, when they do become interested in bells,

are astonished to learn that a large bell must have two distinct notes, its 'tap-tone' and that which is called its 'hum-note.' Their first supposition very naturally is that these two notes should be one to the other in the relation of octaves. The hum-tone, it is noticed, is the lower note in pitch. Now, as a fact, there is nothing poorer in tone than a large bell having the top or percussion note of a stated definite pitch, and the lower or hum-note accompanying it in an exact octave deeper. On the contrary, and in defiance seemingly of harmony, a fine bell with the percussion or tap-tone, say E, should have its lower or hum tone a major seventh below, but flattened to the extent of about a quarter of a semitone; broadly speaking, its pitch should be F rather flat, and this tone forming a peculiar interval with the E above, although it might be supposed to be discording, really gives the best possible result that can be had from a bell, and the musical ear is always seeking that combination of two blended tones when the true ancient bell-tone has been appreciated. There are many harmonies heard, but these we pass by as quite subordinate in strength.

It would be a mistake to regard this deep tone as in any sense harmonic, or depending upon the tap-tone, for the tap-tone obtains its pitch from the metal and the way in which the bulk is disposed, whilst the hum-tone is due to the relative proportions of the shape given to the bell, and the reason for the choice of the particular pitch it should have is that these large bells, when the hum-tone is an octave, give unsteady sounds, confused and wavering, and long experience has led founders to perceive that this flattened major seventh best steadies the bell sounds, and seems in some way to absorb discordances.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The statement in last week's Notices that there will be ringing at Stepney on August 29th is incorrect. The next service ringing there is on September 19th, the third Sunday in the month.

The meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association at Rotherham on September 4th will be held in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society.

A very pleasant evening was spent on August 14th at St. Mary's, Ely. Ringers were present from Bury St. Edmunds, Chippenham, Wilburton, Sutton, Chatteris and the local band. Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Major and Minor, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Minor were rung.

The Grandsire Triples at Bridgend was the belated wedding peal for Miss Marian E. James, daughter of the ringer of the second. Owing to the ban it could not be rung before.

The first peal at Caerleon (where a meeting was held recently) was on January 12th, 1889. It was Mr. John W. Jones' first peal and he is one of three survivors of the band.

Fifty years ago yesterday the Cumberlands rang 5,000 Treble Bob Royal at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Mr. W. H. Barber rang the second and Mr. William Short the sixth.

On August 22nd, 1752, was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, a complete 5,040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples it being the first time ever performed by eight men only. So intricate it was thought no man could ring a bell and call the bobs.

The first peal of Runnymede Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on August 22nd, 1934.

The Cumberland Youths rang the second peal of Stedman Caters ever accomplished at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on August 23rd, 1788.

If places in 5-6 are made round a plain hunting treble on ten bells, a theoretically correct extension of Double Court Bob Minor is obtained. A peal of it was rung at Surfleet on August 23rd, 1919, under the title Double Court Royal. Henry Law James conducted.

Henry Hubbard, composer and author of a text book on change ringing, was born on August 25th, 1809. On August 24th, 1868, he conducted a peal rung by a band whose united ages amounted to 553 years.

The first true peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on August 26th, 1718.

On the same date in 1776 the College Youths rang 10,640 Bob Major at Mortlake.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Original Major at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on August 26th, 1908.

The first peal of Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples was rung on August 26th, 1939, at Bushey, Hertfordshire. Mr. Harold Cashmore conducted.

The first and only peal of St. George's Bob Major was rung by the College Youths at St. George's, Southwark, on August 27th, 1750. The method was a poor variation of Plain Bob.

On August 27th, 1814, Shipway's long peal of Treble Bob Major, 12,320 changes, was rung at Otley in Yorkshire. Two men were needed for the tenor and the bobs were called from manuscript by a man who did not himself ring.

Matthew A. Wood died on August 27th, 1912, at the age of 87.

The first peal of Sedburgh Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on August 27th, 1938.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT CAERLEON.

There was an excellent attendance at the meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, held on August 14th at the old Roman city of Caerleon in Monmouthshire. Several young recruits were present.

The light eight bells were rung from three o'clock until four, when a short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. O. Williams, the lesson being read by the Rev. J. H. Williams.

The ringers were entertained to tea on his lawn by Mr. Lovatt, and the business meeting followed presided over by the Vicar. Mr. J. W. Jones, the hon. secretary, announced the sudden death of Mr. Alex Hook, at whose funeral at Penhow on Friday several ringers attended.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Caerphilly.

Good reports were received of the training of recruits. The question of peal ringing was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that it should be discouraged, except for very special local or national occasions, until the end of the war.

Over a dozen new members were elected.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Lovatt for his hospitality and to the Vicar.

Caerleon bells are for the time being silent, as the whole of the ringers are engaged in the national effort. The ringing was, therefore, most welcome.

DEATH OF MR. ALEXANDER HOOK.

The death is announced of Mr. Alexander Hook, of Penhow, Monmouthshire, which occurred suddenly while he was at work last week. He was a member of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. At the funeral on Friday several ringers were present, and Mr. John W. Jones represented the association.

DEATH OF MR RICHARD F. LANE.

The funeral took place at Loughborough on Friday, August 13th, of Mr. Richard Farmer Lane, who died at the age of 88 years after a very short illness. A native of Earl Shilton, near Hinckley, he joined the famous firm of John Taylor and Co. (then John Taylor and Sons) in the 1870's, and was associated with the installation and rehanging of hundreds of peals in all parts of the British Isles. He assisted in the hanging of the ring of 12 at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1878 and well remembered all details of the opening ceremony. Mr. Lane was very thorough in his work and took infinite pains to ensure that a job was well done; of a jovial disposition, he had a fund of anecdotes which made him jolly good company—he had a marvellous memory and could recall in detail, with accuracy and vividness, happenings of 70 years ago.

'Old Dick,' as he was known to the present generation, joined the Midland Counties Association in 1883 and rang for it over 100 peals, many of which he conducted, particularly Stedman and Grandsire Caters, of which he was very fond.

He retired about 10 years ago, but his interest in bells and the foundry, where he had spent the greater part of his life, never flagged. He was a wonderful old man who will be greatly missed. For some years he was a sidesman at Loughborough Parish Church, where the service before the interment was conducted by the Archdeacon, the Ven. W. J. Lyon, who paid testimony to his services as a bellringer and church worker. The local company was represented by Messrs. John Grundy and John Saddington, and the firm of Taylors by Messrs. John Oldham and Colin Harrison, floral tributes being sent by Mr. Denison Taylor and the Parish Church ringers.

Mr. Lane had been married three times and leaves a widow and six sons and daughters besides a host of friends to mourn his passing. Nothing could be more fitting to conclude this short obituary than 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

DEATH OF MR. SEPTIMUS RADFORD.

As a result of a road accident early on August 10th, Mr. Septimus Radford, of Guildford, met his death. He was cycling to work when he met an Army lorry. There was no evidence of a collision, but he fell off his bicycle and suffered injuries from which he succumbed in the Royal Surrey County Hospital on August 13th. He was 70 years old.

The funeral service on August 17th was at St. Nicolas', where for 46 years Mr. Radford had been ringer, steeplekeeper and conductor, the last two offices being often combined. The Rector, the Rev. P. R. Lobb, officiated, and was assisted by the Rev. E. O. Ware.

The bells were rung half-muffled, first to a touch of Grandsire Triples and the whole pull and stand seventy times, and, as the coffin was leaving the church, to a touch of Stedman Triples. Four of the ringers were from St. Nicolas' band and four from the Cathedral. They were Messrs. H. Hutton, E. Etheridge, H. Mason, W. R. Robertson, A. C. Hazelden, A. H. Pulling and E. G. Heath (tenor).

At the burial in Stoke Cemetery, in addition to the family mourners several ringers were present, including Messrs. G. L. Grover (representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild), H. Harris, A. J. Bartlett (Chiddingfold), G. Tomsett, T. Theobald and T. W. White, Mrs. Hazelden and Miss Avenall. Wreaths included tributes from his late employer, Mr. Stanley Ellis, his workmates and St. Nicolas' bellringers.

Mr. Radford began his ringing at Taunton, where he was associated with Mr. Albert Walker and the late James Hunt, as well as his brother, Mr. T. W. Radford, who happily survives him. He went to Guildford in 1897 and became a member of the band at St. Nicolas'. Three years later the company, having been joined by Mr. A. C. Hazelden, began to practise Double Norwich, and passing on to Superlative, laid the foundation of the Surprise ringing which has not since died out.

Mr. Radford was a safe ringer in any method he knew, and could be relied on to put up a good performance in almost any difficult conditions. His last ringing was on Sunday, August 8th, when he took part in three courses of Grandsire Caters with his brother and his son, Mr. F. W. Radford.

JOINT MEETING AT ROTHERFIELD.

The Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild held a successful joint meeting at Rotherfield on August 21st, at which ringers attended from Eastbourne (St. Saviour's), East Grinstead, Heathfield, Hastings (All Saints' and Blacklands), Lamberhurst, Mayfield, Paddock Wood, Southover, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield, Wadhurst and the local band. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Stedman, of Weymouth, Mr. J. Thorly of Thorne, Yorks, Mr. H. R. Butcher (Master, Sussex County) and Mr. Bernard Saunders.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. E. Collins, who also played the organ and gave an address. Tea in the Institute was generously provided by the Rector, who took the chair for the two meetings that followed. Two new members (Mr. Keely, of Rotherfield, and Mr. C. Bassett, of Wadhurst) were elected to the county.

The next two meetings of the East Grinstead Guild were announced as Turners Hill on September 11th and Withyham on October 9th. Mr. H. R. Butcher thanked the Rector on behalf of those present. After some touches on the handbells, the company returned to the tower till 8 p.m. The methods ranged from rounds to Cambridge.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The resolution unanimously adopted by the Kent County Association seems to indicate a singularly narrow parochial outlook, and is not, I hope, representative of ringers in general. Here it is: 'That the Tonbridge District views with alarm the manner in which reports of meetings are curtailed in "The Ringing World." The district has had meetings regularly during the whole of the ban and little if any notice has been taken of it.' Then follow comments by several members, one deploring the fact that two pages were devoted to Simpson tuning.

The Kent County members seem to overlook the fact that 'The Ringing World' is a national paper and for that reason must give preference to matter which has a national appeal. Reports of meetings have local interest only and in any case make dull reading, with their inevitable accounts of numbers present and votes of thanks, etc.

I suppose that you must publish some reports, but, please, Mr. Editor, don't encroach on the space you reserve for your invariably interesting leader and the articles similar to Mr. Morris' and those on bell tuning.

In closing, I wish to add that in my opinion 'The Ringing World' as published during the ban has been better than ever.

H. P. CLIFF.

108, James Street, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

SOUND CONTROL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. Hardcastle's letter in your issue of August 13th is particularly interesting and provides another striking instance of how easy it is to deal with noisy bells if only the job is handled properly and the authorities are not afraid of the expense. The use of wired or 'armoured' glass for closing up the louvres is admirable, as it serves the dual purpose of controlling the sound while still admitting daylight to the belfry.

Apart from those towers which have a lot of space or spires above the bells, the opening of the tower roof and construction of a 'lantern' with louvred openings, as was done at Bradford, is undoubtedly the best method of all. Naturally it is more costly, but provided funds can be raised (and they usually can if the authorities set about the job in earnest) it is well worth it. The difficulty, I find, is to convince those concerned of the real desirability of carrying out the proposed change. Their attitude usually is that as their bells and tower have been in the condition they are for the past three hundred years or so, there is no need to go to the expense and trouble of altering them. In some cases they even positively disbelieve one's statement as to the advantages which would accrue.

As to the Bradford bells being more noisy in the ringing chamber after the alterations, I think one may conclude that this would be due to the more correct tuning of the bells following recasting, as their tone would then naturally be more penetrating. It could not be caused by closing up the windows and opening up the roof.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

CANADIAN RINGER DECORATED.

Squadron Leader R. J. Lane, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who had already won the Distinguished Flying Cross, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The official statement contains the following:—

'As a flight commander, Squadron Leader Lane has rendered most valuable service, and his leadership and example have been inspiring to all the air crew with whom he has come into contact. This officer has recently been on operational sorties to such targets as Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich, and by his courage and devotion to duty has achieved many outstanding successes.'

Squadron Leader Lane was one of the Cathedral Boy Scouts when the bells arrived in Victoria, British Columbia, and became one of the best ringers. He always took a very active interest in ringing and has rung in many a quarter-peal.

THE TEN RINGERS.

'There were ten ringers, five were wise and five were foolish.

'Now the wise ringers, seeing that their numbers were depleted by the war, took unto themselves ten others, and during the enforced ban revealed unto them all the secrets of their art.

'The five that were foolish, however, all slumbered and slept.

'Now one day there was a cry made, behold the ban is lifted; go ye into your towers to ring.

'The wise ringers, therefore, arose, and with their new-made pupils made a joyful noise upon their bells every Sunday.

'One day the foolish came and said unto the wise: Give us of your ringers for our band is depleted.

'But the wise answered, saying: Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you, but go ye, rather, and seek for yourselves; train as we have trained, so that plenty may reign once more in both our towers.'

(Communicated.)

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.

WHICH WAS THE FIRST PEAL?

The historian who tries to unravel the secrets of the past has often very few definite contemporary statements to work on. He has to rely on circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence consists of a large number of items, any one of which by itself is inconclusive and relatively unimportant, but when all are put together they point to an irresistible conclusion. They are like the strands of a rope which can easily be broken one by one, but which, properly bound together, are immensely strong.

I believe that the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 9th, 1795. For this belief I have not a scrap of direct contemporary evidence, yet I think the fact is beyond question.

To clear the ground, there are one or two things which must be stated. There is no doubt whatever that the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang a peal of Kent Maximus in 1820. There is no doubt that they thought it was the first in the method. There is no doubt that nobody connected with the Cumberlands has ever challenged their claim, nor, until now, has anyone else. No earlier performance has been recorded as Kent Maximus.

Having made those things quite clear, we can put them aside for the time being and turn to another aspect of the question.

EARLY HISTORY OF METHOD.

Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus were extensively practised during the eighteenth century, especially in London, but almost entirely in the original, or Oxford, variation. James Barham's band at Leeds in Kent rang Major and Royal during the second half of the century, and soon after 1770 someone (who we do not know) introduced to them the plan of making double handstroke places in 3-4 instead of backstroke places. They adopted the plan in Morning Exercise as well as in Treble Bob. These variations were not considered as distinct methods; they were simply called 'new' Treble Bob and 'new' Morning Exercise.

The variation in due time was brought to London, but the Londoners had no great opinion of the Kent ringers, they did not recognise the advantages of the variation, and bands like the College Youths do not appear to have rung even occasional courses of it. It was, however, included rather perfunctorily in the 'Clavis,' still as new Treble Bob.

In the year 1787—that is the year before the 'Clavis' was published—the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 8448 changes in the variation. There is something mysterious about this performance. There is no record of it in the peal book, but there can hardly be any doubt it was rung, for Shipway says he took part in it himself. It was his last peal with the society. The fact that thirty years later he called the method Kent proves nothing as to what it was called when the peal was rung. No particulars are given and the name of no conductor. At the time there were quarrels and dissensions which shortly afterwards nearly wrecked the society, and if someone other than George Gross (who was then leader) arranged and conducted the peal, that might account for the omission of the record from the peal book. This is the only definite reference to any ringing of Kent in London during the eighteenth century.

THE CUMBERLANDS.

The senior Society of Cumberland Youths was one of the leading metropolitan societies. They were active peal ringers, and much more than most companies, were inclined to make experiments and ring peals in variations of the standard methods. When they did so, they exercised the right, which was supposed to exist, of giving their own name to the variations. When George Patrick was their leader they rang Cumberland Bob, Cumberland Fancy and Cumberland Pleasure. What the methods were there is no means of knowing. When George Gross returned to the society they rang Cumberland eight in (evidently Grandsire Major), Cumberland Grand New Double Major, Cumberland Caters real double, and Cumberland Cinques. We can identify these latter because the compositions are given in the 'Clavis' (not, however, with those names) and they turn out to be Real Double Bob Major, Real Double Grandsire Caters, and Real Double Grandsire Cinques. The Cumberlands gave their name to the variations, but in no instance did the Exercise accept the name. If, therefore, the Cumberlands rang peals of Kent Treble Bob we should expect them to call the method Cumberland, especially as it had not yet received any name. This, of course, is no proof that they did ring peals of Kent Treble Bob.

On December 13th, 1794, at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the society rang 5,200 changes of Cumberland Royal Treble Bob. On March 9th, 1795, they rang at St. Saviour's 5,232 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus. On May 4th, 1795, they rang, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 5,504 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Major, and on May 26th, in the same year, they rang at

Edmonton, 5,120 changes of the same. All four peals were called by George Gross.

WHAT DID THEY RING?

What did they ring? In the first place it was Treble Bob. Treble Bob meant the method in which all the bells (not merely the treble) normally had a dodging path. Secondly, the method was one which could be rung equally well on eight, ten, and twelve bells. It could be rung by a good ten-bell band who normally had no opportunity for practising Maximus, for at the time there were twelve bells neither at Shoreditch nor Spitalfields.

Thirdly, the method had the ordinary Treble Bob leads and the ordinary Treble Bob bob. This is shown by the number of changes in the peals. But what to my mind is the most convincing proof is the statement that the Royal was 'the most that can be rung in 9 courses.' This was the statement usually made when Reeves' one-part peal of Treble Ten, 5,200 changes, a popular composition, was rung. It will seem a small point to most readers, but not to one who has studied and knows the old records.

Well, what did they ring? What methods are there which can fulfil the necessary conditions? There are millions of twelve-bell methods, but only three which can possibly meet the case. They are Kent, Oxford places in 5-8, and Kent places in 5-6. It is hardly likely that any band would be tempted to practise either of the latter two, and that leaves only Kent.

And why should they not have rung Kent? It was the natural thing to do. If it had been a new and unknown method it would certainly have been the composition of George Gross, and he was not the man to omit saying so in the peal book. Shipway rang in one of the peals of Major. He knew what was rung, and would hardly have omitted all reference to the method in his book if it had been anything different from the standard methods.

But, it will be argued, how was it that all knowledge of the peals was forgotten, not only in the Exercise, but in the Society of Cumberland Youths itself? That does seem a difficulty; but when one has studied the records of the old societies, one realises that it is just the thing which did usually happen. The men who rang in the peals were very secretive about what they rang, and the men who followed them cared little or nothing about it. There is the striking instance of Henry Hubbard, a composer and the author of a ringing text book. For years he rang in Mancroft belfry in sight of the fine board which records the peal of Double Norwich Maximus and in company of many of the men who took part in it. And he never knew what was rung.

What really decides the question seems to be this—With all our knowledge of method construction we cannot discover any method except Kent which will meet the circumstances of the case, and since there was every reason why the method should have been Kent, we conclude that it was Kent.

J. A. T.

THE BELLS OF PETERBOROUGH.

Mr. Edward Lankester sends us an account of the bells of Peterborough Cathedral, which, as he says, differs somewhat from that given by Mr. Ernest Morris a few weeks ago in our columns. On August 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Lankester visited the Cathedral, and made a close inspection of the bell tower. The guide told them that about 60 years ago seven bells hung in the tower, but two were taken down to ease the strain. He pointed to the frame where the two bells used to hang. 'We mentioned,' says Mr. Lankester, 'it was rather strange that there were seven bells. Why not eight? There was no sign as far as we could see where another bell or three bells could have been. Maybe part of the frame went with the three bells taken out in 1831 (we did not know anything about ten bells being there until we read Mr. Morris' article).

'On reaching my wife's home we mentioned what we had seen and heard, and to our surprise my wife's mother in an instance said, "That's correct." She told us when a girl she went up the tower on the very day the two bells were taken down. Her party was told the same tale—to ease the strain on the tower—thus confirming the guide's story.'

Thomas North's account is very circumstantial. He says that the ten bells, hung in 1709, were only rung for a few years, it being thought that the vibration endangered the safety of the west front of the Cathedral. In 1831 the front five were sold and taken down. 'The present five,' says North (1878), 'which remain in the position they occupied when there was a ring of ten, are never rung in peal.' He says nothing about two extra bells.

Towards the end of the last century grave fears began to be entertained of the safety of the fabric of the Cathedral. In 1883 the central tower was pulled down completely and afterwards rebuilt. Some years later the whole of the west front was taken down and rebuilt with the same stones in the same positions. The bell tower is immediately behind the west front and it is easy to see why no ringing was allowed.

Mr. Lankester says that the bells are hung for ringing. Five ropes hang down into belfry, four look very old, but the tenor rope is not too bad.

ROUND TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

Round towers are common in Norfolk and Suffolk, and other examples occur in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Sussex. They have been regarded as survivals of Roman forms, such as the Roman Pharos at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Dover, which, however, is octagonal. Round towers of the sixth century still remain at Ravenna, St. Apollinare in Classe (Italy). From the end of the ninth century to the beginning of the thirteenth century the Irish were building round towers, and these served as detached belfries, watch towers and strongholds for ecclesiastics and their valuables. Of the 120 recorded instances, 10 still retain their conical caps, including Ardmore, Co. Waterford (95ft.), Clondalkin, Co. Dublin (90ft.), and Devenish, Co. Fermanagh (85ft.).

They also occur at Peel, Isle of Man; Abernethy, Perthshire; Brechin, Forfarshire (87ft.); Eglilshay, Orkney. They had an ultimate Byzantine derivation, through the campaniles of early Ravenna, whence the Moslem minaret may have sprung. Of greater antiquity are the shorter and wider megalithic round strongholds, as in Rabboth Ammon, Syria, the Balearic Islands, Scotland and Sardinia.

The round tower at Windsor Castle was built by Edward III. But in the case of the English examples it is explained that they were almost wholly in chalk districts, where for the outer facing nothing but flint was available. It was easier to construct flint-cased towers circular, so the towers were made round. If they had been made square it would have been necessary to import freestone quoins from long distance. In his book, 'Parish Churches of Norfolk,' Mr. C. J. W. Messent (1936) gives a list of no less than 135 examples in that county, of which 129 are still remaining, whole or in part, the others having the foundations only remaining. Over 75 are entirely round from top to bottom, and some of these form part of ruined churches.

In Suffolk, 41 round towers still exist. If these towers be chartered on a map it will be noticed that the majority of them are grouped in the north-east corner of the county, about the estuarial confluences of the rivers Waveney and Yare.

The largest circular tower in England is that of Wortham, which is 29ft. in diameter externally, and 60ft. high. Unfortunately it is now in ruins. A feature of the round tower at Thorington is the tall but shallow arcading which surrounds it about 16ft. from the ground. It is formed entirely of rubble, of which the tower is built, and may well be pre-Conquest. Nearly all round towers have had later windows inserted in them, and most of them have upper storeys constructed in mediæval times. The earliest is probably that at Ashby. This for two-thirds of its total height is a gradually tapering octagon constructed in brickwork. Many others have flint and stone octagonal extensions with typical 15th century

battlemented parapets. Only two of these round towers have buttresses. That at Ramsholt, which in plan is more oval than round, has three buttresses—north, south and west. That of Beyton, two—south and north-west.

The three Sussex round towers are all to be found in the valley of the Ouse, and situated on the west bank of the river in each case. The three churches that have these towers are St. Michael's, Lewes, Southease and Piddinghoe. All are situated on high ground, though that of Lewes is not seen from a distance, as it is so shut in by the other buildings of the High Street, but Southease and Piddington are visible to each other. One theory advanced to account for their construction is that in the days when the Ouse was wider and more used for traffic than it is to-day, they served as beacon towers. This may be possible, as a glance at the map shows that these three churches are in a direct line, and the light from each would be quickly picked up, though there are no signs of where a beacon would be displayed. These three towers do not contain ringing peals of bells, Lewes and Southease having but two bells, and Piddinghoe three.

Of the Norfolk round towers, the bulk of them have but one bell, while several hold two, three and four bells. The following briefly describes the rings of five and over. Acle, which has a round base and octagonal belfry stage, had its tower restored and bells increased to six in 1933. It also has a Sacring bell and clock. The tower is probably unique, inasmuch as the bells hang in tiers in a new steel frame, which in its turn is suspended from a steel tower which has been erected inside the walls of the old tower by Boulton and Paul, Ltd., of Norwich. It is believed to be the only instance in England where a steel tower has been erected in such circumstances. It is about 35ft. high and 10ft. square, and braced completely. The new treble was by Gillett and Johnston, and the rest are dated 1623, except the 5th, which is by John Brend and dated 1654. The tenor weighs 9 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb.

Aslacton, St. Michael's, has a ring of five dating from 1607 (treble, 2 and tenor) and 1614 (3rd and 4th). Bedingham, St. Andrew's, round tower, which has an octagonal top, also has five bells, tenor about 7 cwt. They are a mixed lot, the treble being by J. Taylor, 1842; 2nd by John Goldsmith, 1710; 3rd by Pack and Chapman, 1778; 4th by John Brend, sen., 1573; and tenor a mediæval bell, with a queer, unintelligible inscription.

Brooke, St. Peter's, round tower, believed to date back to the reign of King Stephen, and restored in 1908, contains six bells, which were rehung in 1910. Except the 4th, which is a pre-Reformation bell by Brayer, of Norwich, they are by Joseph Mallows, of East Dereham, and dated 1758. The fifth has this very apt inscription:—

'Come rais us well and ring us right,
Then all that hear will take delight.'

(Continued on next page.)

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ROUND TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Gissing, St. Mary's, has five bells, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th by John Darbie, of Ipswich, 1670, and others by William Dobson in 1832.

Fornett's round tower has five bells, restored by J. Taylor and Co. in 1938. The first three are dated 1602, the 4th 1737, and tenor 1783. The latter weighs 13 cwt. 12 lb.

Haddiscoe, St. Mary's, round embattled tower, of Saxon and Norman date, contains five bells, rehung in 1890. The tenor is about 7 cwt.

Intwood, All Saints', has a tower with round base and octagonal belfry storey, and contains five bells placed here in memory of Clement William and Mary Anne Unthank by their children. Originally there was one bell by Thomas Newman, 1737.

Kirby Cane, All Saints', round tower, was restored in 1925, and it has five bells, the treble and tenor dated 1626, 2nd and 2rd by Edward Tooke, 1677, and the 4th recast 1811. Newton-Subcourse, St. Mary's, has six bells, two presented in 1893 by the Rev. A. T. J. Thackeray, Vicar here from 1885 to 1925.

Norwich, St. Mary Coslany, has an ancient west round tower, and during restoration work in 1909 four Saxon windows were discovered in it. It had six bells, now removed to a modern church. As early as 1552 there were five bells here, 'whereof one was called a gabriel bell and weighed one cwt., the others weighed 5, 8, 10 and 12 cwts.'

St. Mary's is the only six-bell tower in Norwich in which a peal has been rung. There is, or once was, a board in the belfry with the following wording: 'St. Mary's Parish. On Monday, Janr. 3rd, 1824, was Rung in this Steeple, Seven Peals of Grandsire Bob. Each Peal containing 720 changes called Seven Different Ways, the whole being a compleat 5,040 changes in three hours and eight minutes Without a bell out of course Conducted by George Watering. And rung by the following persons: George Watering treble, Thomas Roberts 2nd, John Thurtle 3rd, Robert Baxter 4th, James Ward 5th, Joseph Wild tenor. This tablet was erected to commemorate their science in ringing.'

Quidenham, St. Andrew's, standing on an eminence a short distance from the hall, has a west tower of flint and stone, round at base, with octagonal belfry stage, and a spire. It contains eight bells and a clock. Tenor, 16 cwt., was presented by Lady Louisa Charteris and Mr. and Lady Augusta Noel, as a memorial to General George Thomas, 6th Earl of Albemarle, who died in 1891. In the church are numerous memorials to this illustrious family. In 1494, William Erle of Quidenham gave by his will 12d. to the melting and repairing of the great bell. In 1552 there were three bells of 4, 6, and 8 cwt.

Great Ryburgh, St. Andrew's, tower is round at base and octagonal above, and has six bells presented in 1891 by the Smith family. They are by J. Taylor and Co. and hang in an iron frame, the tenor being 12 cwt.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. W. HAWKINS.

Among the victims of a recent air crash were Mr. and Mrs. W. Hawkins, of Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Mr. Hawkins was a member of the local band and had been a regular Sunday service ringer for over 30 years. He had rung one peal.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on August 28th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, September 5th, 10.30 a.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Old Windsor on Saturday, August 28th, 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring tea, if required.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Ottershaw on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (6) at 5 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Ringing after until 8.45 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) available at 4 p.m. Teas in advance at nearby cafe.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Cotgrave, Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting follows.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. James' Church, West Derby, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by the meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but bring own food.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Annual meeting at Leyland Parish Church on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, August 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, September 4th, at 5 p.m. Bells 4 p.m. and after meeting. Make own arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West and North and East Districts.—Joint meeting at Ruislip, on Saturday, September 4th, at 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea may be provided in Church Room,

Bury Street, followed by meeting, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells (8) available 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bus from Ruislip Church to Pinner every 20 minutes.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea in the Parish Church Hall, Moorgate, at 5 p.m. at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head. Those requiring same must notify Mr. T. C. Ryder, 19, Middle Lane South, Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, September 1st. Business meeting to follow.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Chicheley on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea by August 28th to P. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Helmingham, 3 p.m., Saturday, September 4th. Framsdens bells (8) also available. Tea at Framsdens Greyhound at 5 p.m.—T. W. Last, Helmingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Soberton on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who inform H. Dudman, Station Road, Droxford, Hants, by August 31st.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's (8 bells), Brunel Terrace, Elswick, Newcastle, on Tuesday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Important business.—Ernest Wallace, Vice-President.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock. Names to Miss J. Taylor, 165, Dunhill Road, Goole, by September 8th.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich

Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by September 6th.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting (with Bristol City practice) at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Names by September 8th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

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192.
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63254 — —
23456 — —

192.
23456 I F H

43652 — —
23456 — —

240.
23456 F H

26435 — —
25463 — —
23456 — —

240.
23456 I F H

36452 — —
62453 — —
23456 — —

304.
23456 I F H O

65324 — —
25463 — —
23456 — —

416.
23456 I F H O

32654 — —
26354 — —
63254 — —
23456 — —

416.
23456 I F H O

65324 — —
23564 — —
35264 — —
23456 — —

416.
23456 I F H O

65324 — —
25463 — —
42356 — —
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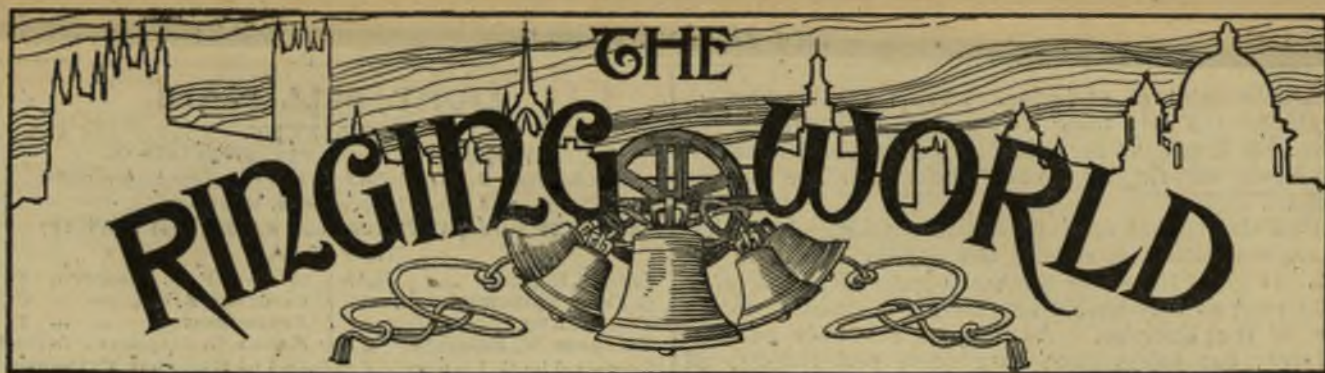
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1943.

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PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

The members of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, assembled recently at Caerleon, "unanimously agreed that peal ringing should be discouraged, except for very special local or national occasions until the end of the war," and in doing so they undoubtedly expressed an opinion held to-day very widely in the Exercise.

This, broadly speaking, means that no peals should be rung for the reason and purpose that the vast majority of peals always have been rung, namely, because peal ringers like ringing them. It is worth while to consider for a minute what is the reason for this opinion and how far it is justified.

Now it certainly is the fact that there are many men who in normal times are quite willing and anxious to take part in peals, but who feel that in war time it is hardly the correct thing to do. They are fully entitled to that opinion, and so long as it is applied to their own conduct, need give no reason for it, either to themselves or to others. But when they go further and attempt to discourage peal ringing in general, they must face the question fairly: What is there in peal ringing which especially makes it undesirable in these days?

It is not an easy question to answer. So far as the general public is concerned there is no difference between peal ringing and any other ringing. A peal certainly takes about three hours, but that need not necessarily be a greater strain on the public than the intermittent ringing at a meeting, which may, and usually does, extend over the afternoon and most of the evening. Nor can any general rule be laid down for all towers. There are places where an hour's ringing can cause annoyance, and there are places where peal ringing not only causes no annoyance but is actually welcomed and enjoyed. Every case must be judged on its own merits.

Perhaps at the back of this opposition to peal ringing there is, quite unconsciously, something of the feeling which always has existed in the Exercise, that peal ringing is nothing but a pastime for a few ringers who selfishly indulge themselves at the expense of the public and their fellow ringers. The time and opportunities devoted to peal ringing would be far better spent in teaching beginners.

That, we think, is quite a mistaken idea. There can be selfishness in peal ringing just as there can be in anything else, but peal ringing is not necessarily selfish because it entails a certain amount of selection and a

(Continued on page 386.)

certain amount of exclusion. Nor is the teaching of beginners the only thing a ringer need concern himself with. Is it just as necessary to maintain and raise the standards of ringing among those who are already trained.

Peal ringing has done more than anything else to improve the quality of ringing and sustain interest in the art. It gives the public the best opportunity of hearing bells rung as they should be. And it is essential to the life of the Exercise. All ringers need not be peal ringers; but unless there were some peal ringers, all ringers would suffer.

It is a common proof that those men who are the most active as peal ringers are usually the most regular as service ringers, and the most willing to help others. They form the backbone of the Exercise and we cannot do without them. Whether a man feels justified in taking part in a peal in present circumstances, is a matter for himself to decide; but unless it can be shown that there is something peculiar to peal ringing which is undesirable at present, none of us has any right to judge other men in the matter.

CHURCH BELLS IN MALTA.

According to 'The Times,' the church bells of Malta, ringing almost as in peace time, give a tangible and heartening sign of the progress of the war in the Mediterranean and its recession from the island. After the Tunisian triumph there was a relaxation of the ban on church bells. Now within a few days of the end of enemy resistance in Sicily, the bells are ringing again, as the Government have been quick to remove the ban.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

A QUESTION OF PITCH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your articles on 'The Tuning of Bells' are most interesting. Bells are wonderful machines, and no doubt the casting of a perfect bell, like the 11th in Exeter Cathedral, is something of an accident. This is an old bell.

In the local tower we have a fine peal restored by Gillett and Johnston in 1937. The tenor weighs 16 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb., and on the official notice posted in the belfry the note is F. The organist tested this note and compared it with the organ, which he considers to be in true pitch, and found it to be E very slightly sharp. The other bells respond to this scale. May I ask if this be the scale of the 'strike' notes of the bells or do founders tune their bells to another musical scale where C is not 256 or C 512? FREDK. C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton.

THE RAILWAY WHISTLE.

Sir,—I have only just read the article of bell tuning in last week's 'Ringing World.' I doubt whether the case of the railway whistle on page 364, column 2, is really an illusion. The explanation of the phenomenon is that as the source of the whistle is approaching at a rapid rate, the vibrations which cause the sound reach your ear at shorter and shorter intervals, and so the note is sharpened. When the train has passed, the speed has a contrary effect, and the vibrations reach your ear at longer and longer intervals, and accordingly the note is flattened. There can be no such effect from a bell, as it is at a fixed distance from you. W. C. B.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT REIGATE.

The Southern District of the Surrey Association held a meeting on August 14th at Reigate, when between 50 and 60 ringers and friends were present. Ringing took place during the afternoon, and service in church was conducted by the Rev. G. N. Hill, the address being given by the Rev. K. G. Hoare, Vicar of Betchworth.

After tea an interesting talk was given by Mr. A. A. Hughes on 'English Church Bells and Bellingring.'

Mr. Maurice Northover expressed the thanks of the members to the Vicar of Reigate, and to Mr. Eric Gretton for his services at the organ.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Thursday, August 19th, at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, H. L. Cooke 3, Miss D. R. Fletcher (Beaconsfield) 4, A. Painter 5, H. Lewis 6, W. H. Hayward 7, Pte. F. J. Lewis, Dorset Regt. 8. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Mr. H. Chuter, organist at the above church for 33 years.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OXHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT... 5
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 2	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 6
*FRANCIS KIRK 3	*EDWIN JENNINGS 7
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

* 50th peal together.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S No. 8.

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

ALFRED H. PULLING Treble	GEORGE E. CLODE 5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 2	HERBERT T. ROOKE 6
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	COLIN HOPPER Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Sapper H. T. Rooke is from Worksope, Notts.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BERE REGIS, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 22, 1943, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

HAROLD E. WHITE Treble	D. W. CHARLES CHANT ... 4
LIONEL H. PINK 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
*TFR. V. BOTTOMLEY, R.A.C. 3	SGT. P. H. TOCOCK, R.A.C. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells. Rung as a tribute to the late Mr. G. Farr, who was a ringer at this church for 46 years.

DISLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, viz.: 720 each of Capel, Sandal, London Scholars', Kingston, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK Treble	LT. J. ANTHONY BAUMONT 4
JOHN WORTH 2	ALAN J. BROWN 5
THOMAS TAYLOR 3	JAMES A. MILNER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Arranged for Lieut. J. A. Baumont, who was on leave.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

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
*MRS. C. W. POWELL ... 9-10	

Composed by F. W. PERRENS.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

* First peal on ten bells. Rung to mark the third anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Powell, of Lyme Regis, Dorset.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, August 22nd, at All Saints' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss K. Brooks 1, Francis D. Bishop 2, Squire Croft 3, Sidney H. Godfrey 4, Lieut. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E. 5, R.S.M. Albert Ford, I.C. 6, Ernest Morris 7, *Dennis Chamberlain 8. * First quarter-peal.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 377.)

We continue with Thomas C. Lewis' 'protest' against modern developments in tone.

He has been explaining that the only two important tones in a bell are the strike-note and the hum-note, and he maintains that these should not be in octaves, as one would naturally suppose, but the hum-note should be a major seventh below, but flattened to the extent of about a quarter of a semitone. 'Long experience has led founders to perceive that this flattened major seventh best steadies the bell sounds, and seems in some way to absorb discordances.' He goes on:—

The music master may possibly know many things in questions of sound, yet not be practical. It is of no use bringing his theories and logic to the bells; the bells make their own theory and decide the practical utilities that should attach to their use. Thus there are still distinctions to be observed. A peal of church bells having eight notes, the treble might be E and the tenor E, and the whole of these bells would be satisfactory, each bell with its hum-note related to it as described. Now higher than this treble E the hum-note makes itself as powerfully noticeable as the tap-tone, and it is at this point quite obvious that smaller bells should hum their octaves, and in this way content the ear. For supposing further that a peal is one of ten and that the F sharp and G sharp are introduced completing the series, then these bells having tap-tone and hum-note of equal telling power, it would be impossible for them to sound otherwise than out-of-tune if their flattened major sevenths were present in strength; and this is where so many difficulties arise in this country in small bells in ringing peals, because the distinctions which should be observed at different parts of the scale have not been understood or the effects appreciated.

Bells above the E mentioned or, if in a carillon, may be extended to C, all with their two tones an octave apart. So also the compass may be carried higher to the smallest bells, possibly with good effect.

Some so-called 'tube chimes' made of steel tubes have been engineered into churches by amateurs who develop a liking for prettiness in church matters, but no true judge can consider such chimes of any worth as representing bell-tone, and any criticism would be wasted upon them.

My protest as regard church bells is chiefly directed against excessive thickness, and I feel that, beyond what I have said, it is difficult further to describe bell-tone as it should be, and as it is in the best ancient examples.

As bell founding is with me a thing of the past, I may mention without appearance of advertisement that I have cast several sets of bells in perfect tune, by which I mean they have not been touched after casting; the largest was

a set of eight for the Church of St. Andrew, Wells Street, London, the tenor being twenty-one hundredweight.

In my method of setting out bells I had no difficulty whatever in governing the hum-tone in connection with the upper note as to whether it should be a major seventh flattened or the octave, it being entirely determined by the width of the upper part of the bell in relation to the lower or great diameter.

The octave at Kingsbury, which constitutes Lewis' strongest evidence of the soundness of his views, is certainly a very fine ring. Whether it proves all that he contends for, or whether other rings, both old style and new style, are not still finer is, of course, a matter for individual opinion. The only other bells by Lewis we can at present call to mind are the back six at Fulney, near Spalding, in Lincolnshire. What they are like we cannot say, for it is many years since we heard them.

It will be noticed that Lewis, like so many other people, read the past in the light of the present, and attributed to the old founders opinions and intentions which it is pretty certain they never deliberately and consciously held. They were satisfied with the hum-notes their bells produced, but there is no reason to suppose that they aimed at making them flattened major sevenths.

Whether this flattened major seventh does have the effect Lewis attributes to it we do not know in the least; but we think many men will recognise what he calls 'the unsteady sounds, confused and wavering' which some bells have. It would need perhaps pretty strong evidence to convince one that this is due to the hum-note being a true octave below the fundamental.

(To be continued.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PENSURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Penshurst on August 28th, was attended by ringers from Bromley Common, Sundridge, Tunstall, Tonbridge, Leigh, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Leytonstone, Beddington, Tewkesbury Abbey, Thorne (Yorks), Wadhurst and the local band.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. P. H. Turnbull, who welcomed the association, and reminded them that they were the first people to have a privilege restored which had been banned owing to the war. The public were grateful that a ready response had been found among the ringers, and he urged all present to do their utmost to keep the bells going.

Twenty-one members sat down to tea at The Green Tea Rooms. The business meeting was held at the Rectory, the Rector being in the chair. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. T. Saunders, the district secretary, Mr. A. Battin undertook the secretarial duties. Reports were received from the district representatives on the business at the committee meeting at Maidstone, and the business of the annual meeting of the association was discussed.

It was agreed that an effort should be made to ring at Tonbridge Parish Church for Sunday service on the second and fourth Sundays in each month. This was one way of expressing appreciation of the use of the tower for a combined practice on Friday evenings.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Tonbridge in October, on either the third or fourth Saturday.

Mr. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for opening the Rectory for the meeting. The Rector said he was glad to give permission for the bells to be rung, and he invited the association or any party to come at any time. Votes of thanks were accorded to the organist and to Mr. G. Edwards, the local secretary, for the arrangements.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal rung at Kinson on August 14th and reported in our last issue was the first entirely by ladies and the first by the Ladies' Guild.

Correspondents are reminded that it is necessary always to send their names and addresses with letters, whether they are intended to be published or not.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, who reached his 84th birthday last Sunday.

The first peal of Clarendon Surprise Major was rung at Norbury, Cheshire, on August 30th, 1926.

The first ten-bell peal in Scotland, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on August 31st, 1886.

The record handbell peal, 19,738 changes of Stedman Caters, was rung at Guildford on August 31st, 1912.

On the same date in 1918, Bertram Prewett was killed on active service in France.

The first peal of Beaconsfield Surprise Major was rung at Beaconsfield on August 31st, 1935.

William Pye called the first peal of Londonderry Surprise Major at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on September 2nd, 1927.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE FREDERICK DICKENS.

The death is announced of Mr. George Frederick Dickens, who passed away peacefully during his sleep on Monday, August 23rd, at the age of 74 years.

The funeral service at Sutton Parish Church on August 26th was conducted by the Rector, who referred to the sincere and quiet services Mr. Dickens had rendered to the church.

Among the ringers present were Messrs. A. P. Smith (Master of the Guild), A. Walker (vice-president), T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), F. W. Perrens, W. Anker and J. W. Pemberton. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside in the local cemetery by T. H. Reeves 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, A. Walker 5-6, A. P. Smith 7-8.

Mr. Dickens was one of three brothers who joined the St. Martin's Guild over 50 years ago. He was associated with the late Henry Johnson, and by his death the small band of those who actually rang with Henry Johnson is reduced.

He resided at Sutton Coldfield for many years, but was employed as a silversmith in the city of Birmingham, and was a regular attendant at St. Martin's Church at the weekly practices and took part in many peals there. He also rang in a peal at Handsworth Parish Church in 1890, when the ring of six was augmented to eight. He was a Sunday service ringer at Sutton Parish Church and was a sidesman there for 30 years.

JOINT MEETING AT EARL SHILTON.

At a joint meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association and the Warwickshire Guild, held at Earl Shilton on August 21st, over 60 ringers attended from Arley, Barwell, Broughton Astley, Burbage, Claybrooke, Coventry, Croft, Desford, Hinckley, Kersley, Kirby Mallow, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, Sapcote, Wolvey and the local band. Mr. A. Ballard, who was on a short leave from H.M. Forces, managed to look in for a ring.

The ringing reached a high standard, and the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and Bristol Surprise.

Tea was served in the schools by wives and friends of the ringers and the arrangements were perfect, although only 28 names had been sent in and over 50 sat down.

Mr. H. Bird, who presided, said it was gratifying to see such a large number present to welcome the recently appointed Vicar, the Rev. E. E. C. Jones, and Mrs. Jones. Mr. F. Pervin supported and commented upon the high standard of hospitality shown.

The Vicar expressed his great pleasure at meeting the ringers and spoke of the joy the sound the bells gave. He was very fortunate in coming to a parish with a fine peal of bells and to live among such an enthusiastic body of ringers. He hoped that they would meet very often. Mr. George Newton, captain of the local band, supported the Vicar and said it would always be a pleasure to arrange a ringing meeting.

Grandsire and Stedman Caters and various tunes were rung on the handbells. Mr. C. H. Webb proposed and Mr. D. H. Argyll seconded a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the ringers for having the bells ready and to the ladies for arranging the tea.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Maidwell on August 28th. Service in church was conducted by the Rector, after which tea was served at Maidwell Hall, by invitation of Mr. O. E. P. Wyatt. An excellent repast, provided by Mrs. Dixon, was followed by the business meeting. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to all those who had ensured an enjoyable gathering. Ringing was available before the service and after tea.

ST. MARY COSLANY.

SOME REMINISCENCES.

Mr. Ernest Morris' account of St. Mary Coslany conjures up many memories of fifty or sixty years ago. The building, though not among the more important of Norwich's forty ancient churches, has a character and interest of its own, and is still worth a visit.

It stood (and, of course, still stands) in what, for a city, is quite a large churchyard. On one side was an important street with many fine old eighteenth century houses, once the homes of rich city merchants, and still inhabited by well-to-do professional men. On the other was one of the famous slums of Norwich.

In those days Norwich knew what a slum really should be like. The houses were old, some from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and they kept their original amenities and sanitary arrangements. Horrible rookeries they were to live in, but picturesque, and a delight to an artistic eye. Even I, in later years, when I dabbled in art photography, have, as a visitor, spent many happy hours among the Norwich slums. Now they are all swept away. It will take centuries of decay and careful neglect before St. Mary's Plain looks something like its old self again. I shall not live to see it.

The church had then what the guide books called a lofty round tower. It was, I am firmly convinced, the model for the original milk bottles, before they were narrowed at the neck because people used them for preserving fruit. The bells were in the top storey, now pulled down, and the ropes hung down to the ground, but there was not much ringing there.

The belfry belonged to the Stags, the band in opposition to the Mancroft company, and they were rather a feeble folk then. Their most notable member was William Freeman, the last survivor of the famous Norwich Scholars, who had been a contemporary of Henry Hubbard, Tom Hurry, Charles Middleton and James Trueman; and who rang the seventh to the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. The other bells controlled by the Stags were the ten at St. Andrew's (where Freeman was parish clerk and steeplekeeper), the eight of St. Miles', and the six at St. Gregory's. They could ring Bob Minor quite well. And here let me say that there never was any stoney in Norwich. It was not until some years after I was a ringer that I first heard any of it, and then I had to go far afield.

The Stags faded away about this time, and that probably was the reason why I was able to get a ring at St. Mary's; for I did ring there—once at any rate, if not twice—and I never rang with the Stag band, though, of course, we had somehow or other to get on the right side of Old Britain, the steeplekeeper, who was himself a Stag.

In build and frame Old Britain was of a type common enough then, though not often seen nowadays. He was of medium height with broad shoulders and somewhat hunch-backed. He carried his head well forward, and he had an enormous nose. It was not a gross or fleshy nose. It was a magnificent beak like that of some fierce old bird of prey. I said that Britain had the nose, but I am not sure it was not the other way round. John Burton used to say that if you were down St. Miles' and saw a nose coming along the street, you might be pretty certain that Old Britain was somewhere behind it.

In those days every church in Norwich had its own parson and there was no amalgamation of benefices. Most of them were very poorly endowed and the income at St. Mary's was about £100 a year. It is hardly surprising that when the living fell vacant no one was willing to take it, and for some years the church was shut up and neglected. That was a godsend to the boys of the surrounding streets. The windows were many and large; the churchyard provided an inexhaustible supply of stones; and long after the last square inch of glass had disappeared from the mullions, it was the fashionable sport of the neighbourhood to hurl stones through the window openings. When I visited the church some time afterwards the whole place was ankle deep in stones.

Then someone in authority woke up. The church was restored. The top part of the steeple was pulled down (though it dated from pre-Reformation times) to make the tower look again as it was supposed it looked in Saxon times. And the bells were taken down and stood on the floor of the church. They are not, if my recollection serves, much of a peal, but two are pre-Reformation and the others of the seventeenth century. Now they hang dead in a modern church in the suburbs.

T.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MELBOURNE.

The monthly meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Melbourne on August 21st, when there was an attendance of at least thirty members. A welcome visitor was the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson (formerly curate at St. Andrew's, Derby), who acted as chairman at the short business meeting. Four new members were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ripley on September 18th, and an invitation was received to the Burton District's meeting on August 28th.

There was some very good ringing in the following methods: Stedman, Grandsire, Double Norwich, Bob Major and Duffield, as well as rounds and thirds for the benefit of the local lady ringers, who are to be congratulated on the way they handled their bells.

ROUND TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 382.)

Saxlingham-Nethergate, St. Mary-le-Virgin, now has a square tower, containing eight bells, but this has replaced the ancient round tower, the foundations of which were revealed when workmen were digging a trench for drainage purposes. In 1899 the old six bells were rehung and three recast. In 1901 two trebles were added by the Rev. R. W. Pitt, who also presented the organ.

Stockton, St. Michael's, is a small building, with thatched roof, and has a round west tower and short spire, containing five bells, tenor about 9 cwt. The treble is by T. Mears, 1821, the 4th by John Stephens, 1721, the 2nd from Norwich, 1620, the 3rd and tenor being pre-Reformation Brasyer bells.

Long Stratton, St. Mary's, round tower, with small spire, has a clock and six bells, the 4th of which was given by Sir John Sturmy about 1340. It is inscribed, 'Thomas made me,' to which is added a Norman-French legend, which enables one to fix approximately the date of the bell. Sir John Sturmy, who caused it to be made, was lord of the manor in 1327. The original five were rehung and a treble added in 1904. The lower part of the tower is a century or so older than the church. There is also a clock bell inscribed, '+ Sancta—Caterina.'

Tasburgh, St. Mary-the-Virgin, round tower dates from Saxon times. Of the old four bells, the third was dated 1598, and others 1613, 1631 and 1614. In 1900 J. Taylor and Co. recast the tenor and added a treble, making the ring to five, with a 9 cwt. tenor.

Watton, St. Mary's (originally dedicated to St. Giles), also has a round based tower with octagonal top. It now has a ring of six, augmented from the old three in 1899 by Mears and Stainbank. The tenor is 8 cwt. approximately. Woodton, All Saints', embattled round tower, with octagonal top, has a ring of six, the back five being by John Brend, 1641, and treble by Pack and Chapman, 1772. They were renovated and rehung in 1889.

Yaxham, St. Peter's, round west tower, the base of which is of pre-Norman date, has a ring of five, all by John Draper, 1621 to 1649. The 3rd was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1844.

Of the 41 Suffolk examples, 15 have but one bell; 5 have two bells; 11 have three bells; 2 have four bells; 4 have five bells; and 4 have six bells.

Of the two latter, which are of more interest to ringers, Barsham, Holy Trinity, has five bells. It is an ancient building with thatched roof, and a round Norman west tower. The ring was installed by Mears in 1893, and has a 7 cwt. tenor. Bramfield, St. Andrew, has a detached round tower some 20 feet away from the church, containing a minor five, i.e., the first five of a ring of six. The back three are of the 15th century, by Henry Jordan, of London, and the two trebles are by Wm. Brand and his wife, Alice, of Norwich, and dated 1621. They were rehung in 1890 by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye.

Brome or Broome, St. Mary, has a west tower round at the base with embattled octagonal top, and containing five bells. These bells are all by Thomas Newman and dated 1737. The upper part of the tower was rebuilt

and the bells rehung in 1875 at the expense of Lady Caroline Kerrison.

Burgh, SS. Andrew and Botolph, is picturesquely set on top of a steep bank, part of a Roman encampment. It is a small but ancient building of rubble and brick, and its embattled tower has a ring of six bells. Of the old five the 4th is inscribed 'John Stephens, Bell Founder, of Norwich, made us 5. 1718.'

Hasketon, St. Andrew, has a Romanesque west tower, round at base, with octagonal belfry stage, containing a ring of six. Originally five by Miles Graye in 1628, the 2nd was recast by T. Mears in 1832. In 1899 a treble was added and 3rd and tenor recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The tenor is 9 cwt.

Theberton, St. Peter, is a thatched building with round embattled west tower containing five bells, all by Mears and Stainbank, 1875.

Weybread, St. Andrew, has a ring of six by Moore, Holmes and Mackenzie, who recast the old three and made the augmentation in 1879. Wissett, St. Andrew, has six bells in its round west tower.

Before leaving Suffolk, it might be mentioned that the ancient parish church of Holy Trinity, Bungay, built in the 11th century, has its round tower adorned with shields bearing the arms of Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and son of Edward I., and the Montacute, Bigod, Beauchamp and other families. This round tower is believed to be the oldest in England, dating from King Canute (1030). Its single bell bears an invocation to 'Margareta.' A fine bell cast in 1566 apparently by John Brend, sen., was sold by the parish in 1755 for £82 7s. 6d. The present bell was bought second-hand in 1759. As already mentioned Wortham, St. Mary, has a circular tower, the largest of its kind in England and built some two centuries before the present church, but it is now in ruins. The single bell, by T. Osborn (1785) is placed in a wooden belfry at the west end.

Examples of round towers occur in Essex at Broomfield, Great Leighs, Lamarsh, South Ockendon, Bradfield Saling or Little Saling, and Pentlow.

Broomfield, St. Mary, has a circular 12th century tower 15 feet diameter, with a conical roof rising into an octagonal spire. It has a ring of six by John Warner and Sons, erected in 1874-5 by H. C. Wells, of Broomfield Lodge. The tenor is 11 cwt. 18 lbs. in G.

Great Leighs, St. Mary, has a ring of five, all by Miles Graye, 1634, with a tenor 12 cwt. in G. This tower is 17 feet in diameter and also of the 12th century. There was formerly a wooden house here, called 'Bell-rope house,' the rent of which went towards providing bell ropes.

Pentlow, St. George, round tower of the 14th century, has a ring of five, tenor about 10 cwt. The treble is by John Thornton, 1711, and all others by Miles Graye, 1628-1665. The other Essex churches named have one bell each.

Other round towers occur in Cambridgeshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Northants. Such round towers as occur at Banbury, Oxon (10 bells) and Exeter, St. David (8 bells), both of which are illustrated in the late Rev. F. E. Robinson's "Among the Bells," incline to the Georgian or Renaissance style of architecture, to which I hope to refer later.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Dumper's Restaurant, Winchester, on August 21st, at 3.15 p.m., the executive having met earlier.

The Master, Mr. George Williams, presided, and members were present from Alresford, Alton, Bishopstoke, Blackmoor, Bournemouth (St. Peter's and St. John's), Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Deane, King's Somborne, Micheldever, Newport (Isle of Wight), Portsmouth, North Stoneham, Southampton, Twyford, Wonston and Winchester.

Apologies were received from Canon Goodman, the Rev. N. C. Woods, Major Stilwell and Messrs. F. W. Rogers, F. S. Bayley, R. A. Reed, G. Smith and J. W. Faithfull.

Mr. Williams welcomed those present and said he was pleased to see so many.

Several letters had passed between the Dean of Winchester and the general secretary regarding the refusal to allow the members to ring the Cathedral bells that day. The committee recommended that no good purpose would be served by pursuing the matter.

The report and balance sheets for the year were presented, and, after several questions had been answered, were passed on the proposition of Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Stone.

The committee recommended that district secretaries should be left to do their best in their own districts. The Guild, as a whole, would do what it could to assist, but much depended on local circumstances.

Now that the ban has been lifted and some districts are able to hold meetings, the point arose as to whether the pre-war percentage payments from districts to general fund should be resumed. As the position varied considerably, it would probably be found that some districts might have a deficit balance. It was, therefore, considered by the committee best to carry on as at present until the next annual meeting, when the whole matter can be reviewed.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Preston, seconded by Mr. R. Brown, all the officers except the Recorder of Peals were re-elected. Mr. R. A. Reed wrote tendering his resignation as Recorder of Peals. Owing to military duties he was uncertain of his position in the future. Mr. Reed's resignation was accepted with regret, and the general hon. secretary was instructed to write and thank him for his services.

Mr. A. V. Davis was elected Recorder of Peals on the proposition of Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Reed.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Pullinger, seconded by Mr. Warner, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Winchester on the first Saturday in July, 1944, subject to the Cathedral bells being available for ringing. If not the meeting to be at Basingstoke.

Mr. A. W. Bishop and Miss E. Bishop, of Newport, Isle of Wight, were elected members.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Rev. — Watson for allowing the use of St. Maurice's bells. Some good Minor and Doubles were rung there during the afternoon and evening. Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Grandsire Doubles were rung on handbells after tea.

The joint report of the Master, Secretary and Treasurer contained the following items: 'As will be seen from the balance sheet, the total income for the year has been £42 10s., made up as follows: 48 hon. members and 214 ordinary, £33 8s.; whilst donations, collection and interests brought in £9 2s., deducting working expenses as detailed in balance sheet of £26 18s. This sum includes £10 to "The Ringing World" Fund (by auditor's authority), leaving us a credit balance of £15 12s. on the year's working.

"During the year we have lost several members by death, viz., Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the talented Editor of "The Ringing World"; Mr. E. Harding, sen., who was a district secretary from 1914 to 1924, previously he had acted for several years as assistant to Mr. J. W. Whiting. We have also to report the deaths of Mr. G. H. Coombes, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Mr. E. Clapshaw, of Farnham, Surrey, two oldest members of our Guild. Mr. Coombes having reached within three weeks of his hundredth birthday, and Mr. Clapshaw at the age of 98 years and five months. Both of these aged members had been loyal Sunday service ringers through the whole of their long ringing careers.

Thirteen peals were rung for the Guild in 1942, consisting of Grandsire Doubles 6, Grandsire Triples 6, and Plain Bob Minor 1.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.—On Saturday, August 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in memory of Mr. H. A. Edwards: V. Jones 1, F. Wheeler 2, L. Mace 3, C. Gardiner 4, H. Taylor (conductor) 5, F. Carter 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—Annual meeting, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, September 4th, at 5 p.m. Bells 4 p.m. and after meeting. Make own arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West and North and East Districts.—Joint meeting at Ruislip, on Saturday, September 4th, at 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea may be provided in Church Room, Bury Street, followed by meeting, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells (8) available 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bus from Ruislip Church to Pinner every 20 minutes.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea in the Parish Church Hall, Moorgate, at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Helmingham, 3 p.m., Saturday, September 4th. Framsdén bells (8) also available. Tea at Framsdén Greyhound at 5 p.m.—T. W. Last, Helmingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Soberton on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Standish on Saturday, Sept. 4th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe 4.15, price 1s. 6d. approximately.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's (8 bells), Brunel Terrace, Elswick, Newcastle, on Tuesday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Important business.—Ernest Wallace, Vice-President.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

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YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock. Names to Miss J. Taylor, 165, Dunhill Road, Goole, by September 8th.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by September 6th.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting (with Bristol City practice) at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Names by September 8th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Moorside, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bring own food.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Shrivenham on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.—R. F. J. Gillling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Hoylandswaine, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. H. Haigh, Guider Bottom, Hoylandswaine, near Sheffield, not later than Sept. 8th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A garden fete at Stoney Stanton on Sept. 11th will include handbell items by Earl Shilton tune ringers. Refreshments available. Tower bell ringing from 5 p.m. The Thurlaston meeting has been postponed.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Preston on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Advise early.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at East Haddon (6 bells) on Saturday, Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea provided.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of Southampton District at North Stoneham on Sept. 11th. Bells from 2.30. Service and tea at 4.45 p.m. only for those who notify by Sept. 8th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Great Gaddesden on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Bring own food. Buses from Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at East Ilsley Saturday, September 11th. Service 4.30 p.m., tea 5 p.m. Ringing before and after service. Names for tea to Mr. W. Hibberd, by September 8th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names not later than September 7th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30. Names for tea by Sept. 13th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., and tea to follow for those who notify me by the previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Haddenham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 10th.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m. Names for tea must reach Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, Wakefield, by Sept. 15th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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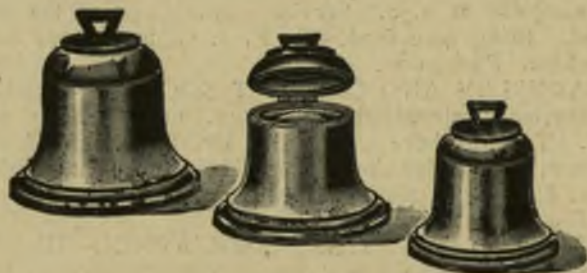
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RULES.

If we were to go by appearances we might imagine that ringers are a body of men who are bound hand and foot by rules, and in all they do in the exercise of their art are subject to regulations and restrictions. Most belfries have their rules; local societies have their rules; the associations have their rules; the Central Council has its rules; there are rules for peal ringing, and rules for methods; in fact pretty nearly everything ringers are or do is, nominally and formally at any rate, controlled and regulated by some rule.

It always has been so. Dozens of codes, centuries old, have come down to us, some in verse and some in prose; and throughout the history of the Exercise their number has been continually added to. Yet it is the fact, and a fact we need not be ashamed of, that of all organisations connected with the Church, ringers have always been the most independent and the freest from the restraints of authority.

The earliest rules of all were inherited from the old medieval guilds on which the first ringing societies were modelled. Later the general English custom of forming clubs for all sorts of purposes influenced bodies like the College Youths, the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham, and the like. They all adopted rules so that the business and social intercourse of the society could be transacted smoothly, without friction, and in due order. The rules of the Central Council and the modern associations are of the same kind and for the same purpose. The rules which regulate peal ringing and the art itself are intended to raise and maintain the standards of ringing. All these rules are natural and necessary for the life and well-being of the Exercise.

But some seventy or eighty years ago a new style of code of rules was introduced. They were not voluntary agreements by the ringers, but regulations and restrictions which outside authority attempted to impose. There was a reason for them and a good deal of justification. From causes which we need not now consider, the general state of ringing and the relations between ringers and the Church authorities were altogether unsatisfactory. There was great need for reform, and reform did come eventually. But one of the means which the clergy of the time tried to use to improve the condition of their belfries was to draw up rules and lay down restrictions which they expected their ringers to abide by. Ellacombe and the men who worked with him and thought as he did set great store by these rules. And so we find in many belfries a long list of things

(Continued on page 394.)

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which ringers were expected to do, and a still longer list of what they were forbidden to do. Even to-day when a new band is started there is generally a set of rules more or less copied from these others, and the Central Council has drawn up and published a model set much in the same spirit.

Do these codes of rules serve any good purpose? Perhaps the best answer is that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they remain a dead letter. A good band does not need any rules. A bad band never observes any. The most successful and efficient bands carry on usually without any rules or formal organisation. They do things, or refrain from doing things, not because rules say they must or must not do them, but because they feel instinctively what is the right thing to do, and they know that there are some things which are not done. There was a time when the state of belfries called for the exercise of some discipline on the part of the clergy, but to-day, if a parson told his ringers that there must be no drinking, bad language, or smoking in the belfry, they would not be resentful or indignant; they would only feel amused. The men of St. John's, Deptford, did well to keep their rule in their minute book as a relic of the past. It was hardly necessary even to label it as 'obsolete.'

But we need not think we are all that amount better men than our predecessors because in these things we are different from them.

THE TUNING OF BELLS. THE RAILWAY WHISTLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is a statement in 'The Ringing World' for August 20th (page 364) that calls for comment. Your contributor, referring to the phenomenon of the drop in pitch of the sound of an engine whistle as the train passes through the station, says this 'is only an aural illusion.' It is true that the pitch of the whistle is constant to an observer on the train, but it is also true that for the observer on the platform the pitch of the sound of the whistle of an approaching train is higher than the pitch of the sound of the same whistle at rest, while for a receding train the pitch is lower. This phenomenon is well known to scientists under the name of the Doppler effect, and has a simple explanation in terms of the wave theory of sound. The drop in pitch depends on the speed of the passing train and need not necessarily be an octave.

This does raise the very interesting point that, since a bell in process of being rung is a pretty fast-moving object for at any rate part of the time, the apparent pitches of the various tones of the bell—by which I mean the actual pitches of the sounds that reach the ears of the hearer, ignoring possible genuine aural illusions—may be appreciably different from the pitches observed when the bell is struck, at rest, in the tuning-room.

Moreover, if the theory is correct that different portions of the bell are responsible for the production of the different tones, the various harmonics would not all be affected in the same degree, as those parts of the bell nearer the sound-bow are moving faster than those nearer the crown. And the effect on any of the tones would depend also on whether the part of the bell producing it was moving towards or away from the listener, i.e., it would be a varying effect.

It is obvious that to go quantitatively into the above considerations, or indeed into any detail, would be a very intricate business, but they may afford an explanation of the recognised fact that there is so often a lack of agreement between the effect of a ring of bells heard dead in the foundry and the same ring swung in the tower.

A. R. PARGETER.

Meadow Road, New Milton, Hants.

'THE TEN RINGERS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The moral we evidently are supposed to draw from the parable of the Ten Ringers in your recent issue is unsound, and if the writer intended to apply the lesson of the five wise and five foolish virgins, the analogy is a false one. In these days, when there is a general shortage of competent ringers, their places cannot be properly filled with half-trained pupils; and the band that helps another band is in the long run helping itself.

CHARLES GREEN.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday, September 1, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE PART,

TENOR 16 cwt.

WILLIAM T. PETTY Treble	ERNEST STITCH 5
EDWARD T. BAILEY 2	*ALFRED W. WRIGHT... .. 6
ALFRED HANNINGTON... .. 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
CHARLES H. PERRY 4	DAVID HUGHES Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PERRY.

* 50th peal on the bells. Rung half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Mr. B. J. Toby, a member of the local band, who was buried the same day.

FAR HEADINGLEY, LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

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

Tenor 18½ cwt.

MISS L. K. BOWLING ... Treble	WILLIAM BARTON... .. 5
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 2	GEORGE ROBINSON 6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM ... 7
ALFRED SMITH 4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS, Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7½ cwt.

DAISY M. ANDREWS Treble	WILLIAM CHALK... .. 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS 2	GEORGE A. ANDREWS 6
HARRY J. MILLATT 3	HORACE A. WRIGHT 7
CHARLES A. ANDREWS ... 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, September 2, 1943, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD.

AN OBSOLETE RULE.

Owing to the death of Mr. William J. Jeffries, who had been for long the captain of the band at St. John's, Deptford, the Vicar expressed his wish to have a meeting of the ringers, and it was held at the Vicarage on August 25th.

The Vicar referred to Mr. Jeffries' long and faithful services, and at his request Mr. George H. Daynes was appointed to the vacant office of captain and towerkeeper. Mr. F. W. Richardson was elected secretary.

Mr. Richardson read the rules, and when he came to No. 10 he suggested that it should be wiped out. It reads: 'No drinking, bad language, or smoking, shall be allowed in the belfry, which is part of the church, the bells being instruments of sacred music, used in the service of God.'

After a discussion the Vicar made the happy suggestion that a Note should be added, 'This rule is now obsolete,' and this was agreed to.

The Vicar of St. John's is not only president of the local society, but has learnt to handle a bell, and the members hope and are pleased to think he will soon be quite at home with change ringing.

BUSHEY.—On Saturday, August 14th, 1,376 Bristol Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1, F. Smallwood 2, G. M. Kilby 3, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 4, F. W. Brinklow 5, F. E. Collins 6, H. J. Cashmore 7, M. F. R. Hibbert 8.

HUDSON'S NEW LIGHT.

TREBLE BOB VARIATION.

There has always been a number of people in the Exercise who hold that, as a method, Treble Bob is spoilt by the Slow, and especially by the two leads when the tenors are in the Slow. Several variations have been introduced with the object of omitting those two leads. John Carter produced Forward, in which, not only the Slow, but the fixed treble is eliminated; and in more recent years variations have been rung which, either by arrangements of Kent and Oxford places or by making the treble a slow bell for a few changes, prevent the tenors from going into the Slow.

In theory the music should be very much improved, but that is hardly the actual result. Practical experience shows that the leads with the tenors in the Slow have a definite musical value, not because they are in themselves attractive, but because they prevent monotony, and by contrast very much heighten the musical value of the other leads. This is in accordance with strict artistic principles. It is not likely, therefore, that these variations will ever have any particular popularity and that probably is the reason why the earliest of all, after a somewhat promising start, fell flat and was forgotten by succeeding generations of ringers.

As early as the year 1843, William Hudson, of Sheffield, who has earned an honourable name as a composer of Stedman Triples, introduced a variation in which both Kent and Oxford places are used to keep the tenors out of the Slow. The idea caught on quickly and some peals were rung by different bands, but when the novelty had passed the plan lost its popularity and disappeared from use. Here are the records of the peals rung:—

'March 26th, 1843. On Tuesday the Sheffield St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers ascended the steeple and rang 5,600 of Hudson's New Light on Treble Bob Major in the time of 3 hours and 46 minutes, being the first in that method ever rung by any company of campanologists. The band was stationed as follows: Wm. Hudson sr. 1, Thomas Whaley 2, Isaac Lomas 3, Geo. Hudson 4, John Lomas jr. 5, Thomas Crossland 6, James Firth 7, Wm. Hudson jr. tenor. In the above method of ringing Treble Bob the plain course contains 800 changes, and the peal was rung with only nine bobs. Composed and conducted by Mr. William Hudson sen., who has received great praise for the work.'

'April 23rd, 1843. Monday last the Junior Company of Change Ringers, belonging to Wakefield old parish church, ascended the steeple of Liversedge church and there rang a true peal of treble bob major consisting of 8,000 changes, which they completed in the short space of four hours and a half. The peal was composed in two parts with 25 courses in each part, and the tenors at home every course end without going into the slow hunt. Each part contained 7 bobs, 14 bobs completing the peal. This new mode of composing was found out by Mr. William Hudson, sr., of Sheffield, who composed the above peal and kindly presented it to the above named society. The following are the names of the band as stationed: W. Milner 1, Stephen Prestley 2, Joseph Healey 3, William Swain 4, Henry Senior 5, W. Scott 6, Thomas Clapham 7, George Milner, tenor. Mr. J. Firth, conductor of the Liversedge Company of Change Ringers, umpire and time keeper. Mr. B. Thackrah of Dewsbury, Mr. Barraclough of Birstall, Mr. T. Dawson of Bradford and several other professionals were in attendance and expressed their approbation of the splendid manner in which it was performed.'

'September 10th, 1843. Castleton in the Peak of Derbyshire. On Monday the Castleton junior ringers ascended the tower and rang a true peal of 7,200 Hudson's light upon Treble Bob System in 3 hours and 57 mts. As under are the names of the ringers. 1st Robert How, 2nd John Dokin, 3rd Robert How, 4th Wm. Eyre, 5th Thomas Ashton, 6th Samuel How, 7th Geo. Hall, tenor James Hall.'

'October 29th, 1843. On Sunday the 23rd inst. the celebrated ringers of Saddleworth, Yorkshire, rang a true peal of treble bob consisting of 720 changes in twenty-five minutes on their sweet toned bells. In this peal there is neither bob nor single. When the treble dodges before, the third and fourth places are made both in the Oxford and the Kent treble bob method. This is the first peal ever rung in that method on six bells. The ringers were stationed as follows: First Ralph Broadbent, second John Holden, third Benjamin Holden, fourth Martin Holden, fifth Benjamin Broadbent, tenor Albert Wood. The Peal was composed by James Platt and conducted by Ralph Broadbent. John Holden is in his 79th year.'

THE LADIES' GUILD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—In Belfry Gossip you record the handbell peal of Grandshire Doubles at Kinson as being the first rung entirely by ladies. This is an error, as on May 23rd, 1942, at 101, Surrey Road, Branksome, Dorset, we rang a peal of Grandshire Doubles in 2 hours 10 minutes: Miss F. M. Childs 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshall 3-4, Miss Jessie C. Chick 5-6.

F. J. MARSHALLSAY.

11, Exton Road, Boscombe East, Bournemouth.

SALISBURY.—At St. Martin's, on Sunday, August 8th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *H. A. Roles 1, E. J. Maidment 2, F. L. Harris, R.A.F. 3, L. Harris 4, E. L. Box, R.A.F. 5, H. C. Bond 6, F. W. Romaine (conductor) 7, W. Chalk 8. *First quarter-peal and first attempt.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

A notable feature in the history of ringing and one which for good and evil had a profound influence on the character and development of the art and the Exercise was the matches and prize-ringing meetings which at one time were common all over the country, but especially in the North and the West. The full story of them has not yet been written, and before it can be done it would be necessary to gather together a very large amount of information which lies buried in the pages of old newspapers, and to arrange and study it.

To some people it will seem that the task is not worth undertaking. Prize ringing, they think, was a discreditable phase in the history of the Exercise, and it would be well to forget all about it. That is hardly the right way to look at the matter. History, to be true history, must record the bad as well as the good; and one, as much as the other, has done its share in making us what we are to-day.

Many men will think that there is something strange and indeed repulsive in the idea of competitions and contests being held in churches for money or other prizes. Such things they feel could only happen in conditions when standards were low and discipline was lax. The actual fact, however, is that competitive ringing matches were common events, in varying degree, from the very earliest times until within living memory.

Ringling began, and for long maintained itself, as a sport; at first as a purely athletic sport classed by writers among such 'manlie sports' as wrestling and football. Later on, among the best bands, it developed into a much more intellectual pastime, but it did not lose many of the marks and characteristics of its origin. The idea that ringing could be a branch of church work never entered into the heads even of sober and responsible churchmen who fully recognised the part bells had to play in the service of religion.

Thomas Staveley, a lawyer and a man whose sympathies quite clearly were with the High Church party during the closing years of the seventeenth century, wrote a book called 'The History of Churches in England.' In it he had described the ancient and superstitious uses which once attached to bells, and he goes on—'but the memory of these ceremonies being now almost exploded, the bells themselves are still preserved in their modern and proper use, innocently serviceable to ecclesiastical, civil, and recreative purposes. And they are now esteemed part of the church goods and furniture, and it is manifest sacrilege to steal, embezzle, or alienate them.'

The interesting thing about this quotation is that it affords evidence that sober and well instructed Church opinion two hundred years ago recognised that bells might be used not only for religious services, but for secular reasons, and also for purposes of sport. It would perhaps be true to say that during some centuries more bells were cast and hung for recreative purposes than for ecclesiastical and civil purposes.

It did not seem to people in the Middle Ages, or in the centuries following the Reformation, so strange or so wrong, as it would to-day, to use a part of a church, and some of its goods, for sport. Churches were then very much the centre of the social life of the people. The laity largely owned and controlled the fabric of the

buildings and the fittings, which they had to maintain and pay for. And the buildings were used for many other purposes than holding religious services.

A ringing match in the church steeple was no more incongruous to the men of the eighteenth century than a cricket or football match on the village green. All were carried on in the same spirit and by much the same people, nor were there any more objectionable features in the one than in the others. It must be remembered, too, that ringing matches could not have taken place without the active co-operation, or at least the tacit consent of the church authorities, clerical and lay. In the case of the lay authorities, represented by the churchwardens, there was definite and active co-operation. The clergy, as a body, seem to have concerned themselves very little about ringing. It was no business of theirs and, in that tolerant and stationary age, one of the last things they would have wished to do was to interfere with the customs and sports of the common people, or to stir up trouble by attempting unnecessary reforms.

But as the century passed away, a vast change was beginning, which, in time, completely altered the social and religious life of England and had a most profound effect on the ringing Exercise.

This change, which is known as the industrial revolution, was much more violent in the North than elsewhere, and it was in the North that the objectionable features of prize ringing became so much developed that they were a scandal and a disgrace both to the Church and the Exercise. The accounts which have come down to us from the middle of the nineteenth century paint most lurid pictures of drunkenness, disorder, gambling and cheating; and when we have made all necessary allowances for exaggeration, we can understand why the men who founded the territorial associations set their faces against prize ringing in any form, and we may be thankful that they were successful in their efforts to stamp it out.

It would not be fair, however, to deny that prize ringing did have some good results. It helped to keep up a strong interest in ringing, it put a premium on good striking, and it discouraged slovenliness and slackness. The thought that a bad blow or a missed dodge in the course of a three-hour peal might be sufficient to lose his band the prize, could not fail to keep a ringer keen and alert who otherwise would have been inclined to be careless. In London and the Eastern Counties where there was very little prize ringing, men did very well without it, and were foremost both in good striking and in skill and keenness.

The worst features of the prize meetings in the North were due, not to the ringers themselves, but to the men who attended for other reasons than to ring or to listen to the ringing. A most undesirable concomitant was the large amount of betting. It was inevitable in any competitive event and it brought many evils in its train. The lot of a workman in those days was a hard one. He worked long hours and lived in sordid conditions. Drink and betting were almost the only relaxations he had, and we need not wonder if on his scanty holidays he over-indulged himself in them. The ringers were more fortunate than their fellows because they had something to take an interest in. Sunday service ringing was common in the North long before it was permitted in the

rest of the country. Perhaps the reason was not because the church authorities desired it, but because Sunday was the only day on which the ringers generally were free from work.

It was a very general custom, not only in the North but throughout the country, to hold a prize ringing meeting when a new ring of bells was opened. This custom dated from at least the eighteenth century. The arrangements were made by the churchwardens, who issued a circular inviting bands to compete, and stating the amount of the prizes and the conditions of the contest. Some of these circulars are still extant. In 1820 six complete peals were rung in two days at the opening of Chesterfield bells. In 1819, at the opening of Ashton-under-Lyne bells, there were four days' continuous ringing, which included two complete peals, besides touches and peal attempts by fifteen or sixteen different bands. In 1814 the twelve at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, were opened by a prize ringing match and a silver cup and twenty guineas were won by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham. More similar meetings could be mentioned, but the one which at present specially concerns us arose out of the opening of the eight bells at St. Michael's, Flixton, in 1808.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. B. J. TOBY.

The death is announced of Mr. B. J. Toby, of Bridgend, who passed away on August 27th and was buried in the local cemetery on Wednesday, September 1st, his brother ringers acting as bearers. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including a wreath from the Bridgend ringers. Mr. Toby had been in failing health for some time and last rang for service on Christmas Day. During nearly 40 years he had been a ringer at St. Illtyd's and had rung 21 peals for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. He was 69 years of age and leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his passing. A muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to his memory.

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23456 2 —

640.
23456 M B W R

64352 1 — 1
23456 2 — 1 1

640.
23456 M B 4th In R

35264 —
23456 1 — — 2

640.
23456 B 4th In W R

23564 — 1
23456 — — 2

672.
23456 M B W R

54326 1 — 2
23456 — 2 2

672.
23456 M B W R

25634 — 2 1
23456 2 — 1 1

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Many well-known ringers were present last Saturday at Surfleet on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Enid Richardson, the only child of the popular Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and Mr. Brian Wayman. A peal of Stedman Cinques was rung. Readers will join in congratulations and all good wishes to the happy pair. An account of the ceremony will appear next week.

Inspector Harold Poole, of Leicester, has been selected as one on the 'short list' of applicants for the post of Chief Constable of Peterborough.

Thirty years ago last Friday, Mr. John Segar, of Retford, tapped a peal of Minor in seven Surprise methods. The methods were selected from the 35 Mr. Segar was able to tap. Half of them were Surprise.

On Sunday morning September 6th, 1807, 'the Coventry Youths rang on that Harmonious Peal of Bells at St. Michael's a peal of Tittum Bob Royal, consisting of 6,140 changes.'

The Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Little Bob Major on September 8th, 1911, at Brading in the Isle of Wight. Mr. E. Bankes James conducted.

On the same date in 1923 the first twelve-bell peal in Hants was rung at Winchester Cathedral.

William Eversfield, a distinguished ringer and composer, died on September 9th, 1847, at the age of 79.

Henry Law James called a peal of Surfleet Treble Bob Caters at Surfleet on September 9th, 1913.

'A Compleat peal of Five thousand and forty of Gathrine's Triples' was rung at Coddham, in Suffolk, on September 10th, 1741. Theodore Ecclestone rang the treble.

On September 10th, 1898, a peal of Canterbury Pleasure Royal was rung at Bromsgrove. The method is Plain Bob spoiled.

The Christleton ringers of Cheshire rang 5,376 Double Norwich Major on September 11th, 1844.

CONFISCATION OF BELGIAN BELLS.

According to reports published in 'The Daily Telegraph,' Belgium will soon have no church bells left if the present rate of confiscation made by the Germans is continued. The Vatican has protested to the German Government, and resistance is growing in Belgium itself. The Belgian bishops in a protest say: 'It is impossible for us to refrain from publicly voicing our denunciation and condemnation. We solemnly declare that we will exert all our authority to oppose a measure the sole object of which is to convert our bells into weapons of war and instruments of death. It is the first time in the history of Belgium that such desecration has been carried out.'

During the last war there were many tales of Belgian and French bells having been confiscated and used for munitions, but for the most part they proved unfounded. In past centuries it was the custom of all armies (including our own) to treat church bells as legitimate spoils of war.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The remarks of Mr. Lankester are very interesting, and it would be of the utmost value if full information can be got as to the alleged sale of two bells 60 years ago. I have been through our Leicester journals, but beyond mentions of the central lantern tower being dangerous and its ultimate repairing and rebuilding, there is no mention of bells. I am still of the opinion that the late T. North's account is substantially correct and that after 1831 there never were more than five bells. As the dates given are so recent there would certainly be references in the Cathedral records and the local press. Perhaps Mr. Lankester or one of the local ringers can make research and get full evidence.

ERNEST MORRIS.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM FISHER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Fisher, of Coseley, which occurred on August 21st at the age of 64 years. The funeral service was held at Christ Church, Coseley, on August 27th, and was conducted by the Rev. G. R. Garnham, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. C. H. Barker. The body was laid to rest in the churchyard adjoining.

The bearers were Messrs. W. Jeavons, S. Baker, A. Baker and J. D. Holden, members of the local band, and other ringers present were Messrs. N. Leach, B. Horton and F. Holden. The bells were rung half-muffled and on the next day an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but it came to grief after 35 minutes' ringing. Afterwards a quarter-peal was rung by G. Hughes treble, J. D. Holden 2, H. Knight (conductor) 3, J. Cope 4, F. Brotherton 5, S. Baker 6, N. Leach 7, and A. Baker tenor.

Mr. Fisher was attached to the Coseley belfry for more than 40 years and for most of that time was conductor. He rang 302 peals for the Stafford Archdeaconry Society and some for other associations. The list includes Grandsire, Stedman, Oxford Bob, Darlaston Bob, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Major and Caters, Superlative, Cambridge, Norfolk, Staffordshire, Bristol and London Surprise. He conducted the only peal of Staffordshire Surprise rung for the society. At one time he was a member of the Central Council.

OUR LOST BELLS.

THE TOLL OF WAR.

During four years of war we have suffered a grievous loss of bells, but when we consider the great number of churches which have been destroyed, we have cause for thankfulness that the number of ringing peals which have perished is not still greater. London has fared the worst, and at present there remain in the City only three churches where the bells can be rung. One ten (St. Magnus'), one six (St. Andrew Undershaft) and one five (St. Bartholomew) have been taken down for safety, and another six (St. Katherine Cree) are safe but unringable.

The following is a list of the destroyed rings. We believe it is complete, but should be glad to receive any additions or corrections:—

CITY OF LONDON.

	No. of Bells
St. Bride's, Fleet Street	12
St. Giles', Cripplegate	12
St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	12
St. Lawrence Jewry	8
St. Stephen's, Coleman Street	8
All Hallows', Barking, Tower Street ...	8
St. Olave's, Hart Street	8
St. Andrew's, Holborn	8
St. Dunstan-in-the-East	8
St. Vedast, Foster Lane	6

EAST LONDON.

St. Mary's, Bow, Stratford	8
St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel	8
St. George-in-the-East	8

WESTMINSTER AND SOUTH LONDON.

St. Clement Danes', Strand	10
St. John's, Horsleydown, Southwark ...	10
St. John's, Kennington	8
Christ Church, Blackfriars Road	8

THE WEST.

Charles Church, Plymouth	10
St. Nicholas', Bristol	10
St. Sidwell's, Exeter	10
Stonehouse	8
St. Peter's, Bristol	8
St. Mary-le-Port, Bristol	8
Clifton Parish Church	8
St. Andrew's, Bath	8
St. James', Bath	8
Clyst, St. George	6

THE NORTH AND THE EAST.

St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth	12
St. Martin's, York	8
Little Horkesley, Essex	5

THE SOUTH AND WALES.

St. Mary's, Southampton	10
Holy Rood, Southampton	8
SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley	8
St. Mary's, Swansea	8

Several other churches have been destroyed, leaving the towers and bells intact. Whether it will be possible to ring the bells in some cases is very doubtful.

DEATH OF MR E. D. BUCKINGHAM.

The death has occurred of Mr. E. D. Buckingham at the age of 64 after an operation at Epping Hospital. He learnt to ring at Thornham Magna in 1896 and rang his first peal there, one of Doubles, in April, 1898. In 1900 he was in the employ of the late R. H. Hayward at Marlesford and rang several peals with him. In 1904 he went as groom to Mount Park, Coggeshall, and was there a number of years. He joined the Coggeshall company and rang several peals of Double Norwich and Surprise with Messrs. D. Elliot and E. Beckwith, and afterwards with Mr. W. Keeble. He then went as groom-gardener to the late Archdeacon Scott at Bradwell-juxta-Braintree, still keeping with the Coggeshall company. He was noted as a very sure ringer and good striker.

He joined up at the beginning of the last war and went to Salonika, where he developed deafness, and, after being discharged from the Army, went to live at Writtle, joining the Writtle company and ringing several peals in the district.

In 1920 he went as head gardener to Canon Paynter, Rector of Springfield, and there he formed and taught a new company. On April 22nd, 1922, he conducted the first peal on the bells. In 1929 Canon Paynter went to live at Blackmore, Mr. Buckingham going with him. His deafness increased and he was so handicapped that he had to abandon ringing altogether, greatly to his regret. However, on Victory Sunday he cycled the 24-mile return journey from Blackmore to Springfield to ring for the morning service.

He kept no record of his peals, but he rang 13 for the Norwich Association and many of Double Norwich and Surprise for the Essex Association.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT EAST ARDSLEY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at East Ardsley on August 28th, when members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Felkirk, Headingley (St. Chad's), Liversedge, Rothwell, Bushey and the local company.

Ringling began soon after 3 o'clock, when the visitors were entertained to tea by the ladies of the local company.

The president took the chair at the business meeting, which was held in the belfry.

A vote of thanks to the ladies was proposed by Mr. J. W. Benten and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. Pinder acknowledged the vote. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local band was acknowledged by Mr. E. Watson.

Two new members were elected, Mr. P. Woodward, of Felkirk, and Mr. S. Dell, of East Ardsley.

The next meeting will (if possible) be held at Idle on September 25th, and an alteration to the visit to towers list was made after consideration had been given to travelling difficulties. The October meeting will be held at Birstall and the November meeting at Bradford.

DEATH OF MR JOHN WOODBERRY.

A WELL-KNOWN WORCESTERSHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Woodberry, of the St. Mary's, Kidderminster, company, who passed away in his sleep on Sunday, August 29th, after a brief illness, in his eighty-fourth year.

A familiar figure at district and other meetings, he was an active ringer up to the last, and his genial smile and ready greeting will be missed at these gatherings and in his home tower, where, during 50 years, he had a record for Sunday service ringing equalled by few.

As postmaster for Franch, near Kidderminster, for many years, his opportunities for peal ringing were somewhat limited, but he rang 39 peals for the Worcestershire Association. The details of peals for other associations are not available. His last peal was Grandsire Caters at Kidderminster on April 29th, 1939, which was conducted by his son, Mr. Charles H. Woodberry, the present Master of the Dudley Guild. He was then in his eightieth year.

The funeral was at Wolverley on Thursday afternoon, September 2nd, and the large gathering practically filled the church.

Before the burial the bells were rung fully muffled in rounds and a course of Bob Minor, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the open grave by John Bass 1-2, William Short 3-4, Robert Matthews 5-6, Bernard Ashford 7-8. This was followed by 360 Bob Minor on the tower bells, now half-muffled. The 'whole-pull and stand' was then rung 83 times, followed by a further 360 Bob Minor.

In addition to those who rang at the graveside, the following members of the association were present: Messrs. K. Salter, J. Smith, A. Wright and J. Bennett, of St. Mary's, Kidderminster, C. Skidmore (Brierley Hill), and J. William Smith (Stourbridge).

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COTGRAVE.

The quarterly meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association at Cotgrave on August 28th was well supported, 60 members and friends sitting down to tea, arranged by Mr. Walter White, of Cotgrave.

A short service was held at 4.30, the address being given by the president of the association, Canon Wilkinson, who took as his text, 'Go ye forth abroad and make disciples,' a most apt quotation for a ringing cleric to enlarge on, which he did in a manner which appealed to all.

Four new ringing members and one honorary member were elected.

Long Eaton was selected for the next quarterly meeting in November, with Eastwood for the October meeting and Radcliffe for December. The secretary reminded the members of the Newark meeting on September 25th, and hoped for a good attendance. Votes of thanks to those who had made the meeting a success concluded the business.

Methods were rung from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Minor, including one touch of Bob Minor, in which Nottingham, Leicester, Devonshire and Kent were represented.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Allow me, sir, to applaud your leading article of 'The Ringing World' dated August 27th. I, for one, would go further and say omit all reports of meetings from your pages, except, perhaps, those of annual general meetings. After all, when all is said and done, to those that have attended a particular meeting, a report is superfluous, whilst to those that were absent a report is of little interest.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Grove, N.W.9.

[Reports of meetings have an interest for some readers, and we have no intention of suppressing them or curtailing them beyond the elimination of superfluous words and matter.—THE EDITOR, 'The Ringing World'.]

BELGIAN AND DUTCH CARILLONS.

AN ENGLISH MUSICIAN'S OPINION.

Readers of 'The Ringing World' will probably remember Dr. Charles Burney from the reference to the 'Tintinnaloga' in his 'History of Ringing,' and also as the man who preserved John Jenkins' 'Five Bell Consorte.' In his time (that is during the latter half of the eighteenth century) he was an important person in musical and literary circles. On two occasions he made an extensive tour on the Continent in search of material for his great history, and during the second, which took place in 1772, he had considerable experience of carillons and carillon playing.

At Ghent he went up the belfry to examine the bells and machinery and watch the carillonneur at his job. He found him 'in his shirt with collar unbuttoned and in a violent sweat.' Performances were given on four days a week from 11.30 until mid-day. Burney acknowledged the skill of the performer, but the whole affair was only 'a Gothic invention and perhaps a barbarous taste, which neither the French, the English, nor the Italians have imitated or encouraged. The notes of one passage run into the next, and everything is rendered so inarticulate and confused as to occasion a very disagreeable jargon.' The tunes played mechanically by the clock were, in his opinion, very tiresome 'for night and day to hear the same tune played every hour during six months, in such a stiff and unalterable manner, requires that kind of patience which nothing but a total absence of taste can produce.'

At Louvain was a certain Monsieur Kennis, a fine violinist. 'The solos he writes for his own instrument and hand are so difficult that no one hereabouts attempts them but himself, except M. Shippen, the Carillonneur, who lately, piqued by the high reputation of M. Kennis, laid a wager that he would execute upon the bells one of his most difficult solos, to the satisfaction of judges appointed to determine the matter in dispute; and he gained not only his wager, but great honour by his success in so difficult an enterprise.'

Dr. Burney visited Munich, Vienna, Leipzig and Berlin. He returned by way of Hamburg and Amsterdam. At Groningen 'I again found myself in a country of carillons. I had indeed heard some slight attempts made at Bremen, but in this place every half hour is measured by chimes.'

At Amsterdam Burney was introduced to M. Pothoff, the blind organist at Oude Kerk. 'He was deprived of his sight at seven years by the smallpox and this misfortune first suggested to his friends the thought of making music, which hitherto had afforded him no pleasure, his profession, and it afterwards became his darling amusement.' He was the carillonneur of the town and took Dr. Burney up the tower of the Stad-huys while he performed. 'It is a drudgery unworthy of such a genius; he has had this employment however for

many years, having been elected to it at thirteen. He had very much astonished me on the organ, after all I had heard in the rest of Europe; but in playing those bells his amazing dexterity raised my wonder still higher; for he executed with his two hands passages that would be very difficult to play with ten fingers.

'He began with a psalm tune with which their High Mightinesses are chiefly delighted, and which they require at his hands whenever he performs, which is on Tuesdays and Fridays. He next played variations upon the psalm tune with great fancy and even taste. When he had performed this task he was so obliging as to play a quarter of an hour extempore in such a manner as he thought would be more agreeable to me than psalmody.

'But surely this was a barbarous invention, and there is barbarity in the continuance of it. If M. Pothoff had been put into Dr. Dominicetti's hottest human cauldron for an hour, he could not have perspired more violently than he did after a quarter of an hour of this furious exercise. He stripped to his shirt, put on his night cap, and trussed up his sleeves for this execution; and he said he was forced to go to bed the instant it was over, in order to prevent his catching cold as well as to recover himself, he being usually so much exhausted as to be utterly unable to speak.

'By the little attention that is paid to this performer, extraordinary as he is, it should seem as if some hewer of wood and drawer of water whose coarse constitution and gross habit of body required frequent sudorifics would do the business equally to the satisfaction of such unskilful and unfeeling hearers.'

'Besides these carillons à clavier, the chimes here, played by clockwork, are much appreciated. The brass cylinder on which the tunes are set, weighs 4,474 pounds, and has 7,200 iron studs fixed on it, which, in the rotation of the cylinder, give motion to the clappers of the bells. If their High Mightinesses' judgment, as well as taste, had not failed them, for half the cost of this expensive machine and its real charge for repairs, new setting, and constant attendance, they might have had one of the best bands in Europe. But those who can be charmed with barrel music, certainly neither want nor deserve better.

'This is truly the country of chimes; every quarter of an hour a tune is played by them at all the churches; but so indistinctly, on account of the confluence of sounds, that I was seldom able to discover what was played. There is scarce a church belonging to the Calvinists in Amsterdam without its chimes, which not only play the same tunes every quarter of an hour for three months together without being changed; but by the difference of clocks one has scarce five minutes' quiet in the four and twenty hours. In a few days' time I had so thorough a surfeit of them, that in as many months, I really believe, if they had not first deprived me of hearing, I should have hated music in general.'

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 387.)

The most striking incident in the 'battle of styles' since the publication of Thomas C. Lewis' protest, was the attempt to prevent the recasting of the ring at Coventry Cathedral in 1926. The bells of St. Michael's, Coventry, for long enjoyed a very high reputation, and it was at one time usual to class them among the three best tens in England. It must be remembered that their reputation depended almost entirely on tradition, for, in the year 1885 it was decided that the safety of the tower and spire did not permit any further ringing, and the bells were hung dead for chiming only. In 1926 there were few men who had ever really heard the bells, and no importance can be attached to vague memories forty years old. Still there is every reason to believe that the bells had earned and deserved their reputation. They were cast by Pack and Chapman just before the Mancroft ring, and they hung in a lofty tower.

When they were taken to the foundry, as might have been expected, they revealed many defects. The overtones were a mass of unrelated discords, and generally the bells not only failed to reach even approximately the five-tone standard but did not reach the standard laid down by T. C. Lewis, which some have supposed was the standard of the old founders and tuners.

The answer to this might have been that how the bells sounded in the foundry, and whether the overtones were correct or not, was, for the people of Coventry, of very little importance. What mattered was how the bells sounded in the steeple, and they had, through many years, shown themselves to be, not merely a satisfactory ring, but one of outstanding merit. This, in effect, was the answer given to a suggestion to retune Painswick bells. But, in the case of Coventry, it was not equally convincing. The conditions which made St. Michael's bells such a fine ring had passed away and would not return. They were cast and tuned to be a ringing peal and would ring no more.

There can hardly be a doubt in the mind of anyone that, as chimes and for the purposes of tune playing, modern bells are altogether superior to old style bells. It is a great pity that the famous old Coventry ring has been lost to the Exercise, but it happened when the bells were hung dead for chiming. As a ringing peal they might have been preferred by some men to any modern bells; but, as things actually are, the people of Coventry undoubtedly are much better off than they would have been if the bells had not been recast.

Those who are specially interested in bell tuning should read a little book by Mr. Cyril F. Johnston entitled 'The Antiquary, the Bellfounder, and the Church,' which deals with the question clearly and authoritatively from the point of view of a modern founder. There are also two small books by Mr. E. Alexander Young — 'Bell Tones and How to Observe Them,' and 'English Bells and their Tuning' — in which the case for the old style bells is forcibly put.

So far as the general public is concerned (and that includes ringers as a body) there need not be any controversy between old and new style tuning, for tuning is not an end in itself, but only a means to an end; and that end is to produce bells which will delight and satisfy the hearer. Correct tuning is much more important in

the case of carillon bells and bells used for chiming tunes than it is for ringing peals. In carillon music there is a definite air which attracts the attention of the ear and necessitates conscious listening on the part of the hearer. Each note is of definite value and must be in proper tune or the air is spoilt. In change ringing there is no air, and the hearer seldom listens to the bells in the sense that he listens to music.

The charm and attraction of ringing bells lies in the mysterious power they have of forming a background to a man's thoughts, of awakening memories, and stirring emotions. Many years ago we were talking to the late John W. Taylor, who had just returned from a visit to France. He had been to Paris and on his way back stopped at Rouen to hear the big bell there. We asked him what he thought of it, and his reply was, 'It made me feel religious.' That was a striking and a significant reply, especially from a bellfounder.

For single bells and for ringing bells perhaps the most important quality is that elusive and indescribable thing we call tone. It seems to be independent of harmonies, for many old bells have it whose overtones most certainly are discordant, and the peculiarly attractive qualities of the best Rudhall or Thomas Mears bells are not found in modern bells. These, however, have their own attractive qualities, and there is no absolute standard in the matter. The standards of artistic taste change from age to age, and the younger generations will probably expect from bells something rather different from what their forefathers did. In any case it would be foolish for a modern bellfounder to go back to the old unscientific style of tuning on the chance that, by some luck, he might produce another Painswick or Mancroft ring.

(Concluded.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. F. Judge (conductor) 1, *Miss Valhalla Hill 2, W. L. B. Leese 3, W. Judge 4, J. Malins 5, J. E. Judge 6, G. Caudwell 7, *Lambourn 8. *First quarter-peal.

GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE.—On Sunday, August 29th, at All Saints' Parish Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Tilston 1, G. Williams 2, L.-Cpl. Ann Goddard 3, R. Sperring (conductor) 4, A. Newhall 5, J. Randles 6, T. R. Griffiths 7, R. Jarvis 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, August 29th, 720 Bob Minor on back eight with 6-8 covering: *Miss K. Brooks 1, *Lieut. W. F. Gibbons, R.E.M.E. 2, *G. Dodds 3, S. Croft 4, F. D. Bishop 5, H. Brooks 6, Capt. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E. (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8. *First 720.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Whitby 1, V. Tipton 2, S. Clark 3, J. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, S. Carter 6, F. Bird (conductor) 7, B. Copping 8.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. T. Petty 1, W. H. Evans 2, E. T. Bailey 3, J. E. Spice 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. W. Wright 6, D. R. James 7, D. Hughes 8. Rung half-muffled for Mr. B. J. Toby, who died on August 27th.

FOXEARH, ESSEX.—On Saturday, September 4th, 720 Bob Minor: Samuel Twitchett 1, Mrs. L. Wright 2, P. Gridley 3, Gnr. N. Hough 4, A. Maxim 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6. Also a 720 Kent Treble Bob by P. Gridley 1, A. Maxim 2, Gnr. N. Hough 3, L. Wright 4, S. Twitchett 5, J. W. Jennings (conductor) 6.

HAVERHILL.—On Sunday, Sept. 5th, 720 Bob Minor: Peter Carter (first 720) 1, F. Making 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, Gnr. Norman Hough 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

PUTNEY.—On Sunday, September 5th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. T. Elson 1, E. Cassell 2, J. Herbert 3, E. Bilby 4, A. Williams 5, W. Malins (conductor) 6, H. G. Miles 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

DARLINGTON.—At St. John's, on Sunday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Lindsey 1, A. Coates 2, A. West 3, H. Taylor 4, F. Newton (conductor) 5, T. Hill 6, L. Venus 7. Rung by the combined members of St. John's and St. Cuthbert's, who have combined to ring alternately at both towers.

WONSTON, HANTS.—On Sunday, September 5th, 960 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. W. R. Melville 1, Nesta Smith 2, W. R. Melville 3, G. Smith 4, E. Warner 5, R. Smith (conductor) 6.

NEED FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.**CRITICISM AND ADVICE.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Whilst travelling up and down the country I have taken every opportunity of ringing at various centres widely separated, and have come to the conclusion that it is high time that we ringers as a body bucked up our ideas and greatly improved the standard of our performances, not from the point of view of methods so much, but of striking and regular attendance, *to time*, at practices and for Sunday service ringing.

Although certain individual towers may regularly turn out good ringing, the average is a poor show, compared with what it could be if everyone made the maximum possible effort.

We have not a lot to pat ourselves on the back for. There is still too much indifference to striking, too much practising done on a Sunday, too many absentees and latecomers, too little effort made towards regular week-night practices, too little co-operation between some ringers in the same tower and between neighbouring towers. In short, in spite of the brake necessarily applied by war-time conditions, too much apathy, too much selfishness, too many thinking what can be got out of ringing instead of what can be put into it. It is our duty to give our best always and, if necessary, inconvenience ourselves to be present and help the rest of the team.

In spite of the difficulties due to the war, a much greater effort is need and is possible. It is no use waiting until after the war to make a real general effort.

More youngsters must be properly taught, ringers must attend more regularly and punctually, and we must greatly raise the standard of what is generally regarded as good enough for service ringing.

Competent ringers who consider that the ringing at their tower is satisfactory must not leave it at that. They must go to other towers and help them, if they need and desire help, at their practices, and so help to get all the bells going and teach new ringers on a much greater scale than ever before.

Well-struck call changes are better than badly struck methods, and well-struck Plain Bob better than badly struck advanced methods. Nevertheless, bands which are capable should always endeavour to improve their 'method' standard as well as striking, but striking comes first.

In conclusion, let us all put our backs to the wheel, pull the wool from over our eyes and realise that at present our efforts leave much to be desired. Let us get down to the job now and produce results worthy of the traditions and the bells of this country.

'RINGER IN THE SERVICES.'**H.M.S. 'RENOWN.'****GIFT OF HANDBELLS.**

On Thursday, September 2nd, the ringers of Leicester Cathedral met in the choir vestry to hand to the Bishop of Leicester a set of eight handbells, which are to be presented to H.M.S. 'Renown,' Leicester's adopted warship. The Bishop had been asked by the chaplain of 'Renown' to aid in obtaining a set of handbells for use in the ship, as there were ringers among the crew. An appeal to the Cathedral company met with a ready response, and a set of eight, made as good as new by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., is the result. A brass plate on the box is inscribed, 'Eight Bells, H.M.S. "Renown."'

The bells were handed to the Bishop by Inspector Harold Poole, who said it had been a pleasure to carry out the request, and thanked those who had helped in the various stages of the work.

Accepting the bells on behalf of the officers and men of 'Renown,' the Bishop said he hoped they, as well as the bells of the Cathedral, would before long be ringing to celebrate peace. He read the letter he proposed to send. A message of good wishes from the ringers was also sent, with hopes that the bells would prove of good use and give pleasure to those who rang and heard them.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED set of small handbells (6 or 8). Tenor about size 12.—H. Means, 303, Norwich Road, Wisbech, Cambs. Phone Wisbech 516.

WEDDING.

At St. Lawrence's Church, Surfleet, on Saturday, Sept. 4th, Ashley Joseph Brian, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Teddington, Middlesex, to Enid Mary, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs have removed to The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Moorside, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bring own food.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Shrivenham on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Great Gaddesden on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Bring own food. Buses from Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at East Ilsley Saturday, September 11th. Service 4.30 p.m., tea 5 p.m. Ringing before and after service.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Benington on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30. Names for tea by Sept. 13th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., and tea to follow for those who notify me by the previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch. — Meeting at Haddenham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 10th. —F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m. Names for tea must reach Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, Wakefield, by Sept. 15th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting at Northaw on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided at the Hut. Buses from Potter's Bar Garage every 30 minutes.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Wolvey, Saturday Sept. 18th. Bells (6) during afternoon and evening. Tea in Village Hall, 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Meeting at Ramsbury on Sept. 18th. Bells (6) open 2.45. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Sept. 14th. — T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, near Marlborough, Wilts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice, Finchampstead (6 bells) on Saturday, Sept. 18th, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Horsham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells at 3 p.m. Efforts will be made to arrange tea for those who advise me by Sept. 13th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. Clement on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5. Bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western Division. — Meeting at Lyminster on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4, followed by tea and meeting at the Vicarage. Names for tea must be sent by Sept. 14th to L. Stilwell, Acting Hon. Sec., Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. All requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Hutchison, Market Place, Ripley, by Sept. 15th. — W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual district meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who notify Mr. H. R. French, Lamorbey, Sturry, near Canterbury, by Wednesday, Sept. 15th. Nominations for officers must reach me not later than Sept. 16th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Witham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Annual Meeting at Clent, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., Lytton Hall. Names for tea by Sept. 16th to Mr. A. Crane, Parame, London Road, Knebworth.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Uttoxeter on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. to all who notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, before Sept 14th.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — Meeting at Great Waltham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) during afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Tea and business afterwards. Numbers for tea before Sept. 15.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Enderley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8). Ringing 3 p.m. Tea in School for those who notify me by Sept. 15th.—H. D. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at Bispham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Burrington on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at North Wingfield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea for those who notify Mr. W. Wain, South View, Church Lane, North Wingfield.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Practices will be discontinued until further notice. Sunday ringing at 10.15 a.m.—W. T. Elson.

EALING PARISH CHURCH, ST. MARY'S.—Practice every Tuesday, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.—A. Harding.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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HEARING.

A short while ago we stressed the need for training beginners to use their ears properly when they are learning to ring. The thought can be carried much further, for we believe that the thing which, more than another, hinders many men from becoming really good ringers is that they do not pay sufficient attention to the part hearing should play in change ringing.

Every blow a man strikes when he is ringing a touch or a peal is the result of a complex series of actions, mental and physical, in which most of his faculties are concerned. He must use his eyes to find out which rope he must follow. He must use his arms and body to give the right amount of pull and at the right time. Many ringers stop there, and if they use their ears at all it is only to check whether eyes and arms have done their work properly. Hearing is with them much less important than seeing. But the competent ringer uses hearing, as much as seeing, to find his way among the ropes.

The striking of a blow in change ringing is, as we said, the result of a complex series of actions, but there is one point which forms the focus to which the man's attention is mainly directed. To many ringers this focal point is the instant when he pulls his rope, but with the really skilled ringer it is shifted on to the actual blow of the bell. You will find something very similar in any skilled work that men do. Watch a good carpenter or mason with hammer and chisel. His work, you will say, depends on how he strikes the end of the chisel, but that is not where his attention is concentrated. The amateur will keep his eye on the place where his hammer strikes, but the craftsman looks further forward to the point of the chisel and to what is happening there.

So it should be in ringing a bell in changes. The ringer should know and feel before he pulls his rope exactly how the bell will strike. He uses his sense of hearing, so to speak, in anticipation, and does not wait until the bell has spoken. There is nothing very strange or unusual in this. The same thing happens, in a much simpler form, when a man is tapping a tune on handbells, or chiming with an Ellacombe apparatus. In change ringing the matter is complicated by the long interval between the pull and the sound of the bell, and by the necessity of using sight as well as hearing.

This co-ordination of seeing, hearing, and pulling is not easy to teach or to learn, yet a first class ringer must possess it, and all first class ringers do possess it. It is most easily acquired, perhaps, when a man has a

(Continued on page 406.)

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borough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's,
Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

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natural sense of rhythm, and is fortunate enough to be associated with a belfry where there is a tradition of good striking. It is excellent advice to young and ambitious ringers, and to progressive bands, to devote their attention first, not to the ringing of advanced methods (for they are easy enough to ring when a man is a really competent ringer), but to the attainment of a complete mastery of the sound of the bells and the rhythm of the changes. When that is acquired odd struck bells cease to cause any trouble—their falseness is hardly noticed; the interest in change ringing is much more than doubled; and the pleasure of those who have to listen is vastly increased.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Since the lifting of the ban on ringing there has been a most welcome increase in the number of meetings held by associations. It is an excellent sign of the vitality of the Exercise, and evidence that we have not suffered nearly so much from the long silence as was feared. It has, however, put this journal in somewhat of a difficulty which we must explain to our readers.

Notice of meetings must be given and must be published in our columns, but by official regulation we are strictly limited as to the amount of space we may devote to notices. By cutting out all unnecessary words we managed to keep within the limits prescribed, but last week the number sent us considerably exceeded what we could print, and we had to hold over those of the most advanced dates.

As the dark evenings approach we may expect the number of meetings to lessen and the difficulty to disappear; but if we have to curtail some notices, or to hold over some, secretaries will understand it is because we have no option in the matter.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SOLIHULL.

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

On Thursday, September 9, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At 109, SHARMAN'S CROSS ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

ARTHUR D. COOK... 1-2 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 3-4

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 5-6

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, September 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 11 in G.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4

*ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 5-6

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal, aged 14 years.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Two ty-Five Minutes,

At SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 5-6

RONALD SUGELING ... 3-4 | MISS HILDA G. SNOWDON... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GREASLEY, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*FREDERICK H. SHAW... ..Treble	WILLIAM H. LANCASTER ... 5
FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 2	FRANK BRADLEY... .. 6
WM. H. THORNLEY, SEN. ... 3	*THOMAS WHEAT... .. 7
JOHN E. HOBBS... .. 4	EDWARD C. GOBEY ... ..Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by E. C. GOBEY.

* First peal of Major.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

CHARLES T. COLES ... ..Treble	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 5
JOHN W. CARTER 2	*WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON ... 6
PHILIP A. CORBY... .. 3	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 7
JOHN G. AMES 4	CYRIL R. BURRELL ... ..Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a victory peal.

BURFORD, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E flat.

*VALHALLA V. H. HILL ...Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 5
†CECIL G. CALCOTT 2	†WILLIAM J. DIXON 6
BERNARD S. NICHOLS... .. 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
JACK JUDGE... .. 4	JOHN E. SPICE ... ..Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First attempt for a peal. † First peal of Major on an inside bell. ‡ First peal of Major. An 80th birthday compliment to the mother of the ringers of 4 and 7.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CLEWER, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in F.

E. DENNIS POOLE... ..Treble	WILLIAM WELLING 4
FRANK H. HICKS... .. 2	NORMAN V. HARDING... .. 5
JAMES A. GLASS 3	TONY PRICE ... ..Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

Rung for the induction of the Rector, the Rev. C. Dymoke-Marr.

CHEDDLETON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 11 cwt.

HENRY CARNWELL ... ..Treble	JOHN G. CARTLIDGE... .. 4
JOHN E. WHEBLDON 2	*HENRY SUTTON 5
WILLIAM EDWARDS 3	WILLIAM CARNWELL... ..Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM CARNWELL.

* First attempt. A thanksgiving for the Italian capitulation. The towers represented were Kingsley, Chedale, Cheddleton and Norton.

SLOUGH.—On September 11th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: T. Smith 1, Mrs. A. W. Barker 2, W. H. Fussell 3, G. Gutteridge 4. *E. Hudson 5, A. W. Barker (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Kent.

WEDDING PEALS.

The following peals were rung to celebrate the marriage of Flight-Sergt A. J. Brian Wayman to Miss Enid Mary Richardson, which took place at the Church of St. Lawrence, Surfleet, on Saturday, September 4th.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb. in F.

WALTER AYRE ... ..Treble	†MRS. J. E. DAVIS 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 2	FRANK E. PERVIN 8
ALBERT WALKER 3	JOHN WALDEN 9
WILLIAM H. HEWETT ... 4	JOHN A. FREEMAN 10
CHARLES T. COLES 5	RUPERT RICHARDSON 11
*JOHN E. SPICE 6	JACK BRAY ... ..Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* First peal on twelve tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Cinques.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E flat.

MRS. JACK BRAY 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	JACK BRAY 7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE 9-10	

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. JACK BRAY 1-2	JACK BRAY 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4	WILLIAM H. HEWETT 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

JILL POOLE 1-2	ALBERT WALKER 7-8
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE 9-10
JOHN E. SPICE 5-6	FRANK E. PERVIN... .. 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

LEWIS OF BRIXTON.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to your article of September 3rd on 'The Tuning of Bells,' the firm of Lewis, of Brixton, recast the ring of six bells at Shipbourne, Kent, in 1880.

There is a small chime of six bells at Keston, near Bromley, which is undoubtedly Lewis' work. The bells bear only the initials G.D.L. and were presented by the late Countess of Derby in 1887. The clavier keys closely resemble organ pedals, and the use of wooden transmission bars bears unmistakable sign of an organ builder's work. Incidentally in this respect the chime manual is identical to that at Shipbourne.

The four quarter bells and hour bell in the clock tower of the Passmore Edwards Teachers' Orphanage in West Hill, Sydenham, are inscribed G.A.L., MDCCC. LXXXI. and are also unquestionably Lewis' work.

Considering the period at which these bells were cast, when the tuning of very small bells presented great difficulties, both chimes are of remarkably good tone and tune, for the smallest bell in each case is only 13 inches in diameter, and the 'tenor' at Keston will barely weigh 2 cwt.

To the best of my recollection, both chimes consist of 'maiden bells.'

R. H. DOVE.

70, Morris Lane, Leeds 5.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

(Continued from page 397.)

In the North of England method ringing and peal ringing were developed later than in the South and under considerably different conditions. There was little or nothing of the social influences which so powerfully affected bodies like the College Youths, the Union Society of Shrewsbury, and many another; and very much of keen rivalry and competition between tower and tower, and town and town. The result was that prize ringing assumed an importance and a prominence quite unknown, not only in London and the Eastern Counties, but also in the Midlands. The history of the art in the North in early times is almost entirely concerned with the industrial districts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.

In Lancashire, at the close of the eighteenth century, the two leading bands were those at Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne. Both places had eight bells with a tenor of about 14 cwt. Not much is known of their early ringing history, but the Oldham men rang 10,080 changes of Bob Major in 1783, and 14,480 changes in 1784, both peals composed and conducted by Thomas Kay. They called themselves the Oldham Youths. The others called themselves the College Youths of Ashton-under-Lyne, but that does not mean that they had any connection or affinity with the London society.

The two bands frequently met in prize ringing, and as there was little to choose between them in skill, the rivalry was keen, and increased in intensity as one or the other was judged to have performed the better. The climax came early in 1808, when the new bells of St. Michael's, Flixton, were opened. The rivals outclassed all the other competitors, but were so equal in merit that the judges could not decide between them, and divided the prize.

Naturally that pleased neither band, and, as a result, the Oldham men challenged the others to a special match. The test was to be Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, the stake was forty guineas, and the match was to be decided at Flixton. The Ashton men accepted the challenge and the date was fixed for June 24th, 1808. The man who was mainly instrumental in fixing up the matter was John Travis, a well-known publican and betting man of Oldham. It was at his house that articles were signed, and deposits lodged. As will be seen later, his interest in the matter was not due to any love of ringing, or regard for the honour and credit of the ringers of the town he lived in.

The method of judging these matches was as follows: Inside the belfry, with the band which was competing, were two 'lead takers down,' one appointed by each band. Their duty was to follow the ringing, check each lead as it was rung, and each call as it was made, and see that the peal was a true one.

Four censors were appointed, two by each band. They were locked up in a room near the church where they could clearly hear the bells, and their duty was to note any trip, or bad blow, or other fault in the ringing, and debit so many 'faults' to the offending band. The band with the least number of faults won the match.

Over all was a grand umpire, appointed by agreement and sworn to do justice. He did not interfere, unless the censors disagreed and appealed to him. Then his verdict was final.

The lead taker down for Ashton was Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, and for Oldham Jonathan Hague, of Manchester. Thomas Ogden and John Moss were the Ashton censors, and Daniel Bamford and John Amellows the Oldham censors. Joseph Grayson, of Birmingham, was the umpire.

Some of these men had distinguished careers as ringers. Grayson began his ringing at Sheffield, where he called a peal of Grandsire Caters in 1799. He took part in the first peal on the ten at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, in 1811, and after his removal to Birmingham, where he was employed as a silver-plater, he rang in several peals with the St. Martin's Youths, including the long peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1820.

Joseph Tebbs was one of the foremost men of the North both as ringer and composer. He called peals of Grandsire and Stedman Caters, and of Treble Ten of Leeds, he rang in the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal ever accomplished, and ten years after the Flixton match he was the conductor of the mixed band who, at the opening of the new ring of ten at Ashton, won the prize against thirteen other competitors. He was an able composer and his peal of Stedman Triples has considerable merit.

Ogden and Moss were prominent Ashton ringers and Ogden called a peal of Grandsire Caters at York Minster when the Ashton men went there in the early days of the nineteenth century.

'John Amellows' real name was Wolstencroft, but his mother, who was well known in Oldham, was usually called Owd Malley, hence the son's name. John was a very good ringer, but lazy. He used to say that one meal without work was better than two meals with work.

Before the day of the match came round, both bands rang some practice peals, and the endeavour was to complete the Grandsire Triples in the quickest possible time. On Sunday, May 15th, the Ashton men, in their home tower, rang Holt's ten-part in 2 hours and 33½ minutes. Next day the Oldham men rang the peal on their bells in 2 hours and 38 minutes. On May 24th the Ashton men rang it in 2 hours and 34 minutes; and on May 29th the Oldham men rang it in 2 hours and 29½ minutes.

These were quick times, and the keenness and closeness of the contest is shown by the fact that on the same morning the Ashton men rang the peal in 2 hours and 29½ minutes. On June 4th the Oldham band again rang it in 2 hours and 29½ minutes.

The Ashton men probably thought they had reached the limit of the speed at which their own bells could be rung, and on June 9th they accepted an invitation to go to Mottram-in-Longdendale, where the tenor was 12 cwt., and see what they could do there. They rang the peal in 2 hours and 23½ minutes and, ten days later, repeated the performance in the same time.

These were very quick peals. So quick that at one time the general opinion was that either the peals were not properly rung, or the time was not correctly taken. We need not, however, question the records. In recent times some very fast peals have been rung and they show that the older ones were quite possible. Whether it is a good thing to ring so fast is another matter.

These were practice peals. The day of the great match was Friday, June 24th. Both companies went to Flixton on the Thursday and spent the day practising on

the bells, the bands having alternately the use of the belfry. They were accompanied by a large number of supporters and backers. There was not sufficient accommodation for all in the village, and most of the people had to spend the night in the carts and wagons they had come in. The ringers put up at the Dog and Partridge Inn. Next morning they were up early and, after a short walk in the meadows, had breakfast. The censors then tossed up to see which company should start first, and, the Oldham men winning, they went to the church, and after examining ropes and bearings, raised the bells and, struck into changes at 8 o'clock. They rang a good peal in 2 hours 32 minutes and 50 seconds. It was at once officially announced that they had rung a true and complete peal. The band was: James Taylor 1, Robert Cooper 2, Henry Hindle 3, Joseph Newton (conductor) 4, William Rigby 5, Joshua Kershaw 6, John Whitehead 7, James Gartside tenor.

It was now the turn of the Ashton men. They first carefully examined the ropes and the bearings. This was most essential, not only because ordinary wear and tear might cause defects, but because interested persons might be up to tricks. A little sand in one of the bearings—a strand of one of the ropes almost severed where it would not be noticed—those things would make all the difference which way the bets went. Competing bands very often brought their own ropes and put them on the wheels themselves before they started for the peal.

The Ashton men began just before eleven o'clock, they rang a superlatively fine half peal, and came into rounds after two hours and 34 minutes' splendid ringing. As they came out of the tower they were greeted by their

supporters with a ringing cheer, which changed to amazed disappointment when the censors immediately gave the verdict to the Oldham company.

What had happened was that Jonathan Wild, the conductor, called a bob two leads too soon in the sixth part. He then went on calling irregularly but finished with the last two parts in their correct order. The total number of changes rung was 5,012, or 28 short of the peal.

Seeing that there were the lead takers down in the belfry as well as the large number of listeners outside, it seems strange that Wild, having made the mistake, and knowing that he had made it, did not at once set up. He could not have hoped to deceive anyone. The truth probably was that the poor man did not know what to do. His colleagues in the band might forgive him, knowing how easy it is to make mistakes in peal ringing. But what about the company's supporters who had backed them freely and now stood to lose their money? Wild was to find out before long what they would think.

The Ashton-under-Lyne band consisted of Jonathan Wild (conductor) treble, Thomas Dewsnap 2, Samuel Moss 3, Thomas Hammond 4, Aaron Walker 5, Joseph Burgess 6, James Moss 7, Charles Greeves tenor.

It was bad luck for the band. They had rung splendidly, so well that they would certainly have won the prize if the peal had been true. As a compensation they received a gift of ten guineas from Ralph Wright, a local gentleman and magistrate, who wrote to a Major Lee (probably one of the churchwardens) asking him to divide the money among the ringers, 'as a small compliment to their merit in delighting the village of Flixton with their most excellent peal of Holt's Grandsire Triples.'

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

It has not been found possible to arrange tea at the Middlesex Association meeting at Staunmore to-morrow, and visitors must make their own arrangements. Tea can be obtained locally.

Victory ringing for the capitulation of Italy caused the abandonment of a handbell peal at Bournemouth after about three quarters of an hour's excellent ringing.

Perhaps for the first time, two handbell peals were rung in the same house simultaneously, these being accomplished at Glyn Garth, Surfleet, on Sunday, September 5th. They were Stedman Cinques and Bob Major.

Mr. W. H. Hewett, of London, had the honour of driving the bride and her father to church on the occasion of the Surfleet wedding.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who will reach his 92nd birthday to-morrow.

Charles Henry Hattersley was born on September 12th, 1844, and Charles D. P. Davies on September 12th, 1856. Both did fine work for the Exercise in their time and generation.

The first peal of Cambridge Court Bob Major was rung on handbells at Surfleet by the Cambridge University Guild on September 12th, 1922.

On the same date in 1928, the first peal of Kent Surprise Major was rung at Harlow Common by the Essex Association.

Shipway called the first peal of Imperial Place Major at St. Mary's, Islington, on September 13th, 1802.

Charles Middleton, whose name is so well known in connection with Cambridge Surprise Major, died at Norwich on September 14th, 1886.

The first peal of Bosmere Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on September 14th, 1933; and the first peal of Raunds Surprise Major at Bushey on September 15th, 1938.

The earliest recorded peal in Birmingham was one of Bob Major rung at St. Philip's on September 16th, 1755. This is the year from which the St. Martin's Youths date the foundation of their society.

The Cambridge University Guild rang a peal of Little Bob Royal at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on September 16th, 1912. They had previously rung a peal in the method on handbells.

James W. Washbrook called 11,328 changes of London Surprise Major, at Drayton, on September 17th, 1896. This was the extent with the tenors together on the In and Fifth's plan. The peal was beaten by the 14,112 at King's Norton in 1903. There is still a longer composition to be rung, though it is only one lead longer.

The Leiston men rang the first peal of Essex Surprise Major at Leiston on September 17th, 1932.

The first peal of Court Bob Triples was rung at Warnham on September 18th, 1886. The method has never enjoyed the popularity it merits.

Fifty years ago last Tuesday, Mr. James Parker called his first peal of Surprise Major. It was Superlative at Crawley and was also Mr. Frederick Dench's first peal of Surprise.

DEATH OF MR. F. COLE.

The death has occurred at the age of 39 at Gloucester of Mr. F. Cole from an accident in the course of his employment.

He learnt his early ringing at St. Peter's, Lytchett Minster, Dorset, and at Poole, where he was one of many instructed by Mr. F. G. Townsend. A pattern maker by trade, he became interested in aircraft and was employed at Cowes and Southampton in this capacity. After a while he was employed by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and during his stay in London made many friends, ringing regularly at St. Andrew's, Holborn, with Mr. J. Hawkins.

For domestic reasons he returned to Poole. After the death of his wife at the beginning of the war, he became a civilian instructor to the R.A.F. and was employed at Gloucester. He resigned this work to take employment with a Gloucester aircraft firm, with whom he was employed at the time of his death. He married his second wife in Gloucester twelve months ago.

At St. Lawrence's Church, Barnwood, Gloucester, on September 10th, half-muffled Stedman Triples was rung to his memory by S. E. Romans, T. Newman, W. Yeend, C. Martin, G. Case, J. Austin, A. R. Macdonald, H. Newman and H. W. Austin.

DIAMOND WEDDING OF MR. J. W. WILKINS.

To celebrate the diamond wedding of Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wrcombe, 459 Stedman Caters was rung by W. Plumridge 1, R. Coles 2, P. Newton 3, J. W. Wilkins (conductor) 4, C. A. Smith 5, E. Marham 6, G. Hinton 7, W. Welling 8, S. Goodchild 9, H. Wingrove 10.

Mr. Wilkins was married at Steventon, Berks, on August 20th 1883. He is now 80 years old and has been a ringer for 70 years. He learnt to ring at All Saints', Boyne Hill, which his father helped to build.

MEETING AT WILBURTON.

A very pleasant evening was spent at Wilburton on Saturday, September 4th, when ringers were present from Fordham, Sutton, Ely, Chatteris and the local band. The following methods were rung: Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Double Court, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor.

A meeting has been arranged to be held at Sutton on Saturday, September 25th, at 4 p.m.

WEDDING.

MISS ENID RICHARDSON AND MR. BRIAN WAYMAN.

A wedding of great interest to ringers took place at St. Lawrence's Church, Surfleet, on Saturday, September 4th, when Miss Enid Mary Richardson, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Glyn Garth, Surfleet, was married to Flight-Sergt. Ashley Joseph Brian Wayman, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Blackmores Grove, Teddington, Middlesex.



THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.

In Surfleet the bride is temporary captain of the Girl Guides, after being lieutenant of the Spalding High School Girl Guides. She is also a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The bridegroom is attached to Fighter Command of the R.A.F. and has taken part in operations. Before transferring to the R.A.F. he was in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment, and was in action in France, ending in the Dunkirk evacuation. Prior to joining the Forces he was a ringer at All Saints', Isleworth.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Vicar of Surfleet, the Rev. G. H. Clark. The music included the Bridal March from 'Lohengrin' and Mendelssohn's Wedding March, whilst the hymns sung during the service were 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost' and 'O perfect love,' as well as the psalm, 'I will lift up mine eyes.'

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a dress of white chiffon, with wreath of orange blossom, veil and silver shoes. She carried a shower bouquet of lily longiflorum and white heather, including a piece of the latter sent by Miss Wilson, sister of Mr. R. Wilson, secretary of the Holy Trinity, Hobart, Tasmania, Society of Ringers. The bridegroom was in his R.A.F. uniform. Mrs. D. L. Tomlinson (Sursleet) was matron of honour and Miss Jill Poole (Leicester) bridesmaid. They wore dresses of pale green organdie and carried bouquets of yellow roses and white heather. Flying Officer G. S. Thomas, cousin of the bridegroom, was best man.

The altar and screen were tastefully decorated with lilies and scabious by Miss Louisa Richardson, aunt of the bride.

The bridal party left the church through an avenue of ringers, holding handbells as an archway, whilst the Surfleet Girl Guides and Brownies formed a guard of honour. They were under the command of Mrs. Harvey, Assistant County Commissioner for Lincolnshire. At the same time the bells in the tower pealed out their joyful message of congratulation.

The reception was held at Glyn Garth, where just over a hundred guests were assembled. Besides the parents and other relatives of the bride and bridegroom there were present many friends from Surfleet and district, the employees of Mr. Richardson, and the following ringers and friends: Mr. and Mrs. J. Bray and Miss Enid Bray, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Freeman and Mr. M. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Poole and Miss Jill Poole, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walden, and Messrs. W. Ayre, W. H. Hewett, F. E. Pervin, J. E. Spice and A. Walker.

The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the best man, and the bridegroom, after responding, proposed the toast of the bridesmaids, to which the best man replied. Mr. Albert Walker proposed the health of the parents of the newly-married couple, and Mr. R. Richardson and Mr. J. S. Wayman responded. The Vicar proposed the toast of 'The Visitors,' which Mr. C. T. Coles acknowledged.

After the reception, the happy pair left for the honeymoon, which is being spent at an undisclosed destination. The bride wore a cherry marocain dress and white coat. Their home for the duration of the war will be at Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

There were a large number of presents, including many from ringing friends.

The ringing before the wedding ceremony was done by visiting ringers, and included touches of Stedman Caters and Cinques; whilst the ringing as the bridal party left the church, consisting of rounds and firing, was performed by the local ringers, assisted by visitors.

After the reception a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung, particulars of which will be found in its appropriate place, whilst on the following day handbell peals of Bob Royal, Stedman Cinques and Bob Major were accomplished. These peals were rung without interfering with Sunday service ringing. In the morning Stedman Caters and Cinques were rung, and for evensong, Stedman Caters and Cambridge Surprise Royal.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

On Saturday, August 28th, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher, of Beaconsfield, celebrated their golden wedding. They were married in 1893 at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor, Oxon.

Mr. Fletcher joined the Chinnor band in 1883 and is a member of various ringing guilds. He still takes part in Sunday service ringing at Beaconsfield.

The bells of St. Mary's, Beaconsfield, were rung, Mr. Fletcher and his three daughters taking part. A quarter-peal of Bob Major was accomplished by Miss M. Wingrove treble, Miss K. Fletcher 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, the Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, W. Edwards 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) tenor.

An attempt on Saturday, September 4th, for a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major was lost within ten minutes of the end.

OUR LOST BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Re 'Our Lost Bells' in current issue of 'The Ringing World,' I learn from the Rector of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, that nine of the bells are at Taylors, the 9th is undamaged. Five of the other eight are only partially damaged; three only are quite smashed up, but metal is saved. The tenor is still under the debris. Clyst St. George bells are still hanging in the tower. Whether any are cracked by heat of fire is not yet ascertained. Aveton Gifford eight bells were destroyed.

E. V. COX, President of Guild of Devonshire Ringers.
The Rectory, Tedburn St. Mary.

VICTORY BELLS.

Victory bells were rung last week in many places on receipt of the news of the capitulation of Italy.

At Kington Magna, Dorset, the Rector, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, soon got moving. Before 7 p.m. the village bells were rung in rounds and firing.

At St. Mary's, Putney, touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire: E. Cassell, A. Ford, H. W. Page, V. F. Gibbons, S. Croft, W. Winter, A. N. Other (Chesterfield).

At Truro, the Cathedral and Kenwyn bells were rung by request of the Mayor. Three generations of ringers, David J. Hurst, aged 10, his father and his grandfather, took part. As there is no black-out in the tower, the bells were rung by moonlight.

CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.—On Saturday, September 4th, 1,120 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Alec Munday (Radstock) 1, Tom Kimber (Hallabrow) 2, Ronald G. Beck (conductor) 3, John Downing (Hastings) 4, E. John Targett 5, Frederick A. Targett 6. Rung for the marriage of Mr. David Targett, a member of the local band, and Miss A. E. Kirtan.

ST. JAMES', BUSHEY.**THE CHURCH, BELLS AND RINGING.**

BY EDWIN JENNINGS.

There is a tradition that there has been a church on the site of St. James', Bushey, since Saxon times. That there was a chapel here in early times is evident from the fact that the deed granting the tithes to Bushey is dated between 1151 and 1168, i.e., during the abbacy of Robert of St. Albans. This early church was probably a wooden structure.

The earliest part of the present church is the chancel, which is thirty-seven feet long by seventeen feet wide, and was built about 1300 in the Early English style.

On either side of the interior is an arcade composed of three arches, resting upon slender, Purbeck marbled shafts. The lancet windows on the north and south sides (with the exception of one opening to the organ chamber) are of the same date. This latter window was no doubt for some reason substituted for a lancet window, probably when the nave was built.

The eastern triple lancet window was substituted in the place of a five-light square-headed window of the fifteenth century in 1870.

Along the two sides of the chancel there are stone seats. The rest of the furniture is modern.

In the north wall of the sanctuary is the large aumbrey which was restored by the Kynaston family, with the addition of a beautiful locally designed and carved oak door, executed by Mr. W. G. Whitehead, a local ringer. The roof of the chancel is modern, though the wall-plates are the original.

In the centre of the chancel hangs a very handsome candelabra which, before 1870, supplied the only artificial light for the whole church. It consists of two tiers of seven branches in each and a gilded dove above. It bears the following inscription: 'The gift of Richard Capper, Esq., at the request of Elizabeth, his wife, A.D. 1727.'

There are two very handsome Renaissance silver candlesticks on the altar (*circa* 1700), the gift of rector Falconer in the nineteenth century.

There is no chancel arch separating the chancel from the nave.

Above the modern Rood-screen is a large fifteenth century cambered beam supporting a plastered partition, on which are painted the arms of Queen Anne, probably executed during the restoration by rector Richard Smith, 1693-1739. On the east side of this partition are three panels painted in Jacobean times, showing a representation of the Shechinah (The Divine Glory), supported on either side by angels.

The nave is fourteenth century, the arcades are new. The arches and columns are copied from one originally existing on the north side. A small section of the

original moulding, which has been copied in the 1870 mouldings, can be seen built into the capital of the westernmost of the columns on the north of the nave.

The north doorway is modern and square-headed. Within it is inserted a timber frame with panelled span-drels in the perpendicular style and of fifteenth century date on the west of the door there has been preserved, though much battered, the old Benatura, or Stoup, for holy water. The wrought iron furniture on the door is beautifully modelled, the key-hole cover being a representation of St. George and the Dragon, and the lift of the latch on the aisle side a galloping horse.

The nave has a fifteenth century roof, a fine specimen of alternate hammer-beam and lie-beam type with large projecting brackets. Prior to 1870 this roof was hidden by lath and plaster—the pits of the lath nails can still be seen in the roof timbers.

The pulpit is a very handsome example of Jacobean work of the early part of the seventeenth century.

The glass in the windows of the chancel, aisles and tower is all modern and does not call for any comment.

In the clergy vestry (added in 1897) there is a window of two lights on the east side, being a relic of the old church and of the fifteenth century. In it are preserved, in old glass, four shields of arms. The first, with the date 1611, commemorates Sir James Altham, one of the barons of the Exchequer, whose memorial is to be found at Oxhey Chapel. The second, with date 1638, is for John Gale, who presented the existing old Communion plate and gave 'The Gale Charity.' The third is probably the coat of arms of Sir Thomas Egerton (Lord Ellsmere), Lord High Chancellor. The fourth, unidentified, was discovered in 1902 in a Bushey carpenter's box in small pieces.

All the glass in the north and east sides were damaged beyond repair by enemy action in October, 1940.

The tower, which was refaced in 1869-70, is embattled, with a west doorway and some original windows remaining. It is in the perpendicular style of the beginning of the fifteenth century. The ascent is by a newel stairway, carried up to a turret on the north-east side, and is entered by a four-centred doorway on the north side of the tower.

(To be continued.)

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

Although owing to unforeseen circumstances only 14 members attended the meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Soberton on September 4th, the gathering was a success from the learners' point of view, several of them ringing their first course of Grandsire Triples.

Tea was served in the White Lion and a meeting was held, the Vicar of Soberton being in the chair, supported by the Ringing Master (Mr. George Williams), the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the district secretary (Mr. R. J. Stone).

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Fareham on Saturday, January 15th. The general secretary proposed that a letter should be sent to each tower asking them to support the meeting. Votes of thanks to the Vicar and organist were passed. The methods included Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major.

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CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

In the greater English cathedrals, monastic or collegiate churches, the principal feature was the presence of a central tower, often combined with one or two western towers. These were the natural outcome of the cruciform plan, as facilitating the roof of a church with transepts, especially when the latter were lower than the nave and chancel.

At Claremont-Ferrand there was built in the year 510, in a church of secondary rank, a central tower 'with a great luxury of materials and profiles.' Both in Anglo-Saxon England and Normandy a central tower is almost always present in the greater churches. In the early Christian churches of Gaul, central towers were in existence as early as the 6th century, when they were open structures of wood, evidently lantern towers. Even when the central tower ceased to be constructed of wood, its use as a lantern still survived. To be of any use, however, for lighting purposes, the central tower needed to be very broad, and to be pierced with large windows set low down. As a rule it was lofty and narrow and its windows were often small.

The lower storey of such towers were often given elaborate ornament, as at Winchester, Pershore, Lincoln and elsewhere, all of which are decorated with elaborate arcading unnoticeable from below. Even the angel tower of Canterbury, though its windows are of great size, makes very little impression when seen from within. Of all our central towers, only two, perhaps, have decided artistic value *inside* the building, York Minster with its broad square tower of stone, and Ely Cathedral with yet more spacious octagonal lantern of wood.

Though a type of Saxon central tower occurs at Breamore in Hampshire and elsewhere, the pre-Conquest builder did not normally possess the skill to construct one on piers connected by arches. It was not until Norman methods had gained the ascendancy just before the Conquest, that churches with transepts and a central tower, supported only at its angle, came into being, as can be seen on quite a large scale at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Dover. [See my article on Twin Towers, p. 292.]

When the Normans had firmly established themselves in this country, the true cruciform plan began to assert itself, not only in larger buildings, but in quite modest sized parish churches. The central towers were for the most part short and sturdy, as at Newhaven and Melbourne (heightened at a later date), though exceptions occur, as at St. John's, Devizes, Wiltshire; Old Shoreham, Sussex; and the fine structure at Castor in Northamptonshire, with its three tiers of rich arcading, and many others, notably in Devon and Cornwall. Often we find the bell tower detached, even in the greater churches, built specifically lest the central tower, poised not too securely on the arches of the crossing, should be

endangered. As has already been shown, Salisbury Cathedral (p. 517, Nov. 13th, 1942) possessed a magnificent detached campanile with a picturesque wooden top, which was destroyed in 1789.

At Norwich there was a detached bell tower to the south of Erpingham Gate, and it appears from the Sacrist's rolls that it contained a ring of bells in addition to that in the central tower of the cathedral. St. Paul's Cathedral had a campanile containing the 'Jesus' bells, which was demolished at the Reformation. Other similar instances occur at Worcester, Westminster and Tewkesbury. Chichester is the only English cathedral retaining its detached campanile.

Another objection is that the piers of the central tower were usually so very broad that they obstructed the main vista of the church. Internally, at any rate, the central tower was little valued in later days, and was closed up by vaulting. This occurred at Gloucester, Wells, Winchester and other places. But, though of little value as a lantern, it was magnificently impressive from outside. So much was this appreciated that at Wells, the central tower erected c. 1200, was given a second storey early in the 14th century, and at Lincoln the central tower of 1238 was similarly heightened in 1307. Other such instances occur at Durham and elsewhere. The four piers at the entrance of the transepts are the weak point in every cruciform church and, in spite of all precautions, a central tower was always a source of danger in the greater churches. It did not rest on solid walls, but on open arches, and its great weight often of thousands of tons, tended to rupture the piers, and unless the foundations were exceptionally good, tore them away from nave, choir and transepts. Several central towers actually did fall—Winchester in 1107; Worcester in 1175; Bury St. Edmunds 1210; Evesham 1213; Lincoln 1237; Ely 1321; Selby 1690. Others had to be taken down and rebuilt, as at Peterborough. Sometimes they were strengthened by strainer arches, as at Salisbury and Canterbury, and occasionally these were inverted, as at Wells and Glastonbury. Similar precautions can be seen in the churches of Finedon and Rushden in Northants. From others their original wooden spires have had to be removed, as at Hereford, Lincoln and Ripon. Others, like St. David's, Sherborne, St. Albans, Rochester and elsewhere, have had to be considerably strengthened and underpinned.

In Llandaff Cathedral the central tower was dispensed with altogether, as also at Exeter in the 12th century, and Ottery St. Mary in the 14th, in both of which there were built towers at the end of each transept. [See my articles pp. 313 and 204/5.] Other churches were built with transepts but without a central tower, as at Acton Burnell, Salop; St. Mary's, Shrewsbury; St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, etc. Impressive cruciform churches with central towers of the 13th century are at Amesbury, Wilts; Witney and Bampton, Oxon; Uffington, Berks, and elsewhere. (To be continued.)

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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/-.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Northaw on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided at the Hut. Buses from Potter's Bar Garage every 30 minutes.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Wolvey, Saturday Sept. 18th. Bells (6) during afternoon and evening. Tea in Village Hall, 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horsham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells at 3 p.m.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. Clement on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5. Bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Lymminster on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4, followed by tea and meeting at the Vicarage.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2 p.m.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Witham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual Meeting at Clent, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., Lytton Hall.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual district meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Great Waltham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) during afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Tea and business afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Harbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Enderley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8). Ringing 3 p.m.—H. D. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Bispham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Biggleswade, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Exeter, Sept. 18th. Service St. Mary Majors, Cathedral Yard, 4 p.m. Tea at Western's Cafe, Bridge Street, 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Numbers by Sept. 13th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Swanage. Dedication of bells Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3.15 p.m. Ringing after the service and from about 6 to 7. Tea at Oriental Cafe, 5 p.m.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Ranworth on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 (additions to food welcomed). Buses leave Norwich 12.5 and 4.30, also 12.30 for Panxworth; return 7.27 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 20th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Dunelm Cafe, Old Elvet, 2/6 5.0 p.m.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Quarterly meeting at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) at 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15. Names not later Sept. 22nd.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at Deane, Bolton. Bells at The Saviour and Holy Trinity, Bolton, available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14, T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Great Bentley, Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business at the Plough Inn 4.45. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 22nd, to me at 'Woodhill,' Stratford St. Mary, Colchester.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting following. Names for tea not later than Sept. 22nd to Mr. H. W. Barrett, 22, Firdene, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Newark on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Short service at 5.50 p.m.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Braunston (6), Saturday, Sept. 25th. Notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT MEETING.—Meeting at Idle, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 3 p.m. Tea provided. Bring own food.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

SUFFOLK GUILD. — Meeting at Framlingham, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Simpson's Restaurant, 4.30, for those sending me p.c. by 23rd.—W. E. Maulden, 14, Market Hill, Framlingham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cheltenham Branch.—Meeting at Prestbury on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting 5. Names for tea before Sept. 22nd. — Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division.—Meeting at St. John's, Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., Church Hall. Tea only for those who notify me by Wednesday, Sept. 22nd.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Axbridge Deanery. — Meeting at Cheddar on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in Church House 5 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Beaconsfield on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 4 to 7 p.m. Bring tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Barnby Don on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m. Names by Sept. 21st.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Abingdon on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells: St. Helen's (10), St. Nicholas' (6) 3 p.m. Service, St. Nicholas', 3.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Sept. 22nd.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Opening of new 'Central Training School for Ringers' (electrical installation) at St. John's, City, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 3.30

p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Parish Rooms, Castle Green, 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. S. Emery, 34, Waverley Road, Bristol 6.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Acton, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Short service 5 p.m. The Rector hopes to provide tea and sandwiches. Ringing (probably) at St. Mary's, Ealing, in the evening. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTS.—Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business at 5 o'clock. Names before Sept. 28th.—E. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at St. James', Paisley, on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, at 2.30 p.m. Notify Mr. Neil Sharpe, 35, Argyle Street, Paisley, by Sept. 29th for tea.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Great Doddington, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (5). Service 4.30. Tea, free to those who advise F. Barber, Fairlawn, Doddington Ridge, Wellingborough, by Sept. 28th.

ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON (10 bells). — Practice, Monday, 7.45 to 9 p.m. Sunday ringing, 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Chas. Dean.

LEANING TOWERS.

A FOOTNOTE TO MR. 'MORRIS' RECENT ARTICLE.

Among the lesser known leaning towers it is worthy of note that at Barcheston, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, St. Martin's Church, built in the reign of Edward I. (A.D. 1281) and consecrated in 1291, has a tower some 18 inches from the perpendicular. It contains three bells, and although there are pits for four in the frame, there does not seem to have ever been more than three bells hung there. The first says, 'Mathew Bagley made mee 1775.' The second, dated 1720, has two trademarks (a) plain circle with R.S. and a bell, (b) bell surrounded by words 'Richard Sanders made me'; the third says 'Bartholomew Attyn made mee 1596.'

At Podington, Bedfordshire, there is a leaning spire (with four bells) and Godalming, Surrey, central spire also is slightly out of plumb. Here are eight bells, tenor 24 cwt. and, like many central towers, there are no windows in the ringing room. Braffeld, Northants, tower, which is supported by a stout buttress, and contains five bells rehung 1937, also leans. Other examples might be quoted.

DARTFORD, KENT.—On Saturday, September 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Ball 1, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 2, R. Constant 3, T. Wake 4, H. Raynor 5, N. Summerhayes 6, H. Hovord 7, E. Barnett 8. Rung for the wedding of the Rev. D. Kidd, curate at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Thursday, August 5th, at the Priory Church, 1,245 Grandsire Caters: George Preston (conductor) 1, Miss C. Sparshott 2, A. F. Martin Stewart 3, E. V. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, E. Waters 6, E. T. Griffin 7, — Sparshott 8, A. V. Davis 9, H. Gillard 10. Rung to mark the ferment of the Vicar of Bournemouth, Canon Hedley Burrows, to be Archdeacon of Winchester and Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral.

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No. 1,696. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1943.

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

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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.

IMPROVEMENT.

Recently we printed a letter from a correspondent who signed himself 'A Ringer in the Forces.' He has, he said, been travelling up and down the country, and taking every opportunity of ringing at various centres widely separated; and he gave his general impressions. The picture he painted was a gloomy and depressing one. There is too much indifference to striking, too much practising on a Sunday, too many absentees and latecomers, too little efforts to hold regular week-night practices, too little co-operation between ringers, too much apathy, too much selfishness — in short, everywhere, with few exceptions, ringers are falling lamentably short of the standards they might and should live up to.

We are not surprised that such a sweeping condemnation has called forth protests, and that people have pointed out that in these days it is much easier to say what ought to be done than to do it. It is irritating to a man, who is trying against great odds to keep things going, when he is told that improvement is needed. He knows that as well as any outsider, and he knows too (what the outsider does not know) how many difficulties there are to contend with. Mere fault finding does little, good.

But we suspect that our correspondent used strong language in order to attract attention, so that he might press home more forcibly his appeal to ringers to make greater efforts. If so, all of us will applaud his intention and hope that his appeal will have effect.

There never was, and we hope there never will be, a time when there was no need for improvements in the quality of ringing, in the standards of methods, and in the organisation and regularity of service and practice ringing. If ever the Exercise reaches perfection in these things, or even reaches a level which all would accept as satisfactory, the end would not be far off. It is a condition of life that there must always be striving for something better, or at least for something different. When improvement and change cease, decline and decay set in. There is no halting place.

It is the strength of our art that it offers such unlimited scope and opportunities for development and improvement, and that it makes such strong demands on a man's abilities and devotion as but few can really meet. It may to some seem possible and desirable that every belfry in England should have its skilful band of ringers, and every ring of bells should be well rung Sunday by Sunday; but we greatly doubt if it ever will

(Continued on page 418.)

be possible, human nature being what it is, unless standards are much reduced; and we think it is an excellent thing that there are some bands which are very much better than others—better as method ringers, better as strikers, and better in organisation and enthusiasm. They act as an incentive to the rest.

Failure and shortcomings, disappointments and disillusionment, are common and necessary accompaniments of a ringer's career. They are the tests which show what men are worth. Success is not everything. It is the striving for something better which really matters, and which brings a reward. Those men (and they fortunately are many) who in these difficult times are trying with depleted bands to keep ringing alive must not be disappointed because their efforts are often with little effect. Nor must they be satisfied because things are not so bad as they might have been. No effort after something better is ever wholly wasted, and nothing much can ever be done by people who are content with things as they are.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I hope your readers will not agree with Mr. Ernest Morris' statement that 'of all our central towers, only two have decided artistic value inside the building.' On the contrary, there are few large churches in this country which do not owe much of their impressive effect to the internal lantern tower.

The effect is greater in some churches than in others. It is most when the tower is in the middle of the choir as at Westminster Abbey, St. Albans and Norwich, all of them Benedictine churches. It is least in churches like Canterbury, where the tower stands at the junction of what are virtually two separate churches.

The size of the windows is of no great importance; in the three instances given above, they are comparatively small and insignificant. At Canterbury the lofty Bell Harry tower is open to the top. This does not add to the effect. It is rather the other way about.

The reason why the lantern was closed by vaulting at Wells and other places was not because it was not valued, but to strengthen the tower.

RINGING IN THE BLACKOUT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is it possible for you through the medium of 'The Ringing World' to confirm the position regarding ringing after the black-out? There are no doubt many towers with beginners where regular practice means not only progress but a need to keep their early interest alive, and the cessation of practices during the winter months may take place at many places owing to doubt concerning official regulations.

Can you please tell us if we may or may not ring after dark provided we conform to the lighting restriction orders? 'VAJ.'

[There are now no official restrictions of any kind on ringing church bells, and practices may be held after black-out hours. It is most essential that the black-out should be complete.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

MR. RICHARD E. JONES.

The peal of Cambridge Major rung at Norbury on September 11th was to mark the honour conferred by His Majesty on Mr. Richard E. Jones, who has been made Serving Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

This honour follows his long devotion to first aid work, which commenced in June, 1914. During the Great War he served in the R.A.M.C., and after his demobilisation again took up his work with the S.J.A.B. He was made corporal in 1926 and later appointed Ambulance Officer. Last March he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent. Since the outbreak of this war Mr. Jones has been very active in the formation and training of first aid parties as Depot Superintendent of Hazel Grove and Bramhall Civil Defence.

A NOTABLE PEAL BOARD.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday, the College Youths met at St. Giles-in-the-Fields to unveil a peal tablet which had recently been restored by the society. It records the ringing of Holt's Original on October 2nd, 1791, and claims that it was the first time a man had rung and called that very difficult composition. The claim was not a valid one, but the performance was of outstanding merit.

The board is a fine piece of work elaborately carved and written. Like many other old boards, it had become illegible and had been taken down from the wall. It was in great danger of destruction, and the Exercise owes a debt of gratitude to those old College Youths who saved it.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt; 3 qr. 21 lb.

RICHARD E. JONES	Treble	TOM WILDE	5
WILLIAM FERNLEY	2	JAMES A. MILNER	6
PTE. JAMES FERNLEY, R.C.C. 3		ALAN J. BROWN	7
JOHN WORTH	4	DAVID VINCENT	10

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

BECKENHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 18, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

HARRY HOVERD	Treble	JAMES BENNETT	5
GEORGE M. KILBY	2	GEORGE W. STEERE	6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER	3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS	7
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD	4	PHILIP A. CORBY	Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

50th peal as conductor.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 18, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD	Treble	GEORGE KENWARD	5
WALTER H. DOBBIE	2	JOHN E. SPICE	6
†BETTY SPICE	3	STANLEY B. DOBBIE	7
†WILLIAM SPICE	4	GEORGE H. SPICE	Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No. 119).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a tower-bell peal. † 75th peal. ‡ First tower-bell peal. Rung for harvest thanksgiving.

SIX BELL PEAL.

RANWORTH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F.

*GEORGE W. DAVISON	Treble	GEORGE H. ALLEN	4
MISS PEARL E. GRAPES	2	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW	5
A/C. FRANK L. HARRIS	3	DENIS A. BAYLES	Tenor

Conducted by D. A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Minor. Rung for the Italian capitulation.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, September 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN E. SPICE	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
*WILLIAM C. PORTER	3-4	MISS MARIE R. CROSS	7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF (C.C.C. No. 28). Conducted by J. E. SPICE

* First peal on an inside pair.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On Sunday, August 29th, at St. Thomas' Church, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *Miss F. L. Wright 1, W. J. Smith 2, C. W. Cooper 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, W. Farley 6, A. Whatmore (conductor) 7, A. D. Fellows 8. * First quarter-peal and first attempt.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

(Continued from page 409.)

The man who was mainly instrumental in making the arrangements for the Flixton match was John Travis. He was a well known Oldham publican and betting man, and his interest in the matter was the 'book' he hoped to make. Now a bookmaker can only carry on his business when he is reasonably certain that the general public will lose more than it will win—there are expenses to be met as well as profits to be gained. But when there are only two starters and the 'odds' are even, there is no such reasonable certainty, and so Travis had to bethink himself how he might be sure of a profit. This he did.

There was in Oldham a man named Abraham Fitton, who had been an excellent ringer, but who had gone blind. He still maintained his interest in the art, and had trained a naturally acute hearing so that he could follow ringing and take down any changes that were being rung. Him John Travis took to Flixton, and, having found a quiet room where he could listen to the bells, told him to report anything that happened during the peal attempts. Nothing did happen until Jonathan Wild made the miscall in the sixth part of the Ashton men's attempt, and then Fitton at once let Travis know of it. When Travis was assured that the peal was lost, he went among the crowd and offered fairly good terms to any who were backing the Ashton men. The ringing was so excellent, and the apparent chances of Oldham being beaten were so good, that these offers were eagerly accepted. No doubt Travis stiffened his terms as the ringing went on. No doubt he seemed to be less willing to accept bets against Oldham. He played his game skilfully, and before the ringing stopped all the Ashton supporters had put their last penny on their favourites. It is easy to imagine what their feelings were when the verdict was given.

Whether Travis' action was a permissible one according to the ethics of betting we do not presume to judge. He did not interfere with the ringing or attempt to influence it by crooked means. All he did was to take advantage of the superior knowledge he had gained. But to bet on a certainty of that kind does not seem to be quite the proper sort of thing to do. Still that probably was the only way he could have made the ringing at Flixton at all profitable or interesting to himself.

The Ashton-under-Lyne people went home with empty pockets, bitterly disappointed, and sore and angry at the trick played on them. Presently someone suggested that the whole thing was a plot hatched by Travis and Jonathan Wild, the conductor, who had been bribed to lose the match wilfully. The suggestion was at once taken up by the baser sort, and in the general temper was accepted by the Ashton people and even by Wild's fellow ringers. Certainly if he had intended to sell the match he could not have done it better than he did. Though he knew he had miscalled he did not stop. He got the bells back again into the proper changes and finished the peal as if nothing had happened. There was plenty of time for Travis to work his trick, especially as the excellent ringing seemed to make an Ashton victory certain.

As we said before, probably Wild did not know what to do. He knew he had miscalled; the match was lost,

and he would have to bear the brunt of the failure. Perhaps he hoped that, if he went on, someone else would make a mistake and a trip might lead to a muddle which would end the peal in a general breakdown. So other conductors have hoped when they have miscalled, and when not so much depended on their failure as was the case with poor Jonathan Wild.

Wild protested his innocence, but that probably made matters worse. From reproaches and curses the angry crowd proceeded to attempted violence. Many of them had been drinking and were in an excited and quarrelsome condition. They tried to drag Wild out of the cart he was riding in, and he escaped with difficulty.

The party returned to Ashton and told what had happened and how their conductor had treacherously betrayed his party to the enemy. The whole village was moved by anger and resentment. An effigy of Wild was made, paraded round the place with shouts and curses, and finally hung from a pole thrust through the window of the parish church steeple, where it was set on fire and burnt. A silly and childish exhibition, but one with a very ugly side to it. So intense was the feeling that Wild dared not return home, but took refuge at Stockport, and when, after some days, he did venture back no one would have anything to do with him or speak to him, no one would employ him, and even the shopkeepers were afraid to sell him food. He had to return to Stockport, where he lived for twenty-six years.

A statement appeared in the press saying that 'the inhabitants of Ashton-under-Lyne and the change-ringers conjecture that the conducting of the peal of Mr. John Holt's 5,040 changes was wilfully lost at Flixton, and the Ashton College Youths purpose challenging the Oldham Youths to ring them again, the same peal, for one hundred guineas, on their own peal of eight bells at Oldham, off hand, with another conductor.'

In the year 1817, while Jonathan Wild was living at Stockport, the new bells at St. Mary's Church were opened with a prize ringing match. Mr. John P. Fidler recently gave an account of the bells in our columns. Four prizes were offered, of fourteen, eight, six, and four guineas. The test was the same as at Flixton—Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. Eight bands competed, and the first prize went to the Mottram Seniors, who rang the peal in 2 hours 46 minutes; the second to Oldham, who took 2 hours 49 minutes and 18 seconds; the third to Manchester; and the fourth to Mottram Juniors. Ashton competed, but they did not win a prize. As the tenor weighed 24 or 25 cwt., the ringing was very fast.

Jonathan Wild taught a band to ring Grandsire on the new bells, and called the first peal by a local company. Shortly before he died he was allowed to return to Ashton and there he was buried.

Several attempts were made to arrange another match between Ashton and Oldham, but they came to nothing. The feeling between the two belfries was one of extreme bitterness, which was shared in large measure by the townsmen of the two places. So much so, that for nearly twenty years an Oldham ringer dared not enter Ashton. If he did and was recognised he was promptly turned out of the village.

(To be continued.)

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Three generations took part in the peal of Bob Major rung at Tunstall on September 18th, Mr. William Spice, who is 83 years old, Mr. George H. Spice, and Miss Betty Spice and Mr. John H. Spice. We congratulate the family.

We are informed that the eight bells at Avelon Giffard, near Plymouth, must be added to the peals lost through enemy action.

On September 20th, 1882, what was believed to be the first peal of Yorkshire Court Bob Major was rung at Cargrave. The method, however, had been rung 150 years earlier by the Eastern Scholars under the name of Eastern Bob.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on September 22nd, 1894. This is probably the best Catter method there is, but it has never received the attention it deserves.

The first peal of Erin Cinques was rung at West Bromwich on September 23rd, 1911.

On September 24th, 1936, the first peal of Pyrford Surprise Major was rung at Egham, and on the same date in 1937, the first peal of Pulford Bob Major was rung at Crayford.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

'NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.'

THOUGHTLESS REMARKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I cannot help feeling that the remarks contained in the letter of 'Ringer in the Services' are somewhat thoughtless even if they are not ungrateful.

Few arts could suffer the setback of a three-year ban and get going again with such success as did our Exercise. This success is real and apparent, as witness your columns every week. Does our Service man realise the demands—very heavy demands—which are made upon the waking hours of the average civilian in these times? It requires a great deal of resolution to climb the belfry stairs after a long day's labour to teach some beginners, and often there is night duty of some kind to follow, yet I am sure there are many who do it every week. The recommendations made in the letter you publish are familiar ones, very often they come from people who are keen to do the 'telling,' but not so keen about the 'doing.'

Great efforts have been made on behalf of our Exercise since this war broke out, interest has been maintained in spite of the ban; the special calls made by the authorities for victory bells, etc., were magnificently answered and, above all, we still have our weekly paper. These are creditable results which are deserving of gratitude, and those responsible for such work are well aware that there is always room for improvement.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

CAUSE FOR BEING GRATEFUL.

Dear Sir,—The criticism and advice given by a 'Ringer in the Services' would apply very well in peace time under normal conditions, but under present conditions I venture to suggest that some of the criticism is unjustified and quite a lot of the advice is very hard to put into practice.

Perhaps it is wrong to say anything which looks like excuses, but after all we are in the fifth year of war, and few people have quite the same vitality to spare, or the time that could be devoted to ringing in peace time. There are many faces back in belfries to-day which had been absent for many years before the war, and, judging by my limited knowledge, the bells are ringing in most of the towers where they were being rung before the war began. Surely that fact is something we should be very grateful for and be prepared to give a little allowance for some of our other minor shortcomings.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

J. E. BAILEY

ADVERTISE PRACTICES.

Dear Sir,—On reading the letter of 'Ringer in the Services' in your last week's issue, it has occurred to me that some advantage might accrue if the responsible person in the tower were to make known through your advertising column the times of practice and of Sunday ringing, so that those ringers belonging to towers in the vicinity and also 'ringers in the Services,' and other ringers who may be visiting the district, might have an opportunity of joining in such ringing to the mutual advantage of the particular tower and ringers interested.

CHARLES DEAN.

Croydon.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

About 70 members and friends of the Society of Cumberland Youths attended the annual general meeting, held in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Saturday, September 4th.

The secretary, in his report, referred to the difficulty in manning towers at present, owing to so many people being absent on war services and other duties, and urged everyone to do their utmost to keep up the standard of ringing during war time. Congratulations were tendered to Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. Bennett on ringing their 1,000th peal together.

Members stood in silence for a while in memory of those who had died during the past year.

Mention was made of the articles recently published in 'The Ringing World' on the history of the society, and a vote of thanks was accorded their author for his most interesting account.

All the officers were re-elected with the exception of junior steward, where Mr. Frank Hawthorn took office in place of Mr. Robert Heazel, who resigned.

With regard to the approaching bicentenary of the society, Mr. J. E. Bailey moved that the anniversary date should be that agreed by the historians of the Exercise, Messrs. Morris and Trollope, and any further arrangements be deferred for another year.

Eight new members were elected, which included two young ladies, Miss Vida Simpson and Miss Valerie Crouch, from Mr. George Gilbert's academy at Burnham. Altogether there were seven of these lassies, with their instructor, at the meeting, and it was inspiring to see them all on the ropes in rounds together.

The bells were rung both before and after the meeting.

At the conclusion of the business Mr. G. Radley proposed a vote of thanks to the officers, and the Master, Mr. G. H. Cross, thanked the Church Council for the use of the bells and Vestry Hall.

A SURREY CARILLON.

The death was announced last week of Mr. H. O. Serpell, of Westcroft Park, Chobham, Surrey, who had installed at his home one of the best carillons in this country.

Mr. Serpell learned to love the sound of church bells as a child at Plymouth, and had told himself that one day he would have a peal of his own. The carillon was erected in 1926 and consisted of 18 bells, but in 1933 five more bells were added. Mr. Serpell's head gardener, Percy Rolph, was chosen to be carillonneur, and was instructed at the Croydon Bell Foundry. Later he spent a fortnight at Malines. The carillon has often been broadcast.

For many years Mr. Serpell had taken a prominent part in the public life of Surrey. He was High Sheriff of the county in 1924 and 1925, and was a D.L. and an active magistrate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ROTHERHAM.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th, when members were present from Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's), Rammoor, Eckington, Braithwell, Felkirk, Eastwood, Rawmarsh, Handsworth, Whiston, Sprotborough, Doncaster and the local company. Touches of Minor, Major, Caters and Royal were rung, together with rounds for beginners.

The belfry was visited by the Vicar, Canon J. Waring, and his curate, who welcomed the ringers and showed keen interest in the ringing. Over forty members sat down to tea, provided by the local company, in the Church House, and the business meeting followed, with Canon Waring in the chair.

Condolence was expressed with the relatives of George William Brothwell, of the Whiston company, reported killed in action. An apology for absence was received from Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, stating he had met with a slight accident.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Doncaster on the second Saturday in December.

Three new members were elected. John Wardle, Rotherham, Leslie Fields, and Mrs. C. E. Kettell, of Rotherham.

Thanks were given to the Vicar for his warm welcome and to the ladies for providing an excellent tea.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund amounted to 17s. 6d.

THE LATE JOHN JOHN MARTIN ROUTH

At the last meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths Mr. Alfred B. Peck announced that John Martin Routh, who was for so many years a College Youth and had held the office of Master, had left to the society the sum of £10 and his ringing books. A cheque had been handed to the treasurer and the books will arrive in due course.

GRAVESEND, KENT.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. A. Mitchell 1, F. M. Mitchell 2, J. Burles 3, H. Argent 4, R. Constant 5, R. A. Constant (conductor) 6, C. J. Beer 7, G. Morrad 8. First quarter-peal as conductor and the first attempt.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 413.)

The cruciform planning continued well into the 14th century, and include the beautiful spire crowned church of Ashbourne, and the famous crooked spired church of Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Many cases occur where the central tower has collapsed and been replaced by western towers generally of 15th century date, as at Tintagel, Cornwall; Kirkby Stephen, Westmorland.

In Normandy in the 11th century there was hardly a cruciform church but had its central tower, but they are rare in other parts of France. They occur at Caen in both the great Abbeys: at Rouen in the cathedral, St. Ouen and St. Maclon, at Bayeux, Lisieux, Coutances, Norrey, Bretteville and numerous other churches both great and small, and is generally open from below as a lantern with fine effect. Even in Anglo-Saxon days some churches like Barton-on-Humber and Dunham Magna, Norfolk, had central towers, while one of the first half of the 12th century occurs at Tewkesbury, and of the second half at Iffley and St. Cross, Winchester. The lower part of New Shoreham, Sussex, tower is late 12th century work, and the upper part of the next century. That of Chipstead is 14th century work.

Where the transepts are narrower than the nave and choir, a central tower may be oblong, the best example being that of Bath Abbey. Effective combinations occur of an octagon on a square, e.g., Colyton, Devon; Fotheringhay, Northants; Stafford and others. An exceptional and effective combination is seen at Cartmel, where a square is superimposed on a square diagonally. Many of these central towers have no spiral or other stairways for ascent; others with such stairways only from the church roof level, thus causing the approach to the ringing chambers or belfry stages to be very roundabout or sometimes even difficult. In a great many instances the bells are rung from the ground floor, the ringers being thus exposed on two or four sides, and in the following series I hope to give examples of many varying types of such instances, and some of the more curious means of ascent to ringing chambers in central towers.

I have stated that the ascents to the ringing chamber and belfry stage of some central towers are not only curious and very involved; sometimes they may be even dangerous. Just how dangerous is very aptly described by Charles Dickens in 'Edwin Drood,' and for an account of Rochester Cathedral ascent I am indebted to Mr. Wm. A. Clark, F.R.P.S., F.S.A. (a well known figure among ringers of the Birmingham district). An article by Mr. Clark in the 'Dickensian,' No. 243, Vol. xxxiii., Summer 1937, p. 191 *et seq.*, under the title 'Edwin Drood Again,' contains the following version, which—by his kind permission—I am able to repeat:—

'I would like to call attention to the following important sentence from the mouth of Jasper. He speaks

of "a hazardous and perilous journey over abysses, where a slip would be destruction." My knowledge of English Cathedrals is extensive, as I have explored and photographed them all. It is my belief that Dickens, in this sentence, alluded to the space in all stone-vaulted cathedrals between the vaulting and the external high-pitched and usually leaded roof. These spaces form dark galleries, filled with huge dusty roof-timbers, where one has to walk along a narrow ledge with "abysses" or cavernous depths on either side. It would be an easy matter for one person to follow another, as Jasper might have followed Edwin Drood, and a slight push from behind would seal the fate of the victim, while the body, in the days of Dickens when cathedrals were more or less neglected, might easily remain undiscovered for a long period.'

During 1936 I went to Rochester Cathedral three times in order to make sure of my facts, and the Dean granted me every facility for investigation and also for photography. As the result of these visits, I am more than ever convinced that those significant words uttered by Jasper in his dream referring to a "hazardous and perilous journey over abysses where a slip would be destruction," are the key words of the tragedy, and that Edwin Drood met his fate (not necessarily his death) at the only point in the cathedral which fits this description, viz.: the path over the vaulting of the choir and eastern transept.

'I think we can be certain that before Dickens began to write "Edwin Drood" he carefully surveyed the locale of the tragedy to be, and especially the cathedral. He would know also that any error relating to the various parts of the building would at once be noticed, and this alone would make him very careful.

Let us try to reconstruct the tragedy. Jasper has decided, under the cloak of friendship, to remove his rival. He dreams of his crime before and after it is committed, assisted by opium. The night of the storm provides the opportunity. Jasper suggests to Edwin that they shall visit the tower to see the lightning, or for some other plausible reason.

The noise of the storm—thunder, lightning, wind—would effectively cover up any scream or other sounds incident to the tragedy. Let us follow them—they would enter the cathedral at the point recognised then (and now) as the way to the tower, viz.: the north-west angle of the east transept. Ascending the circular newel staircase, they emerge on the leads with a low parapet on the right, and the remains of Gaudulf's Norman tower below. Through a low doorway opposite access is given to the span over the vaulting with the heavy timbers of the roof overhead.

The vault is cone-shaped and drops steeply away to the side walls, creating a series of pockets. Along the crest there runs a narrow wood pathway with a hand-rail on either side, but it is possible that in Dickens' day

(Continued on next page.)

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CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

there was at least no handrail. There may have been no wooden "duck-board" either. Edwin goes in front with Jasper behind, and upon entering the vaulted space, turns right towards the tower, entered by a low doorway opposite. It would only need a slight push from behind from Jasper to left or right, to send Edwin heading into the "abyss" where his head would strike the wall, causing either death or unconsciousness."

Mr. Clark then goes on to give his reasons for expounding this theory which fits the dream exactly, viz.: that the crime was committed by pushing the victim off the crest of the vaulting. Even to-day a body covered as Jasper did Dood's with lime, would remain unobserved, as the vaulting is covered with a crust of lime and there is practically no light.

A ringing friend thus described the ascent to-day: 'The ringing chamber is reached via a spiral staircase opening out on to the roof; thence along the parapet gutter for a short distance; through a small door into the roof over the nave: through a small opening at the end and across which one of the main beams from which the bell frame is built up, and into the belfry—you literally have to crawl under this beam to enter!'

(To be continued.)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RUISLIP.

A meeting of the Middlesex County Association was held at Ruislip and Pinner on Saturday, September 4th, about 40 members and friends being present from Beddington, Dagenham, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Hounslow, Isleworth, Kingsbury, Leiston, Pinner, Romford, Ruislip, Twickenham, Wembley Park, Weybridge and Willesden. The methods rung, under the supervision of Mr. T. G. Bannister (Deputy Ringing Master of the South and West District), included Grandsire and Stedman, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge, as well as rounds for learners.

A short service held in Ruislip Church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Mortimer, who spoke of his experiences in the West of England in regard to the restoration of bells, and gave an address based on the verses of the hymn, 'Ruislip Bells,' the music of which was composed by the organist, Mr. Owen, and was sung at the service.

A short business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who expressed the pleasure of the association at meeting the new Vicar and thanked him for his address and interest. The Vicar assured those present of a welcome at any time they should come to Ruislip.

A letter was read from the Rector of Cranford, the Rev. Maurice Childs, congratulating the association on the first peal rung on his bells, and welcoming the ringers there at any time. The secretary referred to another airgraph letter received from the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson.

The following new members were elected: The Rev. J. H. Dominey, curate at St. Mary's, Ealing, and Mr. A. T. Parker, of Bedford Park, on the proposition of Mr. A. Harding, seconded by Mr. T. Collins. Lieut. W. E. Gibbons, R.E.M.E., of Chesterfield, and Mr. E. Armstrong, of Weybridge, as life members; and Mr. B. J. E. White, of Kilburn, to the North and East District, on the proposition of Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, seconded by Mr. G. M. Kilby.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. H. Coles to Mr. and Mrs. T. Collins and to Mrs. Casemore for providing tea, and to Mr. Owen, the organist, to which Mr. Collins replied.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should have mentioned four other heavy rings of five in my letter in your issue of August 27th, viz.: Powerstock approx. 20 cwt., Sydling 19 cwt. (both in Dorset), Mudford 19 cwt. and Clossworth (19 cwt. (both in Somerset). Peals have been rung at Sydling and Mudford. According to Canon Raven's 'Church Bells of Dorset', there are apparently heavy 'fives' in Dorset at Piddletrenthide (tenor diameter 48in.) and Cheselbourne (48in.). Neither of these is now ringable and I have no means of confirming their weights. I have rung on a number of fives in Dorset and Somerset which have tenors of 16-18 cwt., and shall be pleased to send the names to anyone who may be interested.

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

Blandford, Dorset.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Ranworth on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 (additions to food welcomed). Buses leave Norwich 12.5 and 4.30, also 12.30 for Panxworth; return 7.27 p.m.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Dunelm Cafe, Old Elvet, 2/6 5.0 p.m.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Quarterly meeting at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) at 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at Deane, Bolton. Bells at The Saviour and Holy Trinity, Bolton, available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14, T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Great Bentley, Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.45.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting following.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Newark on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Short service at 5.50 p.m.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Framlingham, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m.—W. E. Maulden, 14, Market Hill, Framlingham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Meeting at Prestbury on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting 5.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at St. John's, Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., Church Hall.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Beaconsfield on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 4 to 7 p.m. Bring tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Barnby Don on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Abingdon on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells: St. Helen's (10), St. Nicholas' (6) 3 p.m. Service, St. Nicholas', 3.30 p.m.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Opening of new 'Central Training School for Ringers' (electrical installation) at St. John's, City, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Parish Rooms, Castle Green, 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. S. Emery, 34, Waverley Road, Bristol 6.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Practice meeting at Christchurch Priory on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (12) from 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) at 5.30 approximately.—G. Preston, 42, Waterloo Place, Christchurch.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Wootton on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Cup of tea provided. Bring food.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTS.—Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business at 5 o'clock. Names before Sept. 28th.—E. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. James', Paisley, on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, at 2.30 p.m. Notify Mr. Neil Sharpe, 35, Argyle Street, Paisley, by Sept. 29th for tea.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Great Doddington, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (5). Service 4.30. Tea, free to those who advise F. Barber, Fairlawn, Doddington Ridge, Wellingborough, by Sept. 28th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 3 p.m. Tea at Ladford's Cafe, 4.45, only for those who notify Mr. E. W. Beadsmoore by Thursday, Sept. 30th.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Meeting at Shiplake on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, at 3 p.m. Tea at Plowden Arms 4.30 p.m. Service in Church 5.30 p.m. Names by Sept. 29th.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Grafton Underwood (5 bells), Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Tea only for those who notify me previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Ashton, St. Peter's, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Acton, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Short service 5 p.m. The Rector hopes to provide tea and sandwiches. Ringing (probably) at St. Mary's, Ealing, in the evening. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Garston, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30. Members of Chester Diocesan Guild, please notify for tea not later than Sept. 29th.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 6 p.m. and business meeting. No arrangements for tea.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Tunstall, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Thompson, 29, Furlong Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before Sept. 28th.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District).—Meeting at Eckington on Saturday, Oct. 9th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach P. J. Jervis, 48, High Street, Eckington, by Oct. 7th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Dorking, Saturday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business meeting in the Church Room at 7.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON (10 bells).—Practice, Monday, 7.45 to 9 p.m. Sunday ringing, 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Chas. Dean.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—A practice will be held at Twerton Parish Church 1st Saturday in each month, 2.30 to 4 p.m.—Sealy Woodburn, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

ROBERTS.—On Sept. 17th, at Lelant Nursing Home, to Elizabeth Jessie Corin (nee Angwin), wife of the Rev. Arthur S. Roberts, a daughter.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—On Thursday, August 19th, at All Saints' Church, 1,376 Bob Major: J. Conquest 1, J. Nicholls 2, E. R. Butcher 3, W. Botsford 4, W. Jeffs 5, V. Conquest 6, A. E. Belson 7, J. E. Arnold (conductor) 8. Rung for the wedding of the Rev. W. Edgar, curate of the parish.

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QUARTER PEALS.

The merit of peal ringing is that it sets before the Exercise a standard and a task which demand the best that is in a ringer. Skill is needed and knowledge, patience and concentration, team spirit and co-operation with others. These are things worth cultivating for their own sakes; and, besides them, peal ringing has a definite value because it supplies the best means a ringer can have of perfecting himself in his art.

It is the simple truth that the best ringing ever done is during peals. When the band is a skilled one, and every man a good striker and trying to do his best, the bells will settle down to a beat and a rhythm which reveals how good bell music can be, and which is hardly possible even under the most favourable circumstances when courses and short touches only are rung.

There are many ringers who hardly ever have a first-class opportunity of appreciating the niceties of really good striking, and therefore, if we hold (as many people do) that the chief object of change ringing is Sunday service ringing and to ensure that the bells should best be used in the service of the Church and of religion, we shall value peal ringing because it is the best means by which the quality of service ringing can be raised and maintained. Experience has abundantly proved this.

But peal ringing is not for everyone, especially under present conditions. Bands must be got together, and permission to ring must be obtained, and neither is very easy. It behoves us, therefore, to see if we cannot find some substitute for peal ringing more suitable for war time, which will at least give ringers an opportunity of producing the best ringing they are capable of. The best substitute is perhaps the more frequent ringing of quarter-peals.

The advantage of a quarter-peal is that it is just long enough to fit in with the time usually allotted to a meeting for service ringing. By the time the bells are raised, the quarter-peal rung, and the bells ceased, the full hour has been occupied. The task set the ringers is enough to call for their best efforts, and if they have it in them they have the opportunity of showing how well they can ring. The conductor, too, has a chance of exercising his ability, which is not afforded by short and usually familiar touches. It would be well, then, if the practice of ringing quarter-peals for Sunday service was more generally adopted.

But there are difficulties which must not be lost sight of. A quarter-peal on a Sunday requires much the same sort of arranging as a peal does. The band must be

(Continued on page 426.)

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selected and, generally speaking, the most suitable men picked. That means, if there are more than just the bare band attached to the belfry, that some members must be temporarily excluded. Here is where discretion and tact are needed. It is unfortunately the fact that in some towers there are ringers whose keenness is not great, who are inclined to turn up when they think they will, and often perhaps late. That sort of man is very apt to take offence if, when he arrives at the church, he finds an attempt being made for a quarter-peal and for him no chance of a pull. Likely enough he will go away with a grievance and will be seen no more for a season. It is easy to say that such men are not worth considering, but that attitude does not always pay. And most captains and bands do not wish to offend anyone, not even those who show least consideration for their fellows.

A good way out of the difficulty would be to fix a definite recurring time—say, one Sunday in each month—when a quarter-peal will be attempted and give everyone in turn a chance to take part. If something of that sort can be done, quarter-peals may play an important part in increasing the interest and raising the quality of ringing.

SIX BELL PFAL.

EARDISLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 19, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*E. PETER ROCK Treble	A. BRIAN ELLSMORE, R.A.F. 4
TREVOR EVANS 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
*LAWRENCE T. MAINWARING 3	*S. T. GWYNNE PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal. Rung as a farewell to E. P. Rock on his departure for Aberystwyth College.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5041 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ISAAC J. ATTWATER 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 11 in G.

JOHN THOMAS 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	FREDERICK DIGBY 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM.—At St. Thomas' on September 12th for thanksgiving service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lawton 1, J. Ogden 2, C. B. Taylor 3, I. Garside 4, *J. Brooks 5, J. W. Truelove 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, L. Brooks 8. * First quarter-peal.

OLD WHITTINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Thanksgiving Day, September 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: G. Lawrence 1, S. Scattergood (conductor) 2, *F. Gibbons 3, D. Culling 4, J. G. Newman 5. * First quarter-peal.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Fakenham on September 11th, when 22 members attended from Acle, Bergh Apton, Fakenham, Leverington, Mulbarton, Norwich, Sculthorpe, Salisbury, Sheringham, Snettisham, Terrington St. John and Wymondham. Methods up to Double Norwich and Cambridge Major were rung. The Rector, Dr. Morison, preached at the service and welcomed the ringers to Fakenham again.

At the business meeting the general secretary said that, in response to various suggestions, he was arranging a series of practice meetings (without service or business meeting in some cases) on Saturday afternoon, to keep interest alive when black-out makes practice nights too difficult to arrange. The dates and places in view at the moment were Blofield on September 18th, Ranworth on September 25th, Soottow on October 9th, and Norwich (probably St. Miles' and Man-croft) on September 23rd.

The Blofield meeting was duly held on September 18th and was most successful, 24 ringers attending from Blofield, Burlingham, Haddiscoe, Kingston-on-Thames, Mulbarton, Norton, West Norwood, Norwich, Ranworth, Wroxham, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth. The six bells were rung in various methods up to Cambridge Surprise. Tea was very kindly provided by the Rector, Canon Shillito, and as members brought their own food there was interesting variety in this direction.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

A meeting of the East Grinstead Guild was held at Turner's Hill on September 11th, when 20 members attended from Balcombe, Cuckfield, Crawley, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Lindfield, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield and West Grinstead, with Mr. Clarke, Three Bridges, and Mr. G. Cecil. At the business meeting one new member was elected, and East Grinstead was fixed for the November meeting. Ringing from rounds to Cambridge Major was enjoyed till 8 p.m.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Clent on September 18th. Sixty-four members and friends had arrived by tea time, and upwards of eighty were there altogether.

Clent having recently lost its Vicar by death, the service was conducted by Mr. A. L. Homer, of the Diocesan Guild of Lay Readers, who gave an excellent address. The organist and choir were present and an excellent service resulted.

At the business meeting the retiring officers were reappointed, and eleven new members belonging to Rowley Regis were elected. It was decided to hold monthly meetings at Wollaston and Brierley Hill on October 23rd and November 27th, and the next quarterly meeting at Stourbridge on January 15th.

The ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT STANFORD-LE-HOPE.**

About 40 members of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association were present at a meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on September 11th. They came from Dagenham, Romford, Fobbing, Orsett, Chelmsford, Broomfield, Woodford, Wanstead and the local band.

Several touches were rung until 4.15, when the Rev. H. Watson, the Vicar of Mucking, conducted service, and an interesting address was given by Mr. Allen. Tea and the business meeting followed, with the Rev. H. Watson in the chair.

Mr. Chalk said he was pleased to see such a good gathering. He spoke of the death of one of the members, Mr. Buckingham, of Blackmore Mrs. Wiltshire, of Fobbing, was elected a member. It was proposed that the next meeting should be held at Barking at the end of October. Mr. Heazel expressed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. H. Watson, the organist and to Mr. Howell for what he had done to make the meeting successful.

A collection during the service for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 13s. 11d.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NEWARK.**

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Newark on September 25th, the eve of the commemoration of the Battle of Britain. Canon Parkinson welcomed the early comers and showed great interest in the ringing. The first attempt, a well-struck touch of Stedman Caters, was followed by a course of Cambridge Royal, the first by a number of the band since the ban was imposed. Plain Bob, Little Bob, London and Stedman followed with varying degrees of success, and ringing continued until 7.30.

About 40 ringers attended from many of the towers in the Nottingham district and from Derby, Lincoln, Grimsby, Handsworth and Sheffield. Even if some did have to walk the latter stages of their homeward journey it was worth it, for they knew they had lost their last bus when they voted their thanks to Canon Parkinson and the local ringers.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT RIPLEY.**

A very successful meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ripley on September 18th and was attended by about 44 members.

After ringing during the afternoon Mr. A. Hutchison entertained the ringers to tea, and at the business meeting which followed, the Vicar, the Rev. H. P. Hargreaves, occupied the chair. Five of the local company were elected members of the association, and it was decided to hold the next meeting on October 23rd at Derby Cathedral.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and to Mr. A. Hutchison was proposed by Mr. F. G. Bradley, president of the Preston District of the Lancashire Association.

The methods rung included Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Double Norwich, Duffield, Treble Bob, Spliced Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major, as well as rounds and queens for the beginners.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CANTERBURY.**

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held on Saturday, September 18th, and 42 members attended, representing three districts of the association and 16 towers.

The first part of the meeting was at St. Stephen's, where ringing was carried on in various methods until 4.15, when service in the church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. R. Barnes, Mr. Masters being at the organ.

Tea was at the Rose Inn, Sturry, and those who had no cycles were conveyed in taxis provided by Mr. H. R. French. At the business meeting the Rector was in the chair. The secretary's report and balance sheet were read and adopted, the present secretary (Mr. B. J. Luck) was re-elected, and Mr. S. P. Masters was elected Ringing Master. For the offices of representatives three names were nominated: Mr. H. R. French (Sturry), Mr. J. W. Unwin (Canterbury) and Mr. C. Turner (Dover), the resulting ballot going in favour of the two former. Whitstable was chosen for the next meeting and Wingham for the summer meeting.

Thanks were passed to the Rector and to Mr. French for what he had done to make the afternoon a success.

The bells of Sturry Church were open to the members during the evening and good use was made of them until 8 p.m.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.**MEETING AT WEST BROMWICH.**

A meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at All Saints', West Bromwich, on Saturday, September 11th, at which between 40 and 50 members were present.

A variety of methods were rung during the afternoon and evening. In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar (the Rev. A. S. Talbot), the service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Barker, and an address was given by the Rev. Frank Jones, Vicar of Christ Church, West Bromwich. Cups of tea were supplied and served by the wives of local ringers, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Peart.

The next meeting was provisionally arranged to take place at Willenhall on April 22nd, and a practice will be held at St. Bartholomew's, Wednesbury, on Saturday, October 9th, at 3 p.m.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT EXETER.**

Over thirty members were present at a meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, held at Exeter on September 17th. Among those present were Mr. E. J. Ryall, the chairman, Mr. T. Laver (general treasurer of the Guild), Mr. Gardner, Mr. E. J. Biffin, Mr. Glass, Mr. T. Bartlett, Mr. Selley and Mr. Pook.

Service in the Church of St. Mary Major was conducted by the Rev. M. V. Narracott, Vicar of St. Sidwell's, and tea was served at Western's Cafe.

At the business meeting an apology for absence was received from Prebendary E. V. Cox, the president of the Guild, and the memory of two members who had passed away was honoured. Mr. Richardson was for many years the Ringing Master of the branch and a member of the St. Sidwell's band. At 76 he set out to turn in St. Sidwell's tenor (25 cwt.) to a peal of Kent.

Mr. C. R. Lilley had a wider career and was well known. He rang his first peal for the Guild, one of Double Norwich, on the then new Heavitree bells on October 7th, 1901. He rang 156 peals for the Guild on tower bells, of which he conducted 100, and 24 on handbells, which he also conducted.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed for December 11th at St. Edmund's, Exeter.

Capt. W. J. Rawlings, the Rev. E. E. J. Gover and Mr. Hele, of St. David's, with Messrs. W. H. Wills, E. G. Drew and Eric Filley, of St. Thomas', were elected members.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. M. V. Narracott and the organist.

The towers of St. David's, St. Thomas' and Heavitree were visited during the afternoon.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

(Continued from page 419.)

The meeting at Flixton affords an excellent example of prize ringing at its best and at its worst. As a match between two bands there was little in it to find fault with. Both companies were keen and skilful; both were striving to win the match on merit; and, though the money prize was an additional incentive, that was not their main object. Every precaution was taken to ensure that the contest should be a fair one; the judges and umpire were fully competent and above suspicion; and, apart from the miscall, there was no suggestion that there was any foul play or attempt at it.

The quality of the ringing was excellent. There probably have not been many occasions on which Holt's Ten-part has been better rung than in the eight practice peals and the two in the match. It may not be a good thing for ringing to be so fast as these were, but the quick time is itself a proof that the ringing was regular and there were no trips or hesitancy among the ringers.

Nor is there any suggestion that the behaviour of the outside crowd was anything but proper. It is hardly likely that the scenes would be approved of nowadays. A lot of Lancashire working men, out for a holiday in the early days of the nineteenth century, could not be expected to behave like a Victorian Sunday parade in Hyde Park, but there is no reason to suppose that there were any disorderly scenes, so long as the bells were actually ringing, such as we have been told disgraced prize ringing meetings on too many occasions. What happened on the way home to Ashton is another matter.

We may take it that everybody concerned, and the general public as well, looked on the match as a first-class sporting event, carried out in a thoroughly sportsmanlike spirit. The fact that Ralph Wright, the magistrate, sent the losers a consolation of ten guineas, shows that the gentry sympathised with the lower orders in their liking for these matches, and saw nothing amiss in the fact that they took place in a church steeple.

So much we must freely admit; but there is another, and not nearly so pleasant, side to the incident. It does not concern the ringers themselves so much as the outsiders, but the ringers are not wholly free. There certainly was, as a direct result of this and other prize-ringing meetings, between the Oldham band and the Ashton band, a feeling, not merely of keen rivalry, but of bitterness and personal dislike. That feeling may be attributed almost entirely to the money prize. We said the two bands contended for the victory and not for the prize, and that undoubtedly is true, but the loss or gain of (to them) so large a sum of money as forty guineas was enough to prevent the bands from treating the match as a purely sporting event in which both parties could do their best and get all the satisfaction they needed by letting the best side win the prize.

But a money prize (provided it was not too large) need not, in the circumstances of the times, have led to anything objectionable. It was the betting of outsiders—supporters and backers they called themselves—which caused the abuses. We do not venture to express any opinions on the morality of betting on sporting events. It has existed in this country in all ages, and it would have been impossible to hold a meeting in 1808, like that at Flixton, without some betting. Nor may this present

generation, when vast sums of money are lost and won in every normal year on football pools, horse racing and dog racing, criticise the men of a century and a half ago, who betted on ringing matches.

But it was the betting which caused the trouble at Flixton, and that raises, the question: Did Jonathan Wild sell the match?

We do not know much about John Travis, but what we do know leads us to suspect that he would not have been above arranging for one side or the other to lose the match, if it could be done safely. He may have approached Wild with a very tempting bribe, and Wild, who was a poor man and apparently a harmless, inoffensive person with no great strength of character, may have fallen. If he did, there is no great reason to judge him hardly. Whether or no Travis and Wild had agreed that the Ashton peal should be lost, they could not have played Travis' game better than they did. Wild acted so that, though the peal was definitely lost, the outsiders knew nothing about it until the last moment, and Travis had made every arrangement so that he could know the minute the miscall was made, and take full advantage of the ample time which was given him to arrange his betting.

But it must be remembered that the charge against Wild was based on nothing more than suspicion. Nobody ever claimed to have proved anything, and Wild to the last protested his innocence. He had a habit in after years of throwing his cap on the ground and crying out, 'Sithee, if ah sowd um ah hope my hed may drop in my hat!'

We may very well believe him, for there is nothing he did which might not have been done by an innocent man, and whether the match was sold or not was of no great importance to the Exercise at the time, and is of still less importance now. What was of importance was that it could have been sold. It was the fact that there was the possibility of foul play, and always the suspicion of foul play, which brought a bad spirit into prize ringing and poisoned the relations between ringer and ringer and band and band. Allegations were freely made of attempts to influence the judges or tamper with ropes and bearings; and whether they were well founded or not, they did much harm.

Fortunately prize ringing ceased to have much attraction for outsiders as sporting events to bet on. In that it was like cricket, and for the same reason. At the time of the Flixton ringing match there was a lot of betting done on cricket; now there is little more than there is on peal ringing. The cause is the rise and development of the professional bookmaker. For his purposes neither a game of cricket nor a match between two peal-ringing bands is a suitable event. Horse races and suchlike events, where there are many starters, are what suits him. Even football can only be made a suitable medium for professional betting when elaborate systems, comprising many matches, are worked out. We are well rid of any betting in our art. It was only in the prize ringing of the North that it existed to any extent, and there only for a time.

Whatever we may think of the Lancashire prize ringing, and especially of that by the Oldham and Ashton companies, it is certainly the fact that the existence of two of Lancashire's rings of twelve is directly due to the spirit which promoted the matches and the public in-

terest they aroused. In 1819 a new ring of ten from Whitechapel was hung in Ashton steeple, and the bells were opened by a touch of 719 changes of Grandsire Caters by the local band and conducted by Samuel Moss, who had rung the third at Flixton and since had taken Jonathan Wild's position as conductor.

Then followed four full days of ringing which included two complete peals of Grandsire Caters, five unsuccessful attempts for Grandsire Caters, two attempts for Stedman Caters, one for Kent Treble Bob Royal, one for Kent Treble Bob Major, three for Grandsire Triples, as well as some touches and a 720 on the back six. These were all by visiting bands who were competing for prizes.

The band which won the prize was a mixed one made up of distinguished ringers from all parts of the country, a most unusual thing in those days. It included Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, who conducted, Stephen Hill, Joseph Riley, and Samuel Lawrence, who rang many peals with the Birmingham men and elsewhere, Thomas Hurry, of Norwich, and William Woodhead, the Wakefield conductor, who called the first peals of Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Royal ever rung. The band rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, and the meeting was closed by another peal of Grandsire Caters rung by the local company. Five of the band had taken part in the Flixton match.

The mixed band had two men to the tenor, but Jacob Ogden, of Ashton, who was in his 61st year, rang it single handed. Robert Southey, then Poet Laureate, refers to him in his book, 'The Doctor': 'James Ogden was interred with honours at Ashton-under-Lyne in the year of this present writing, 1827. His remains were borne to the grave by the ringers of St. Michael's tower in that town, with whom he had rung the tenor bell for

more than fifty years, and with whom he performed the unprecedented feat of ringing five thousand on that bell (which weighed 28 cwt.) in his sixty-seventh year. After the funeral his old companions rang a dead peal for him of 828 changes, that being the number of the months of his life. Such in England are the funeral honours of bell-ringers.'

The Oldham men were one of the competing teams at the Ashton opening. They rang 4,680 Grandsire Caters, and then their tenor man gave up. John Powell Powell, the squire of Quex Park, was present at this opening.

Ashton bells were increased to twelve in 1871. In the year after the Flixton meeting the Oldham men rang 15,120 Bob Major on their own bells. Joseph Newton composed and called it, and five others of the Flixton band took part. Twelve years later they rang 14,016 Kent Treble Bob Major, Newton again calling, and with three others of the Flixton band. In 1825 Newton composed and called 9,999 Grandsire Major, but he was the only one of the Flixton band who stood in that peal.

As a result of the interest created in Oldham by this talented company, a new ring of twelve bells was hung in the steeple in 1830, and the first peal on them, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung by the local band. Joseph Newton again conducted, and so he did when in 1832 the Oldham men rang 7,392 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and beat the peal the Birmingham men had rung in 1820. Two of the Flixton men besides him took part in it.

(Concluded.)

BIRMINGHAM.—At Bishop Ryder Memorial Church on Sunday, September 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Wilfred E. Box 1, Henry H. Fearn 2, Albert Walker 3, Leonard Tuffrey 4, Harold Chant, R.A.F. 5, George E. Fearn (conductor) 6, *John N. Lindon 7, William T. Froggatt 8. * First quarter-peal 'inside.' Rung for the harvest festival.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Bob Major at Tunstall recorded last week was Miss Betty Spice's first tower-bell peal and Mr. S. H. Dobbie's 75th. And, of course, it was not Mr. William Spice's first tower-bell peal. We must not blame the printer; the position of 'stars' and 'daggers' in reports are sometimes not too clear.

Mr. Alfred King, who joined the band at Luton Parish Church in 1902 and has been hon. secretary to the company for over 40 years, celebrated his golden wedding on September 13th.

The handbell peal of Stedman Caters at Enfield on September 14th was arranged and rung on the 40th anniversary of the peal at Exeter Cathedral, on September 14th, 1903, when the tenor was rung single-handed by William Pye. Mr. Roberts, who called the handbell peal, took part, and the same composition was rung on both occasions.

It was the 50th anniversary of the peal of Superlative called by Mr. James Parker at Crawley on September 14th, 1893, his first of Surprise Major.

The peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells at Waltham Abbey was Mr. John Thomas' 100th peal of Grandsire. Fifty of them were rung on tower bells and fifty on handbells. He has now conducted Holt's Original from every bell on tower bells, and from every pair on handbells.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

OUR LOST BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your list of church bells destroyed by enemy action I don't think any mention was made of Liverpool.

You might like to have the following information, if you have not already got it:—

St. Luke's, Bold Street, Liverpool, eight bells, tenor 16 cwt. Church burnt out by fire, bells completely destroyed and pieces picked up in street.

St. Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, six bells, tenor 9 cwt. Church burnt out by fire, and bells completely destroyed.

St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Liverpool, 12 bells, tenor 39 cwt. approx. Church completely burnt out by fire, outer walls only standing. Bells, however, all intact and ringable. A meeting with bells 'silent' has been held since destruction of church. Since then the bells have been removed to Taylors at Loughborough for safety.

(Rev.) D. P. ROBERTS

Liverpool.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT PRESTON.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Preston on September 11th, at which members were present from St. Peter's, Dorchester, Fordington St. George, Upwey, Preston, Stratton, Westham and Wyke Regis, as well as Mr. J. Sheppard from Swindon.

The bells were available from 3 o'clock, and the Guild office was sung, the service being taken by the Vicar of Preston (the Rev. T. R. Teague).

Tea was served in the Vicarage gardens, and a short business meeting was held, with Canon A. W. Markby in the chair. It was decided, owing to the approach of the darker evenings and the difficulty of transport, that the next meeting should be the annual at Dorchester, and the hon. secretary would do his best to arrange the branch practices in the meantime.

PRIZE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—An interesting reminder of prize ringing days is a news cutting hanging in the belfry of Whalley Church, N.E. Lancashire, taken from 'The Preston Guardian.'

It is headed 'Bellringing fifty years ago,' and shows the photos of the six ringers of Whalley Parish Church. Underneath it says the above ringers were successful in winning the first prize, a cup valued at 11 guineas, in a competition held at Blackburn Parish Church (now the Cathedral) on Tuesday, June 6th, 1876. On their return home to Whalley they rang the bells of Whalley Church till near on midnight.

C. S.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIRE GUARD.

COMMENTS ON CURRENT TOPICS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When all ringing was stopped except in the case of invasion, I suggested in your columns that these who might be called upon to sound the alarm could perhaps pass the time of waiting with a little handbell practice. We did not know at that time that no satisfactory arrangements would be made for such alarm ringing and it was fair to assume that ringers would be called in for the purpose. In fact, as far as I know, suitable district arrangements were made only in one county, and ringers did not have the opportunity for handbell practice which I anticipated.

Later on much idle time was spent by fire watchers waiting for an alert. Miss Ellen Wilkinson stated on one occasion that fire watchers should not spend their evenings playing darts and other games, thinking that they should always be perfecting their stirrup pump drill or performing other exercises. She said nothing about handbells. As a result four handbell peals have been rung in this office while I have been waiting for black-out or for an alert.

Now things have changed again under the new orders which came into force on September 20th. This volunteer fire watcher has become for a few months a conscript fire guard. Selection as deputy sector captain involves duty at the sector post for half an hour. The break into the evening precludes all peal attempts, and there are possibilities of meditation upon ringing matters during periods of enforced waiting. May I, therefore, comment on one or two matters which from time to time have been raised in your columns?

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE WAR.

There have been several complaints that the Central Council has not met since 1939. I have not publicly expressed any opinion on the advisability of this course, but I would like to call attention to the following points.

Apart from Government announcements it was quite evident from the early stages of the war that travelling should be limited as far as possible, and at one period travelling with any certainty of arrival at a specified time became almost impossible. Later still the Government definitely expressed disapproval of all unnecessary conferences, particularly at holiday times.

The most active members of the Council are also the most active in other duties connected with Civil Defence or other forms of war work and many would have found it very difficult to attend a meeting.

A large number of the younger ringers are away from home or out of the country on active service, and it would not be fair for the Council to pass resolutions affecting ringing matters during their absence.

I don't think that a meeting of the Council could have had any effect whatever on the 'ban.' Through the hon. secretary the officers kept in close touch with the departments concerned, and everything possible was done quite as effectively as if the matter had been discussed at a Council meeting.

The Council meets for two main purposes, firstly to receive and if necessary discuss the reports of the committees who work throughout the year, and, secondly, to discuss and, if it thinks fit, pass resolutions on any matter concerned with ringing. It is obvious in the first case that the work of the committees has been much curtailed through the activities of the members in other directions. In the second case I should like to point out that not a single notice of motion has been sent in for the Council to discuss.

Those who criticise the apparent inactivity of the Council should remember that in times of peace ringers who want matters to be discussed should get in touch with their representatives and get a motion sent in so that after deliberation action may be taken, if desired by the majority.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

After the last Council meeting certain remarks of mine made at the meeting were described as 'churlish.' I had suggested that after what had happened the previous day, I thought that if the Council received permission to ring at Westminster Abbey it should be open to members only. I should like to remind you of the facts. The London Reception Committee had obtained permission for ringing at the Abbey, and I understood that it was limited to Council members. I was sent a 'members' pass, which had to be signed before presentation for admission to the tower. Unfortunately I had no opportunity of presenting it, as the doctor who was attending me for shingles would only allow me to come up to town for the Standing Committee meeting. Imagine my disgust when I was told by a well-known ringing authority that a broken stay had put a stop to the ringing and that perhaps it was just as well that it had put a stop to the unholy row that had been made, or words to that effect. Naturally the next morning I was still feeling sore in mind as well as in body.

Your recent remarks on good striking have brought the whole subject back to my mind. I have not the slightest objection to capable ringers having access to as many towers as possible, but it would be as well if ringers would realise the limits of their capacity. You would not expect a beginner who could just get through a simple chant on the village harmonium to ask for permission to play on the organ at Westminster Abbey.

(Continued in next column.)

WILLIAM DOUGLASS JAMES.

BY A DEVONIAN.

September 25th is the 28th anniversary of the death of William Douglass James.

William Douglass James was born in Plymouth, September 23rd, 1892. Educated at Plymouth College, he proceeded from there to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he eventually took an honours degree in engineering. After leaving Cambridge he was appointed to a position in the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. and lived in the Birmingham district. As a schoolboy he learnt to ring at Charles Church, Plymouth, and quickly mastered standard methods. Entering Cambridge University, he became a member of the University Guild and was in residence at the same time as Mr. Maurice Atkins. He was Master of the Cambridge U.G. in his last year. The C.U.G. at that time was very strong, they used to go on tour annually and rang a lot of peals. During his ringing career he conducted quite a number of peals in several methods, and he must have rung altogether upwards of 50 or 60 peals. He rang his first peal at the age of 16 at Charles Church, Plymouth. This peal was an anniversary wedding compliment to his brother-in-law, the Rev. H. A. Fleetwood, Rector of Creeting St. Mary, Suffolk (incidentally the Rev. H. A. Fleetwood was also a ringer, having rung a peal at Charles Church in April, 1908). He found the late W. Pye in one of his West Country tours and was one of the band who lost a peal of Treble Bob Royal at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, a rope breaking a few leads from home.

Joining the Royal Artillery as a second-lieutenant very early in the war, he was killed in action on September 25th, 1915, aged 23. His younger brother, Charles Douglass James (a non-ringer), was wounded in France and died on September 25th also. Both these lads were sons of the late Charles James, Esq., J.P., of Plymouth, who was the donor of the two trebles making ten at Charles', and a few years ago he paid for a general overhaul of this peal. Unfortunately, through enemy action this peal is now completely lost.

Their maternal grandfather was Sir James Douglass, the builder of the celebrated Eddystone Lighthouse 12½ miles off Plymouth.

William Douglass James was a fine ringer, well endowed physically and mentally, and had he lived he certainly would have been a power in the Exercise.

A MENDIP VILLAGE BAND.

At Rowberrow in the Mendips there is a ring of six bells all cast by Bilbie of Chew-Stoke, except the third, which was broken and recast a few years ago by Major J. H. B. Hesse and his sister as a memorial to their father and mother. Major Hesse's grandfather had been Rector of Rowberrow for 40 years.

A new band has now been formed and Major Hesse is instructing them. They can ring rounds and a few call changes and ring very well for Sunday service. The Rector, the Rev. G. A. Bailey, and his wife are both ringers.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in Mr. E. T. Paul Field's letter in 'The Ringing World' this week that he puts Clossworth tenor at 19 cwt. This bell, according to Ellacombe's 'Bells of Somerset' is 41½ in. diameter. If this measurement is correct, the bell would not weigh more than 14 cwt., and as the cannons have been removed I do not think she would go 13½ cwt.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington, Somerset.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOOTTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Wootton on September 25th. The Rector, the Rev. L. Hopkins, conducted the service and welcomed the branch. Refreshments were provided in the Memorial Hall, followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector and those who had contributed to the success of the gathering. Ringing was enjoyed before the service and after the business meeting.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIREGUARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

Of all towers in the world that of the Abbey should be looked upon as a 'performance' tower, not as a 'practice' tower. I still think that if, by opening the tower to all and sundry, beginners capable of breaking a stay get access to the bells, it would be better to limit admission to those for whose benefit permission was given in the first place.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

It seems to me that the question of peal ringing in war time is largely one for the individual ringer's conscience, subject to two limitations. No peal should be rung if it causes annoyance to any of those who are forced to listen, specially if they be night workers. No ringer should ever spend the time ringing if he could have been doing some job more directly connected with the war instead of ringing.—I am, yours, etc.,

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

2, Seamore Place, London, W.1.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 422.)

Rochester Cathedral now has a ring of 10 bells, tenor 30 cwt. 14 lbs. Note D. The old eight bells were all recast and augmented by Gillett and Johnston, and rededicated May 14th, 1921. There are very few records of the bells originally hung in this cathedral. It appears, however, that in 1154, Prior Reginald made two bells and hung them in the greater tower, and that one cracked bell was used in casting another bell. This greater tower seems to have been a detached campanile then in existence, and the cracked bell was probably an alarm bell which previously hung there. Some years later there is a record of another bell named 'Thalebot' being cast.

In 1200 we find that Ralph Bretun caused a cracked bell which had stood for a long time in the nave to be recast for the repose of the soul of his brother, and sixty years later Richard de Waldene added another bell named 'Andrew.' Lastly, in 1343, Bishop Haymo-de-Hythe caused the cathedral tower to be heightened, and placed four new bells therein, named Dunstan, Paulinus, Itmarus, and Lanfranc.

After this a blank of nearly three centuries occurs in the history of the bells. In 1635 the 3rd was recast, and in 1683 Christopher Hodson contracted to recast the 5th and tenor for £120. In 1695 the treble was recast by John Wood, of Chancery Lane, London. In 1711 Richard Phelps estimated to recast a cracked bell, but evidently this did not materialise, as the 4th was recast the next year by James Bagley, of Cripplegate, London, on behalf of his father, Matthew Bagley, who was then very close to the end of his career. Up to 1904 there were six bells, and in that year two trebles were added and several old ones recast. As stated above, these eight bells were recast and two further trebles added in 1921.

The ascent to Rochester Cathedral belfry reminds me of that at Tewkesbury Abbey. Here the spacious central tower is one of the largest in England, and the ring of twelve (tenor 24 cwt.) hang in one corner. Some idea of the size of the tower may be gained from the fact that it would hold four such rings of bells on one level. The ringing chamber has been made comfortable by a partition which encloses a portion of the available space, although in the days when there were only eight bells the ringers were exposed to the great area of the whole chamber.

The approach to this ringing chamber is first by a long and wide spiral stairway at the end of the north transept, emerging on a spacious false ceiling over the aforesaid transept and among the timbers supporting the roof above. You then traverse a wooden platform at the apex of this vaulted ceiling to the centre of the tower: then turn left to the corner and mount a further spiral stairway until the ringing room is reached.

The history of the bells at Tewkesbury—like the famous Abbey itself—is a long one, and goes back to 1224, when the Bishop of Killaloe dedicated two large bells in the tower. In 1241 two new large bells were added. There was a campanile which stood to the north of the Abbey, but it is not known how long this was used for the bells. In 1582 it was converted into a house of correction, and in 1817 it was demolished. At the time

of the dissolution of the Monastery in 1539 there were eight bells. These bells were bought by the townspeople from the King's Commissioners who had confiscated them, but three or four of them must have been sold again, for from that date until 1612 there were only four large bells and a Sanctus. In that year a 5th bell was added, but sold away the next year, leaving the old four, which remained until 1632, when they were 'new caste into sixe.' Several of these were subsequently recast, and in 1696 Abraham Rudhall increased them to eight. In later times several of these were recast, and in 1837 the bells were restored by Thomas Mears.

Not much change ringing was done here locally until C. D. P. Davies, the son of the Vicar, while still a lad, interested himself in ringing and got together a local band and with them rang the first local peal (Grand-sire Triples) in 1877. The late George Cleal (then aged 15) rang the treble to this peal and C. D. P. Davies, Esq. (afterwards Rev.) rang the second.

For 30 years this band kept together and maintained a high standard. In 1913 two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank, forming a ring of ten. The writer had the pleasure of ringing the tenor here on April 26th, 1919, to 5,057 Grandsire Caters, conducted by John Austin. In 1934 a National Memorial, consisting of a ringers' chapel; the provision of two bells to increase the ring to twelve; recasting two former trebles, as well as tuning the other eight, was dedicated to honour the memory of one who did so much for the art of ringing—Charles Douglas Percival Davies, priest, who was born at Tewkesbury in 1857, and who rests in the quiet cloister garth of the Abbey he loved so well. This augmentation and restoration of the bells was carried out by J. Taylor and Co., and since that date several peals have been rung on them.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BOLTON.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Bolton, of St. Mary's, Putney, at the age of 82. He had been a ringer at St. Mary's for 59 years, during 36 of which he had been Master. He began change ringing somewhat late in life under the direction of Mr. J. W. Driver, of Fulham. He had rung several peals of Grandsire Triples and was most regular in his service ringing. He was a sidesman for many years and was also a member of the Church Council. The funeral took place at Putney Vale Cemetery and was conducted by the Rev. H. C. Kemp. The ringers were represented by Mr. F. W. Wicks and the Church Council by Mr. Tribe.

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago I replied to a correspondent's enquiry on the above, and a further correspondent supplemented my notes with a report that there were five bells at Lezayre and eight at Kirk Braddan. I have recently been able to check up at both churches in question, and for the benefit of readers who might otherwise be misled, the 'bells' at Lezayre are five Harrington tubes, and the 'octave' at Kirk Braddan are gramophone records. R. H. DOVE.

70, Morris Lane, Leeds 5.
P.S.—The octave at St. Luke's, Liverpool, should be added to your list of rings destroyed by enemy action.

THE BELLS OF PETERBOROUGH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am not in a position just now to look into the Peterborough Cathedral records, but maybe a local ringer could help in this matter, as Mr. Morris suggests. At the same time, I shall do my best to find out all I can concerning the bells, as I still feel sure hung in the tower until about 1887.

Having read the history of several English cathedrals without finding any reference to bells, even where there are famous peals, I am not surprised to hear that Mr. Morris found no mention of Peterborough bells in the Leicester journals.

E. LANKESTER.

205, Chapter Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2.

ST. JAMES', BUSHEY. THE CHURCH BELLS AND RINGING.

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

From 1552 until 1887 the church possessed three bells, one of which, the present seventh, was cast between 1420-1430 by Roger Landon, of Wokingham, and two bells cast in 1664 by William Eldridge, of Chertsey. With regard to these three bells a legend, which long existed in Bushey, is to be found in 'The Legends of the Bells,' by Mr. Ernest Morris.

In 1887 they were increased to a peal of six, and during 1889 the octave was completed by the gift of two trebles.

For many years there has been a good ringing tradition in the district, and since 1890 the standard of ringing has been maintained at a high level and much ringing history recorded in the tower.

The Bushey Society has always been run on democratic lines, with no monopoly of masters or conductors. Previous to 1914, Bertram Prewett tried to get every member of the society to call a peal in a different method, six or seven doing so. Among the older members of the society are Messrs. W. G. Whitehead, F. A. Smith and J. J. Allen, with over 47 years' service, and M. F. R. Hibbert with 41 years, all of whom have been masters of the society and are still members.

The first peal on the bells, Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original) was rung on October 4th, 1890, conducted by the late E. P. Debenham, of St. Albans. Messrs. W. H. L. Buckingham and G. W. Cartmel, of St. Albans, took part in this peal.

The first peal by the local band was rung in November, 1891, being Grandsire Triples; conducted by Mr. Buckingham. The late E. E. Huntley called several peals here, chief amongst them being Thurstans' and Lates' one-part peals of Stedman.

In 1900 Bertram Prewett joined the band and Superlative Surprise Major was rung in 1902. In 1904 New Cambridge and London Surprise Major, the first for the Hertford County Association. In 1910 the first of Bristol Surprise Major was accomplished.

Up to date a total of 230 peals has been rung on these bells, in 41 different methods, six of Triples and 35 of Major, about 20 methods being rung for the first time, and 30 being rung by the Herts Association for the first time, including London.

After the death of Bertram Prewett, who, during an active career of 15 years, had taken part in 953 peals, the conducting devolved chiefly on Mr. M. F. R. Hibbert. The peals conducted by Mr. Hibbert include the only peal of Original Triples yet rung, and a peal of Original Major, containing 825 calls, the maximum number to date. Also various short course compositions of Stedman Triples, and others of from one to seven parts inclusive, many of these being rung for the first time, as well as Erin Triples by the local band. Besides the

usual standard Surprise methods, Mr. Hibbert also called the first of Norfolk Surprise Major on the bells, this being the first in the method for the Herts Association.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore has, during recent years, conducted numerous peals on these bells and besides the four standard Surprise Major methods, the following have been rung for the first time: Bushey, Hertfordshire, Elstree, Apsley, Kendal, Southall, Newbury, Raunds, Verulam, Queensbury, Zetland, Bedford, Napsbury and Goudhurst Surprise Major. Also Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Debenham and Watford, all conducted by Mr. Cashmore.

In 1935 he called a peal of Eryri Major. This method is an extension of Bristol Surprise, with the treble performing a double dodging hunt and it was the only peal on the plan ever rung.

In August, 1939, he also called the first peal of Spliced Erin and Stedman Triples yet rung, also Spliced Surprise Major in 3, 4 and 6 methods, the 3 and 6-method peals being the first for the association on tower bells.

For a great number of years there has also been a good ringing tradition on handbells in the district, this mainly due to the exertions of Mr. G. N. Price who, prior to 1914, rang, besides Stedman, from Triples to Cinques, three peals of Superlative Surprise Major and Double Norwich.

In 1927, Mr. Fred Brinklow, of Oxhey, with H. Hodgetts, these two being former members of Mr. Price's band, were successful with H. G. Cashmore and R. W. Picton in ringing a peal of Surprise Major (Superlative), and this peal was in a way unique, inasmuch that it was the first peal in anything for R. W. Picton and the first handbell peal for H. G. Cashmore.

From 1933 to 1939 Messrs. H. Hodgetts and C. W. Woolley, both members of the Bushey Society, Mr. F. W. Brinklow, of Oxhey, and Mr. H. G. Cashmore, then a member of the Watford band and now a member of the Bushey Society, were successful in ringing the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major in hand and also peals of London, Bristol and Spliced Surprise in two, three, four, five and six Surprise Major methods spliced.

From 1939 until 1941, Mr. C. W. Woolley rang several Plain Major methods with a band composed chiefly of E. A. Barnett, E. C. S. Turner, J. E. Spice, F. W. Brinklow and E. Jennings. In 1942, Mr. Cashmore was successful in obtaining another Surprise handbell band, composed of E. C. S. Turner, of Ealing, F. W. Brinklow, of Oxhey, and H. G. Cashmore and E. Jennings, of the Bushey Society. Since May, 1942, the following peals have been accomplished: Two peals of Cambridge and one of New Cambridge Surprise Major, one each of Superlative, London and Bristol Surprise Major, the only peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major rung in hand, and also the four standard Surprise methods spliced.

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1,260.

23456

34526 Single Before, Bob Home

45326 Home

52346 Before and Wrong

34256 Before and Single Wrong

Five times repeated. B. for S. at Wrong in third and sixth parts.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

1,260.

231456 S H Q

345261 x x

435216 x

125346 x x

Four times repeated.

BOB MAJOR.

1,264.

23456 W B M R

35264 1

42356 — —

34256 — —

25346 — —

32546 — —

32465 1 —

43265 — —

24365 — —

53246 — —

45236 — —

23456 — —

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,280.

23456 W R

43526 2 1

45236 1 2

25346 2 1

23456 1 2

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

1,280.

23456 I F H O

65324 — —

25463 — —

42356 — —

25346 — —

54326 — —

43256 — S

Repeated.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A practice meeting, held at Houghton-le-Spring on September 11th, was attended by ringers from Chester-le-Street, Bishopswearmouth, Sunderland (St. Ignatius') and the local band.

During tea, which was provided by the local ringers, the Rector, the Rev. — Ushdown, expressed his pleasure at the ringing of his bells. A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies for the tea arrangements was proposed by Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland.

The next meeting will be held at Bishopswearmouth, Sunderland, on October 2nd.

HOLY TRINITY, BOLTON.

A useful combined practice is being held weekly at Holy Trinity, Bolton, and is doing good in keeping together the ringers that are left in the town, as well as those in H.M. Forces stationed in the neighbourhood.

The personnel attending the last meeting was typical of the times and rather interesting. There was a Reserve Police sergeant, a sergeant and two constables of Special Police, two N.F.S. men, an Air Force man who hails from the Salisbury district, an Army man from Leatherhead, munition workers, two females and a schoolboy.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EASTRINGTON.

The September meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Eastington on September 11th and was attended by about 35 ringers from Goole, Hemingbrough, Howden, Hull, Hessele, Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sutton-on-Hull and the local company, and visitors from Ulceby and Goodall, Lincs.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Fowlke, and was followed by tea in the Parish Hall, where the business meeting was held. The Vicar presided and welcomed the association, saying he was pleased to hear the bells again. Five new members were elected, Messrs. W. W. Williams, of Barnsley, E. F. Wale, of Ilford, Essex, attached to Market Weighton Company, and H. Howcroft, J. J. Taylor and H. W. Cooper, of Eastington. The place and date of next meeting were left in the hands of the district secretary.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, Mr. Fox, a ringer from Kirk Ella, to the ladies who served the tea and to the local company was passed. Tower and handbells were made good use of at the meeting. A collection for the association's Bell Repair Fund realised 12s. 6d.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WITHAM.

Only fifteen ringers representing eleven towers attended the meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Witham on September 18th.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. B. E. Payne, the address was given by the Rev. Browning, of Inworth, and the district secretary, Miss Hilda Snowden, was at the organ.

A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 8s. 6d.

Tea and business meeting followed, with the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, in the chair. Braintree was chosen as the next place of meeting for early November. The District Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Payne, the Rev. Browning, Mr. Evers and the ladies who had helped with the tea, and to the secretary for officiating at the organ. He also welcomed the visitors, which included Mr. J. Chalk, Mr. B. Weaver and Mr. H. G. Herbert.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CROFT.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Joan Dunn 1, W. A. Wood 2, C. H. Webb (conductor) 3, H. Bird 4, A. Warwick 5, F. Watson 6. *First quarter-peal.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Friday, September 3rd, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled on the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, September 5th, a quarter-peal of Doubles in four methods (1,260 changes), being 120 each of St. Dunstan's and London Single, three 120's of Antelope, five 120's and 60 changes of Grandsire: *Mrs. G. Wareham 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, H. White (conductor) 4, M. M. Martin 5, G. Wareham 6. *First quarter-peal. First quarter-peal by a local band in four methods.

TAUNTON.—At St. Mary Magdalen, on Sunday evening, September 5th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters: F. Chidgey 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, S. G. Coles 3, A. J. Wyatt 4, A. Hayward 5, A. H. Reed 6, W. Tarr 7, W. H. Lloyd 8, H. Mockridge 9, S. P. Merson 10.

OXFORD.—On Monday, September 6th, at Merton College, 1,260 Stedman Triples: V. J. F. Bennett 1, G. Horwood 2, W. H. B. Wilkins 3, W. F. Judge (conductor) 4, W. G. Collett 5, G. Holified 6, G. Caudwell 7, R. White 8.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, September 12th, in St. Peter's Hall, a peal attempt broke down after 90 minutes, during which 28 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were completed: John V. Davis 1-2, Arthur V. Davis 3-4, *Percy W. Brayshaw 5-6. *Aged 14 years, first attempt for a peal and longest length.

SUNDERLAND.—On Sunday, September 12th, at St. Ignatius' Church, 672 Stedman Triples: T. Stephenson 1, W. Armour 2, W. Oxley 3, L.S.A. R. A. Johnson, R.N. 4, R. Walker 5, J. W. Parker 6, R. L. Patterson (conductor) 7, F. Ainsley 8.

YORK.—At the Minster on September 12th to celebrate the surrender of Italy, a course of Grandsire Caters with Great Peter as bass accompaniment. This was broadcast. After evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Imeson 1, T. F. Earnshaw 2, S. H. Steel 3, E. Rickitt 4, H. Forden 5, L. Woodcock 6, H. Walker (conductor) 7, E. Ayre 8. W. Ayre and F. Atkinson took part in the morning ringing.

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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).

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business at 5 o'clock. —E. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Ashton, St. Peter's, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Acton, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Short service 5 p.m. The Rector hopes to provide tea and sandwiches. Ringing (probably) at St. Mary's, Ealing, in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Garston, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 6 p.m. and business meeting. No arrangements for tea.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Poolstock, Saturday, October 2nd. Bells 2.30. Tea 5 p.m., approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

BRISTOL RURAL.—Meeting at Warmley on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—R. C. Gifford, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on October 9th, at 3 p.m.—Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, October 3rd, 10.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Meeting at Shepton Mallet on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names to E. H. Nash, Hon. Sec., The Talbot, Wells.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Dorking, Saturday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business meeting in the Church Room at 7. — A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Northowram, Halifax, Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Tea arrangements later.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Watlington on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5, bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Northchurch on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. No tea arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District). — Meeting at Eckington on Saturday, Oct. 9th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach P. J. Jervis, 48, High Street, Eckington, by Oct. 7th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice at Scottow on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 2 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Additions to food welcomed.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of the Gainsborough District at Upton on Saturday, October 9th, 5.30 to 8.30. No service or tea.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Withyham, October 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Postcard to Rev. A. Miles, Withyham, for tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WILTON, NEAR SALISBURY.—Combined practice Saturday, October 9th, 3 p.m. Notify C. F. Haines, 8, Dalston Terrace, Wilton, for tea.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bedworth, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m.—Allesley, October 16th, ringing before induction (3 p.m.) of new Rector (Rev. F. W. Moyle), president of the Guild. Tea provided at 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Penwortham, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Barwell on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BOURNEMOUTH.—St. Peter's.—A parting gift to the Vicar from the district ringers on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 3 p.m. to 4.30. Tea and presentation to follow.—Arthur V. Davis.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Penistone, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30. For tea, notify Mr. R. Crossland, Hillside, Thurlstone, near Sheffield.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

WEDNESBURY.—Open practice meeting at St. Bartholomew's Church, Saturday, October 9th, 3 to 5 p.m.—A. Hingley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45. Tea at Carlton Cafe 4.30. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, by October 12th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Banbury (10 bells) Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and evening ringing. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Woodstock, Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.15 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Bear Hotel 4.30 p.m. Names by Tuesday, 12th.—W. Evetts, Branch Hon. Sec.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Ringing at the Parish Church every Sunday, 10.15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Practice during winter first and third Saturdays, 3 p.m., commencing October 17th.—E. E. Edwards, Hon. Sec.

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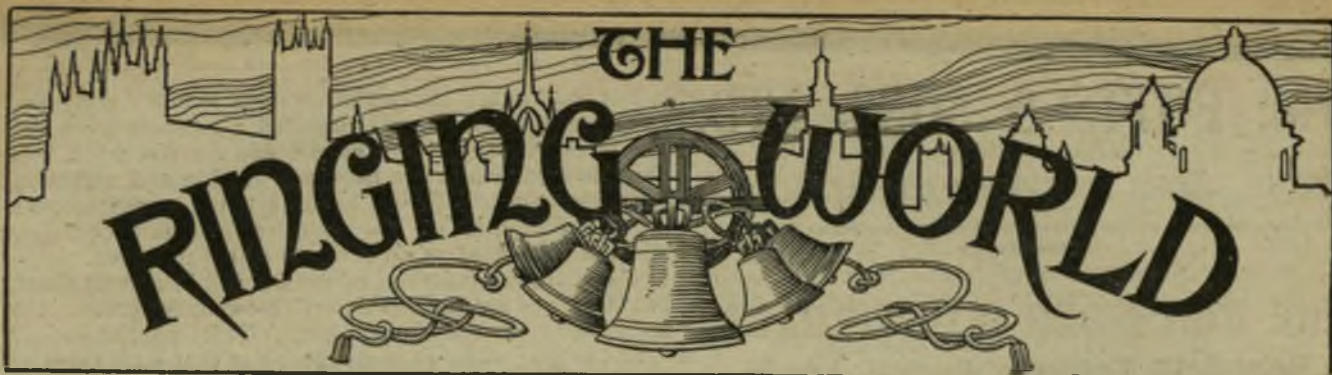
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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

In the interesting and instructive letter we published last week Mr. Edwin H. Lewis referred to the Central Council and the complaints which have been made because it has not met since 1939. Mr. Lewis pointed out the difficulties of travelling, the fact that most of the members are now fully engaged with duties connected with war work, and the certainty that nothing the Council could have done would have secured the lifting of the ban on ringing earlier than actually was the case.

We feel sure that our readers will understand Mr. Lewis' explanation and will realise that no meeting was desirable or even possible; but there is just the chance that some of the younger people may still feel that the Council has been found wanting. If ever there was a time, they may think, when the Exercise needed guidance and a lead, it is now; but bands have to struggle on as best they can, and if ringing comes back again to prosperity it will not be because of anything the Council has done. If ringers can get along without the help of the Council in difficult times like these, surely they can get along without it at any time. What good does it do?

We do not say that many men put these thoughts into definite words, but there has always been a more or less vague idea that the Council is of very little use to the average ringer, many of whom are not much interested in its doings, which, they think, do not concern them.

This opinion, once widely held in the Exercise, has been for several years dying, and it would be a pity if the enforced inactivity of the Council gave it a new lease of life. It may therefore be well to point out, and especially to younger people, what the real benefit the Council is to the Exercise. Essentially its value lies not so much in what it can do as in what it is. The Exercise, as we have it to-day, is a body of men united by a common interest and organised in guilds and associations for mutual assistance and co-operation. Without that organisation bands would be, what they once were, isolated units each left to struggle on as best it might, and regarding others with indifference, rivalry or even hostility. The sense of brotherhood and co-operation, which is one of the most precious possessions of the Exercise, is directly due to its organisation into the great territorial guilds and associations.

Of this organisation the Council is the climax and the keystone. It is the visible link which unites ringers, and though, necessarily, its influence in this respect is largely out of sight and unnoticed, that probably has been the greatest service it has rendered to ringers.

(Continued on page 438.)

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But the Council has got much more than a merely passive role to perform. It provides a medium by which questions affecting the Exercise can be discussed, and the new ideas which are necessary for life and well-being can be ventilated. It also has to act, not merely for, but as, the Exercise, on the comparatively few occasions when the Exercise as an entity is called to action.

Those are the functions of the Council in normal times, but these are not normal times. How under present circumstances can the Council best fulfil its special duties?

In the first place we must recognise that such times of upheaval as the present are the very times when new problems and new ideas are most likely to arise. We may expect that there will be changes of opinion and outlook as the result of this war, just as there were as the result of the last. These changes will have to be considered, but before that can be done, they must have an opportunity to develop and reveal their nature. There will be plenty of work for the Council to do in this matter, but the time is not yet.

Secondly, it is not the business of the Council to undertake tasks which properly belong to the associations, or to bands, or to individual ringers. The duty of re-establishing ringing in belfries and of finding recruits is not laid upon the Council, nor is it fitted to undertake it. The Exercise generally must see to these things, and it is in a far better position to do so just because of what the Council has done in the past.

Lastly, the idea that the Council ought to act definitely in certain ways is entirely fallacious. Through its officers it kept a close watch on the ban. It could not have done anything to remove it, and it is a blessing it did not try. The ban was lifted because the Church of England and the people of England moved in the matter, and because they did the benefit to us ringers has been vastly greater than the mere resumption of ringing.

One speaker at a Lancashire meeting suggested that the Council should arrange 'joy' ringing with the authorities. We presume he meant the ringing when peace comes. Nothing of the kind is wanted. We have had quite enough of interference with ringing by 'authorities,' and we want no more of it. If the ringing at peace time cannot be spontaneous and arranged by the local people, it had better be left alone.

When the full tale of these war years comes to be told, it will be clear that the Central Council, both in what it has refrained from doing and in what it has done, has fully and worthily served the best interest of ringers.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STANMORE.

Over thirty members and friends attended the meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association at Stanmore on September 18th. The tower bells were kept going from about 3.30 p.m. until black-out under the direction of the Ringing Master, Mr. A. Cutler, and some good practice was to everyone's benefit. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. W. A. Hewett, who gave an interesting application of the story of the Good Samaritan to present-day conditions. The Rev. G. Binnie, curate, and Mr. H. Barker, organist, also assisted in the service.

Mr. C. T. Coles, vice-president, took the chair at the business meeting, at which Mrs. C. W. Taylor was elected an honorary member and Messrs. A. C. Wenban, N. Genna and A. F. Petrie were elected ringing members. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Edmon-ton jointly with the London District of the Ladies' Guild, probably on October 16th. The district secretary, Mr. T. J. Lock, asked the meeting to support his action in sending congratulatory messages to Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. Bennett on the accomplishment of one thousand peals.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. G. Hughes, of the Stanmore band, upon the completion of 50 years' service as ringer and chorister and for over a quarter of a century captain of the ringers.

TEN BELL PEAL.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 26, 1943, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS Treble	*ALBERT J. ADAMS 6
JOSEPH HANLEY 2	JAMES FERNLEY... .. 7
G. LEONARD HEWITT... .. 3	†CYRIL BRETT-SMITH... .. 8
ROBERT EVANS 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 9
WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 5	JOSEPH L. STANIER Tenor

Composed by G. HAYWARD. Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal of Caters 'inside.' † First peal of Caters. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 8th, and to Messrs. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, and Ernest Weatherby, of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BARNESLEY, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, September 25, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIE GREEN Treble	*G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. 5
MRS. E. BRADLEY 2	EDWARD BRADLEY 6
ARTHUR FIRTH 3	DANIEL SMITH 7
MISS D. M. HAWLEY... .. 4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method. The conductor's 400th peal. Rung for the Battle of Britain commemoration.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 25, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

EDWARD STEELE Treble	CHARLES H. PAGE 5
JOHN G. CARLIDGE 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 6
RICHARD T. HOLDING... .. 3	ANDREW THOMPSON 7
WILLIAM CARNWELL 4	ARTHUR W. HALL Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by ARTHUR W. HALL.

First peal of Major on the bells.

FARINGDON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

CHARLES J. GARDNER ... Treble	HERBERT W. BISHOP 5
*VALHALLA V. H. HILL ... 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER 6
W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 3	NEIL ALLNATT 7
REV. KENNETH C. LEWIS... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal of Major away from the treble.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAVIES' VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt. (approx.).

ALFRED J. WYATT Treble	CLAUDE TARR 3
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	CYRIL J. STEVENS 6
JOHN C. PUGSLEY 3	WILLIAM H. LLOYD 7
WILLIAM G. GIGG 4	*WALTER STEVENS Tenor

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

* First peal on eight bells.

THAME, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. in F.

HARRY C. JONES Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 3
HARRY WINGROVE 2	WALTER LEE 6
MISS DOROTHY R. FLETCHER 3	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG ... 7
HARRY W. BADGER 4	JAMES H. SHEPHERD Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No. 14).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

Rung for the Battle of Britain thanksgiving.

PENISTONE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F sharp.

ERNEST B. BETTS Treble	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 3
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	FRED HODGSON 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 3	J. REDFERN BREARLEY ... 7
G. GORDON GRAHAM 4	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Composed by J. THORP.

Non-Conducted.

Rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary (October 3rd, 1863) of the non-conducted Kent Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Liversedge, Yorks.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Wednesday, September 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT, SHIRLEY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.

*ARTHUR D. COOK Treble	ARTHUR MORRIS... .. 4
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	†THOMAS W. ABBOTTS ... 5
EDWARD T. LLOYD 3	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal on tower bells. † First peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 27, 1943, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten callings).

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	THOMAS BULLOCK 3-4
*ERNEST W. PYE... .. 5-6	

Conducted by THOMAS BULLOCK.

Umpires: Miss M. Seller and Miss J. Scoulan.

* First peal on handbells. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Rung to commemorate the first peal of Bristol rung in hand 36 years ago in this belfry.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESTBURY.

A meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held at Prestbury on April 25th and was attended by over 30 members, including some old friends in the person of Messrs. John Austin, Arthur Pegler and Walter Bennett. They were members of the St. Michael's Juniors, Gloucester, nearly 50 years ago.

Canon J. Baghot de la Bere was in the chair and welcomed the members. Tea was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rose. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Obeltenham in about two months' time.

The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob and Double Norwich.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

After Sir Arthur Heywood's death in April, 1916, his ringing books and papers came into the possession of the Central Council and are now in the library. The contents of the papers are not of any particular value, for they are mostly the figures which Heywood used to write the articles published in 'The Bell News,' and, like such figures generally, are hardly intelligible to anyone but the writer. Recently, however, his daughter, Miss Heywood, came across three press cutting books which had not been included among those given to the Central Council, and thinking they would be of interest to ringers, she sent them to Mr. Ernest Morris for the Midland Counties Association, of which Sir Arthur was for many years the president. Mr. Morris has courteously given us the opportunity of examining two of them.

One of the books consists of cuttings from 'The Bell News,' chiefly of the articles on the history and composition of Stedman written by Jasper Snowdon, Earle Bulwer, Heywood himself, and others. These, of course, are available elsewhere and in substance have been reproduced in C. D. P. Davies' book on Stedman, but a full collection of the original articles and letters is not without value and interest.

The other book is headed 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' and contains many original manuscripts and printed sheets, which refer to incidents in the past history of the Exercise. It is very fortunate that it has been discovered and has now come into the possession of a leading ringing association.

The first item is an autographed letter, dated June 24th, 1890, from Leonard Proctor, of Benington. Proctor, who was born in January, 1816, was nearing the end of his ringing career, and had made his great reputation as the founder and leader of the first local band who rang the Standard Surprise Major methods regularly. His letter is as follows:—

'I have not had the great pleasure of hearing from you since we met at that grand gathering of ringers in London. I think you will be amused with a little gossip as to our own ringing doings in this our own little village.

'I am very pleased to say that we have some very pretty ringing here on our village peal. On Saturday last our County Ringing Association held its district meeting at Baldock, where, upon its fine peal of eight, we had some very grand ringing indeed. I never in my humble experience heard any better ringing anywhere like it, and it really seemed to electrify the ears of many of the inhabitants as they came into the street to listen to the fine music of their grand peal of bells.

'Eight of our company came with myself. Not a single breakdown all day. We were met by many friends from St. Albans and others. We rang 2,128 changes, our own company, Stedman Grandsire, Double Norwich, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Superlative, and Cambridge.

'Samuel Page, our conductor, really exceeded his usual ability. Having read in "Bell News" your most interesting article on Multi-bobs, Sam Page was most pleased, and with myself and our village band, called a most musical touch of Stedman Triples containing 45 bobs. We rang this touch in a most remarkable way,

simply splendid striking. I should like to hear this ringing on your fine bells.

'What a treat it would be to again visit Youlgreave, where is the best peal of eight that I have ever heard.

'Our good friend, Canon Wigram, came over here lately. He rang with us 1,260 changes of Superlative *very well*. Their company at Hertford is completely broken up! Baker has given up ringing and, when we were at Hertford on Easter Monday, he cut all of us and never spoke a single word to anyone meeting him in the street.'

The 'grand gathering of ringers in London' was the preliminary meeting at which the Central Council was founded.

It will be noticed that when the Benington ringers went to the association meeting at Baldock, they went as a band and rang as a band. That was the old custom, and it continued long afterwards in Devon. It resulted in better ringing when the best bands were in the belfry, but it did not give the other men much opportunity of practising with ringers more skilful than they ordinarily met in their home towers. Sam Page, the Benington conductor, rang with Proctor in the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise in 1873 and the 6,048 London Surprise in 1870. He probably was the son of Thomas Page, who called the peals.

Canon Wigram was rector of St. Andrew's, Hertford, where he started a change ringing company about 1876. He was a most enthusiastic ringer and published a text book on the art entitled 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' which was a reprint of some articles from 'Church Bells.'

Wigram was not himself much of a practical ringer. He confessed that he could never hear his own bell, and is said to have been the original man 'who only made one good blow in the course of a peal and that was when he missed his sally.' But the tale has been told of several persons, and probably there never was an original. In the year 1889 James W. Washbrook called his first peal of Superlative, at St. Andrew's, Hertford. F. E. Robinson, in his book 'Among the Bells,' says it was 'a very able piece of conducting,' and Canon Coleridge remembers it as almost the worst peal he ever took part in. This will explain Proctor's statement that in 1890 Wigram rang Superlative 'very well.'

'One of Canon Wigram's early recruits was Herbert Baker, then a boy, and afterwards a member of a firm of brewers and maltsters. He developed into an excellent ringer, and took part in many peals, among them 12,041 and 15,041 Stedman Caters and 13,247 Grandsire Caters at Appleton, as well as peals of Superlative, Cambridge, Double Norwich, and Duffield, which, in those days, were only rung by the more skilled bands.

Following Proctor's letter, Heywood pasted in his book a photograph of a band taken outside Ashby west door. The group, includes Leonard Proctor, Heywood himself and six of the Duffield company.

(To be continued.)

SUTTON, CAMBS.

At a meeting at Sutton on Sept. 25th, ringers were present from Ely, Fordham, Wilburton, Witchford and Cambridge, as well as members of the local band. The following methods were rung: Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor.

A meeting will be held at Fordham and Chippenham on October 9th at 3 p.m.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH THACKRAY.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Thackray, of Armley, which occurred on Sunday morning, September 26th, at the age of 71.

Mr. Thackray took part in the victory ringing and the Christmas ringing last year. This was the last tower bell ringing he was able to enjoy. In 1936 he rang a peal to celebrate 50 years' service at Christ Church, Upper Armley. With his brother John he was among the pioneers of handbell ringing in Yorkshire, and in 1895 was one of the band when the late Mr. Harry Williams rang 5-6 in a peal blindfolded. The total peals he rang for the Yorkshire Association was 87.

The funeral service was held at his home and the interment at Armley Hill Top Cemetery, when a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mrs. O. Whitehouse 1-2, Mr. J. W. Moorhouse 3-4, Mr. P. J. Johnson 5-6, Mr. H. Lofthouse 7-8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on September 25th, and although it was only a shadow of a peace-time meeting, it showed that interest in ringing is still active.

The president, Mr. M. D. Outridge, was unable to be present, and Mr. C. L. Routledge took the chair.

There was a discussion on payment of subscriptions for the period of the ban, some people thinking that they should not pay. The hon. treasurer (Mr. W. N. Park) produced figures which showed that the majority had paid up to date, and he appealed for the payment of the remainder. A resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. F. Ainsley that those whose membership had lapsed should be afforded continuity of membership if their outstanding subscriptions were paid on or before October 31st, 1943, failing which the rule would be invoked.

It was decided to ask the district officers to make efforts to hold four meetings in each district during the coming year. The annual meeting will be held in Newcastle in September, 1944.

Several practice meetings had been held in different towers since the lifting of the ban, and some towers have got together bands of young people who it is hoped will advance in the art. The chairman welcomed the Rev. Mr. Nelson, curate of St. Thomas', Stockton-on-Tees, who had brought ten young beginners, and expressed the hope that they would become proficient and loyal members of the Exercise.

A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and later the party partook of an excellent tea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Deane, Bolton, on September 25th, and most of the branches were represented. The bells of Holy Trinity and The Saviour, Bolton, and Dean were made good use of. Service was conducted by Canon Worsley, who gave an address.

About 80 or 90 members sat down to tea in the schools, and the business meeting followed, with the president, the Rev. F. F. Rigby, in the chair. He was supported by Canon Worsley, the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Liverpool, the vice-president, the treasurer, two secretaries and several members of the committee.

The committee reported the loss by death of 18 members. They included the Bishop of Hulme, Archdeacon Howson, of Liverpool, and eleven life members, the oldest of whom joined in 1887, the youngest in 1900. Twenty-one members had been elected and the total membership is now 1397. Since the ban on ringing has been lifted the monthly meetings had been successful and Sunday service ringing was fairly maintained. The balance sheet showed a profit of £25. This was largely due to the fact that there were no expenses for the Central Council meeting (which had not been held) and to the reduction in the size of the annual report. For the first time during the 77 years of the association's existence there were no peals to record.

Mr. J. Ridyard, of Southport, was elected vice-president for two years; 420 voting papers had been sent out and 225 returned. The other officers were re-elected for two years.

A proposition from the Rochdale Branch was adopted with a slight alteration of the wording. Manchester was chosen for the next annual meeting, the committee being given power to make an alteration if necessary.

The President advised that the best possible ringing should be used for Sundays, and practice ringing be kept for practice nights.

Mr. Crook raised the question of joy bells, saying that the Central Council should consult with the authorities and give a lead.

Thanks were given to Canon Worsley, the organist, the local ringers, the ladies who arranged the tea, and the Vicars and ringers of Holy Trinity and The Saviour. The Vicar of Deane responded.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A practice meeting was held at Ranworth on September 25th, when nearly 20 members attended from Acle, Burlingham, Leicester, Norwich, Ranworth and Wroxham. Ringing took place in the afternoon and evening, and the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. D. Everard, who provided tea to drink in the Parish Hall.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The College Youths' 306th anniversary luncheon will be held on November 6th at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, at 1.30 p.m. This is the same place as last year. Particulars will appear in due course in our notices columns.

The non-conducted peal of Kent Treble Bob at Penistone was rung on the eve of the 80th anniversary of what probably was the first non-conducted peal in the method. It is rather uncertain which was the first non-conducted peal in any method. The College Youths rang one of Grandsire Triples at Spitalfields, and we believe there was an earlier one of Bob Major in the Birmingham district. We are unable at the moment to check the references.

Encouraging reports are received from all over the country of a revival of interest in ringing and not least among the village belfries. The Rector of Childe Okeford, Dorset, sends us a report of two handbell quarter-peals by his ringers, and says that in his tower there are several beginners who are making good progress.

Ringing at Newcastle Cathedral has been suspended for some time owing to repairs to the tower, but it is hoped it will be resumed shortly.

The local 'Sunday Sun' recently gave a portrait of Mr. Joseph W. Parker, of Sunderland, and quoted some of his opinions on bells and ringing. 'Mr. Parker has seen,' says the journal, 'the time when change ringing was looked down upon as a low, degrading sport, and also its most flourishing and fashionable period.'

By a coincidence, on the day before our issue appeared with the article dealing with betting at prize ringing meetings, 'The Times' had a leading article dealing with betting. Those who were fortunate enough to see that article may use it to form a judgment of those who backed their favourite band of ringers 150 years ago.

The first peal on Exeter Cathedral bells was rung on October 6th, 1902. The method was Grandsire Caters, Mr. George Williams conducted and Canon Coleridge rang the tenor, with Mr. Ferris Shepherd to help him.

Mr. J. C. Pugsley, who rang in the peal at Milverton, is the only survivor of the band which rang the first peal on the bells 50 years ago last May. The method was Grandsire Triples and the band was made up of ringers in the Minehead district.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

FIRST LADIES' HANDBELL PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the Belfry Gossip of September 3rd you record that the handbell peal at Kinson on August 14th was the first rung entirely by ladies.

I wish to point out that I umpired a handbell peal of Grandsire Doubles at Hinton-on-the-Green on April 4th, 1936, rung by three Johnson sisters. When this was published it was stated that it was believed to be the first handbell peal rung by ladies, and to my knowledge this has not been disputed.

ARTHUR J. MARTIN.

Orchard Road, Bromsgrove.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex County Association at St. John the Baptist, Southover, Lewes, on September 25th, was attended by upwards of 30 members. Ringing began at 3 p.m. under the direction of the Ringing Master (Lieut. Instructor R. G. Cross), who saw that everyone had a ring, whether in rounds or Surprise.

The Vicar (the Rev. — Matthews) conducted a homely little service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and the business meeting followed. Henfield was selected for the next meeting, to be held in December. Further ringing was enjoyed until after 8 p.m.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must thank Major J. H. B. Hesse for his correction to my statement re Closworth tenor. In May, 1935, the only time I have rung there, one of the local ringers told me the weight was 19 cwt., and the bell certainly sounded and went like one of that weight.

Can anyone kindly tell me the weight of the tenor at West Camel, Somerset (a ring of four)?
Stoke Wake, Dorset.

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIRE GUARD.*To the Editor.***THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

Sir,—Without taking up too much of your valuable space I would like to draw the attention of Mr. Lewis to the following facts.

The officials of the Council are elected every three years by rule and therefore it now requires a meeting of the Council to re-elect him as the distinguished figurehead of the Exercise.

I also must remind him that to a great number of the members of the Council the Standing Committee need also re-election, and, seeing that a period of four years has elapsed since their election, I consider that they have no statutory authority to act on the behalf of the Council.

The question of 'Notice of Motion' is, 'ipso facto,' sheer nonsense because these notices are never sent in until meetings have been arranged. Why trouble to write a notice out if the Council does not intend to meet.

When the affair of the Ringers' Conference appeared in 'The Ringing World' there appeared to be no end of motions sent in for discussion.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Mr. Lewis' remarks on the ringing at the Abbey at the last Council meeting were not only 'churlish,' but were made without knowledge of the facts.

I had the good fortune to be in the Abbey tower when the stay was broken, and for the benefit of your readers here are the facts.

On the off-chance of being admitted to the Abbey, my friend, Mr. F. Kirk of St. Albans, and myself duly presented ourselves at the Abbey and were granted admission to the tower.

On arrival at the ringing room I met the two talented sons of the late Arthur Knights and also Mr. A. A. Hughes, who appeared to be in charge of the ringing.

A band got hold for Stedman Triples, which contained five members of the Council and one ex-member, to my knowledge, and, as far as Mr. Lewis or anyone else knows, the other two may be members.

This touch of Stedman failed and they tried again, and during the whole of the touch I was standing behind the tenor ringer along with the brothers Knight and Francis Kirk.

When the tenor stay broke Mr. Hughes stated that this would be all the ringing for that day, and, after talking to Mr. Hughes, he very kindly granted permission for my friends and myself to let the remainder of the bells down in peal.

I am in agreement with Mr. Lewis that the Abbey tower should be looked upon as a 'performance' tower, and with this object in view I think that on the occasion the best plan would be not to open it to the members of the Council, but that application be made by the secretaries of the affiliated associations for their best ringers to have permission to ring here.

Finally, I would like to assure Mr. Lewis that the elected members of the Council are not, as a rule, the best ringers of the various associations. In fact, I know some members who I would not allow to ring at Bushey on a Sunday, and, if I had my way, admittance to the Abbey to ring would be prohibited.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

50, Rudolph Road, Bushey.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Lewis' belated explanation of the reasons for not calling a meeting of the Council does not seem to be very convincing.

Ringers up and down the country might be forgiven for holding the view that the Standing Committee has rather exceeded its duty by carrying on during the past four years without any reference to the parent body, and whilst Mr. Lewis is of opinion that a full meeting was neither necessary or desirable, I suggest that that opinion may not reflect the main body of opinion in the Exercise.

Neither do I agree with Mr. Lewis that a meeting of the Council 'would have had no effect on the ban.' On the contrary, I think a full meeting of the Council during that dreadful period might have produced some fruitful ideas which might have resulted in an earlier lifting of the ban. To put it another way, a little less docility and a little more constructive aggressiveness would have done more good.

It may be that our officials were in possession of some vital information on the matter—and, if so, I suggest it was their duty to pass it on to the members.

As it was, the general impression given to ringers was that the Council had adopted a resigned and 'nothing can be done' attitude.

Events always seem to overtake the Council, and one cannot help thinking how nice it would be to see the Council *leading* instead of *following* opinion.

A little information on the following point would be welcome: What steps are the Standing Committee taking to stimulate and encourage recruitment to make good losses caused by war and the ban? (Bristol has got on with the job.)

The suggestion that the Council has not been called together because no resolutions were tabled is, I submit, an affront to intelligence. What was the use of sending up resolutions when there was no meeting?

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

28, Woodridings Avenue, Hatch End, Middlesex.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL BELLS.**THOMAS NORTH'S ACCOUNT.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—I am afraid that Mr. Lankester's impressions cannot be correct. Thomas North, in 'The Church Bells of Northamptonshire' (published in 1878), states that 10 bells were cast out of the four great bells by Henry Penn in 1709. He gives the inscriptions on these ten bells, quoting the authority of 'Notes and Queries' (3 S., vol. ix., p. 117).

He goes on: 'In 1831 the 9th bell (the present 4th) being cracked it was recast, and on April 15th in that year five bells were removed from the tower, they having been sold to Mr. Dobson, then a bell-founder of Downham, Norfolk. . . .

He adds further: 'Only recently (i.e., of course, shortly before 1878) a number of volunteer ringers had an interview with a leading member of the Chapter urging the restoration of the ring. He was quite ready to further their wish, but an application to the Cathedral architect elicited an opinion that ringing would endanger the west front.'

This seems to be conclusive. North gives the diameter of the five existing bells as being 39, 42, 45, 48 and 56½ inches respectively.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

THE LAST TIME THEY WERE RUNG.

Sir,—Having read the accounts of Peterborough Cathedral bells in 'The Ringing World' lately, I would like to mention that years ago I used often to go to Peterborough to ring with the old band at St. John's Parish Church before the bells were rehung by Gillett and Johnston. One Sunday afternoon we got permission to ring the Cathedral bells for service, which was quite a privilege, as they had not been rung for a long time, and, I think, they have not been rung more than once or twice since.

Before ringing we went to examine the bells, and as far as I can remember they were in an A shaped iron frame by Taylor and there were five empty frames, iron ones, the same as the bells were in. There were no other bells there, the empty frames never having had bells in them.

We were told by the old ringers of Peterborough that when Cromwell used the Cathedral as a stable for his troopers in the wars of his day, there was in the tower a very heavy peal of ten, and the soldiers used to make much noise with them at times. Also that Henry Penn, the Peterborough bellfounder, took them down in about 1709, cast a peal of ten out of the back four and took the front six for his payment. Penn's bells were in use up to about 1840, when the 9th cracked, and then Osborne, of Downham Market, took her down and recast her, and they sold him the front five of Penn's bells.

The back five are there to-day, including the recast 9th (now the 4th). The tenor is about 32 cwt. We rang Grandsire and Stedman Doubles on them. Taylors had done their job well, as they went well. As you are aware, it is not a too easy matter to ring bells that size to Stedman Doubles. Mr. Richardson, of Glyn Garth, rang the tenor.

Taylors, of Loughborough, would be able to say when they rehung the bells and also if they did put up ten iron frames and whether there were any more than the five bells there then.

The bells are chimed with a chiming apparatus from the ground floor of the Cathedral for the services.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

Edenham.

P.S.—The late Rev. H. L. James also said that there was at one time a very heavy peal of ten there, and whatever they weighed he had no idea. He also knew that Henry Penn cast them a peal of ten out of the back four.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE.**PROMINENT LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.**

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas L. Bainbridge, of Bourne, who passed away at Aylesbury Hospital on September 25th at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Bainbridge was a prominent member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and held the office of Ringing Master of the Southern Branch. He was born at Rippingall and learned to handle a bell when he was a schoolboy there. For a time he lived at Morton, where he formed a band and taught them to ring Treble Bob and Surprise Minor. During many years he was a regular service ringer at Bourne.

He took part in many peals, including Spliced Minor (up to 32 methods), Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich and Primrose Surprise. The last was the only peal so far rung in the method.

The funeral was at Bourne on September 29th. The bearers were Messrs. H. M. Day (Market Deeping), C. T. Bradley (Folkingham), S. Smith (Bourne) and A. I. Holmes (Edenham). The bells of the Abbey Church were rung half-muffled after the service and later in the evening by members of the Guild. Those taking part were Messrs. R. Richardson, of Surfleet (Master of the Guild), H. M. Day, F. Fairs, F. French, S. Smith, C. T. H. Bradley (secretary of the Southern Branch), J. Machin and A. I. Holmes.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 432.)

Another famous central tower, the ascent to the ringing chamber of which means travelling through a maze of roof timbers in a bewildering way, is that of Hereford Cathedral. It is thus described: Ringers enter the north porch and traverse the north aisle, pass along the north transept to a corner stone spiral stairway (very wide). This ends in a small spire. The old passage was along the gutter on south side of the roof of the transept, and then up another stone stairway to the top of the central tower in north-west angle. To-day ringers leave the first stairway at the springing of the transept arches, and by wooden steps and a plank gangway pass along through a series of king-post roof trusses of the transept between the vaulting and the roof proper, and thence on to a stone gallery which runs round the lantern. From the north-west corner of the lantern, a small spiral stairway runs up the corner of the central tower, and opens into a narrow space in the hollow wall of the tower, the ringing chamber being reached by a few more steps between the walls.

This is an unusual apartment, as the ringers stand beneath a low-beamed ceiling and have to contend with the difficulty of seeing one another through a series of massive timbers forming queen-post trusses spanning the whole width of the tower. These supported the spire, long since taken down. Most of the sallies of the bell ropes disappear at backstroke, and as the bells are only a few feet above the ceiling, much noise was the result; the conductor could scarcely be heard. The old cathedral society of sixty years ago used to pull off into a musical position, stand, and then give another spell of some other favourite changes, all by the stamping of the foot of the foreman. Their favourite change (and by the riverside it was a real musical treat, rung on such a heavy ring, the tenor being 40 cwt.) was 18.75.29.64.30. It was handed down from early days and known as the 'octaves.'

The bells hang in a wood frame in the shape of a hollow square, giving an excellent rope circle. The frame and bells are well maintained and in good ringing order. During Canon Phillott's time, his son—in practice as an architect in Cheltenham—was called in to advise some means of remedying the ringers' difficulties. The four queen-posts were cut out to give sight all round the ringing circle, and in place of timber cast-iron columns were inserted. A risky work hardly worth the outlay, as the old hands explained at the time. The heavy sound was lessened by a layer of material under the bells on the old plank flooring, and was duly appreciated.

This central tower is unique on account of the thousands of small crotals carved in the hollow mouldings around windows and buttresses, often described as 'ball flowers.' The tower is 140ft. 6in. high, and has 215 steps, and was erected circa 1320.

The ring of ten (tenor 59in. diameter and about 40 cwt.) is of various dates. The front four are by Abraham Rudhall, dated 1697/8, as is also the seventh, but the treble was recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1892. The old eighth was also by Rudhall, 1697, but recast by T. Mears in 1810. The original 5th was a pre-Reformation bell bearing an invocation to St. Katerina, but now bears, 'This bell was recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank by subscription A.D. 1865, and the peal rehung by White and Sons.' The 6th is an ancient bell bearing, 'Stephanus Banastre me fecit,' and the 9th and tenor are also ancient, the 9th being cast in honour of the Trinity, and tenor St. Cuthbert.

The ringing chamber of St. Albans Abbey is not unlike Hereford in some respects, and the ascent to it is rather involved. Access is by two stairways, first a spiral in the north-west corner of the north transept. This is modern of some 68 steps rebuilt about 1870, and brings one to the triforium, which is traversed to the base of the central tower stairway, built in 1110, rather a narrow spiral and in places slow, which causes a low ceiling, 92 steps to the gallery leading to the belfry. This gallery overlooks the nave and has open arches, and it is surprising how large a person can climb up this old stairway. Mr. H. Goodenough informs me he has seen Canon Coleridge and the late Mr. George Paice (to mention but two big men) in the belfry ringing, so one can see that by a little manœuvring it can be done.

The ropes hang in exactly one-quarter of the tower, which also holds the clock case (there is no clock face on the outside of the tower). The tower is 144ft. high and 44ft. sq.; from cathedral floor to panelled ceiling 100ft.; ringing floor 2ft. 6in. higher. The ceiling is supported on huge beams lying on the wall of the tower, which at this level is 9ft. thick, three timbers lie east to west and three north to south, size about 12in. square. From this level the tower wall is set back about two feet all round, and on this foundation the whole timber work for the bell chamber is built up.

The bell frame is built in the south-west corner and is 10ft. above the chamber floor. In the north-west corner the carillon is housed with all the machinery. In the north-east corner is situated a lead-lined tank holding 3,000 gallons of water as a counter balance, and this tank is always full. In the south-east corner is the clock and carillon weights, about 2 tons. The bells, since augmentation to 12, now hang in two tiers, three—2nd, 3rd, 4th—being in a new steel frame above.

Of the bells, it is stated that Paul, the fourteenth abbot, furnished the tower with bells, and to these were added two more of a large size by Litholf, a man of great rank, who lived in the woody part of the country. Search at the Public Record Office for information as to the bells of St. Albans at the dissolution of the monastery has been made, with very little result. No light is thrown even upon the number of bells in the tower, but Chauncy says there were five in the year 1700, so it is fair to pre-

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sume there were at least that number at the dissolution. These five ancient bells were broken up in 1699 by Philip Wightman and, with additional metal, cast into six; four of these still remain. In 1730 the ring was made into eight, two trebles being added by Richard Phelps. The treble was later recast, first by John Briant, of Hertford, and subsequently by C. and G. Mears in 1845.

In 1935 the ring was increased to twelve by the addition of four new trebles, and the fifth recast. The treble was presented by Dr S. J. Madge, F.S.A., and Mrs. Madge in memory of their son. The second bears (translated), 'The Hertford Association of Change Ringers, founded on 29th October, 1884, dedicated me to the honour of God in celebration of its jubilee, and also in memory of Edward Percy Debenham, four times elected President, who died 16th December, 1934.' The third was given by Wm. Worthington, Esq., and the fourth by public subscription. The work was carried out by Mears and Stainbank, and the tenor is 24 cwt.

Another famous central tower having a curious roundabout way of entrance to the ringing chamber is that of Chester Cathedral. For a description of this I am indebted to Mr. R. Sperring and to Mr. P. Swindley for an excellent plan of the route. The entrance is from Abbey Square down a few steps with a right turn at the base, then left turn down a short passage by the kitchen, and right turn to the cloister door. Then immediately left turn and proceed along the north side of the cloister by the refectory. At the end, turn right and travel along east cloister as far as a door into the north wing of the cathedral proper, and from thence across to the tower door; up a spiral stone staircase and then some wooden steps to the balcony approximately 30ft. from ground floor. Traverse this balcony, which is at the back of the organ loft, and then a further spiral stairway and a short passage through the thickness of the tower wall brings one to the ringing chamber, which is about 80ft. from ground level.

This central tower, which is 127ft. high, contains a ring of ten bells with a tenor 29 cwt. 11 lb. Previous to 1867 there appear to have been only five bells, and it seems from the inscription on the present 8th bell (the only old bell remaining) that the old peal was cast by Henry Oldfield, of Nottingham.

This bell bears his trade mark, a cross calvary of three steps; surmounted by a crescent and star, with the initials H.O. on either side in Lombardic capitals. The 7th and 9th are by I. Rudhall, 1827; and the augmentation to eight in 1867 was carried out by J. Warner and Sons. In 1937 two trebles were added by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the first 'cast to celebrate the Jubilee of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers, 1887-1937,' and the second 'cast in the year of the Coronation of H.M. King George VI., 1937. God save the King' There is also a 'call bell,' dated 1626.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD HOLDEN.

The death is announced of Mr. Edward Holden, who passed away suddenly on September 4th at the age of 65. He was a member of the band at St. Andrew's, North Weald, Essex, and had been a ringer for many years, first as a stoney ringer and for the last 20 years as a change ringer. He never rang a peal, but took part in many quarter-peals and was a regular service ringer.

At the funeral on September 18th the church bells were rung half-muffled, and on September 18th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to his memory by L. Parris treble, W. Pearce 2, H. King 3, W. Wedlock (conductor) 4, F. Seymour 5, J. Bingham tenor.

'NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.'

A REPLY AND EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry if my recent letter gave a depressing and gloomy picture or if it appeared to show lack of appreciation for hard work and sacrifices that I know are being made by stalwarts up and down the country—to get and keep bells ringing and to improve the standing of service ringing.

I realise the heavy calls that are made on civilians nowadays, and have no wish to belittle the efforts of the stalwarts who put in much hard work after their long day's work and their additional war-time responsibilities. May success attend the efforts of those who are instrumental in teaching the beginners—encouraging the others, and who are the inspiration in their towers for better things and for progress in the right direction.

My remarks were not addressed merely to civilians but also to others in the Services, who, like myself, are fortunate enough, for the present, to be in this country and to pursue our art, and your other correspondents will note that I said, 'we' and included myself and such others as myself in uniform, in those who must make efforts for improvement. Agreed that many are making maximum possible effort and sacrifice with effect, but there are still many who are not, some who probably do not realise it, and it is to these I appealed. The Editor hit the nail on the head when he suggested that I used strong language in order to press home more forcibly my appeal to ringers to make even greater efforts.

I agree that it is irritating to a man trying against odds to keep things going to be told that improvement is needed when he already knows that and is doing his best to bring it about, but surely such men should realise that my remarks do not and were not intended to apply to them. It is up to each one of us to search our hearts and if we can do more, to do it.

Some of the points I wished to drive home are more ably expressed by the Editor in his article in the issue of September 24th.

The admission by Mr. Arthur Davis that 'the recommendations I made are familiar ones,' and Mr. J. E. Bailey's statement that 'the criticism and advice I gave would apply very well in peace time, under normal conditions,' show that there must be many who, perhaps less forcibly, feel the need for general improvement.

I would assure Mr. Arthur Davis—though he will have to take my word for it—that I have been as keen about the *doing* as the *telling* and found great pleasure in teaching beginners and helping others to keep 'silent' bells going; nor would I exhort others to do more than I have done and am prepared to do myself.

There are many bright signs up and down the country and in my own district, but because of these we must not congratulate ourselves that all is well and satisfactory, and postpone for to-morrow efforts that can be put into effect to-day, nor must all the work be left to a few stalwarts—they must be given unstinting support by all the rest of the company, not just a few.

In conclusion, may I again appeal to all ringers to do their best to improve the quality of ringing and to attend as regularly as possible and as punctually as possible for Sunday service and practices.

'RINGER IN THE SERVICES.'

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT COOMBE BISSETT.

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held on October 2nd at Coombe Bissett, was attended by ringers from the city churches of St. Martin, St. Thomas, St. Edmund and St. Paul, and from Britford, Berwick St. James', Wilton, Coombe Bissett, etc.

The ringers were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Page-Phillips, who conducted service and gave an address. Later the company was entertained to tea by the Vicar and Mrs. Page-Phillips in the Village Hut, and a short business meeting followed, the chair being taken by Mr. J. E. Figgures. New members were admitted from St. Thomas', St. Paul's and Wilton. It was resolved on the proposition of Mr. E. G. Caple, seconded by Mr. G. K. Norton, that the annual meeting shall be at St. Martin's Church on a date to be arranged. Mr. Norton said he was pleased to see the Rector of St. Edmund's present; he was himself a native of St. Edmund's and had rung there for many years.

Thanks were given to the Vicar and Mrs. Page-Phillips and to the ladies who helped with the tea.

Some of the visitors returned to Salisbury, where the bells at St. Thomas' Church were available.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT IDLE.

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at Idle, near Bradford, on September 25th, members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Shipley and the local company.

Tea and the business meeting were in the Parish Room, the chair being taken by Mr. L. W. G. Morris in the absence of the president. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local band. The next meeting will be at Birstall on October 30th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

FOLKESTONE, KENT.—On Saturday, August 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Orris 1, Mrs. Franklin 2, C. Turner (Dover) (conductor) 3, A. Kedwell 4, T. Anderson 5, W. Whitaker 6, T. Farley 7, Bernard Smith (Manchester) 8.

EAST CROMPTON.—On September 8th, to celebrate the capitulation of Italy, 288 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 720 London Scholars' Pleasure Minor, 288 Kent Treble Bob Minor: B. Whitehead, S. Wareham, W. Oates, R. H. Byrom, H. Butterworth, C. Howarth, J. Butterworth (conductor).

WHITBOURNE, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, September 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. H. Griffiths 1, F. Davis 2, E. Jones 3, C. Davis 4, George Jones 5, R. J. Caswell 6. Conducted by George Soley, who was unable to take a rope.

HILLINGDON.—On Tuesday, September 14th, at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: William Gutteridge 1, Frederick W. Goodfellow 2, G. Gutteridge 3, P. Jones 4, *W. H. Coles 5, *T. G. Bannister 6, F. Corke 7, S. Humphries 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

HAVERHILL.—On September 15th, 720 Bob Minor: Gracie Jennings 1, F. Making 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, Gnr. N. Hough 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

WARKTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, for the harvest thanksgiving, 720 Doubles, consisting of two six-scores each of New Doubles and St. Simon's, one six-score of Canterbury and Chase: Miss D. Mair 1, R. W. Lawrence 2, L. J. Toseland 3, A. S. Toseland 4, B. P. Morris (conductor) 5.

BINFIELD.—On September 19th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. Bolwell 1, Mrs. A. J. N. Rance 2, C. W. Bailey 3, Cpl. W. H. M. Smith, R.E.M.E. 4, A. J. Rance 5, A. J. N. Rance (conductor) 6. Rung for harvest festival.

GRAYSHOTT, HANTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, for harvest festival evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. C. Ritchie (first quarter-peal) 1, A. J. Bartlett 2, E. J. Munday 3, Mrs. F. Bowden 4, B. D. Elliott 5, E. J. Ayliffe 6, F. Bowden (conductor) 7, R. Hayes 8.

HARLOW COMMON.—On September 19th for harvest festival, 1,248 Bob Major: *Lewis Whitby 1, Vincent Tipton 2, Fred Whitby 3, Ben Copping 4, Lewis Cordell 5, Robert Springham 6, Stanley Clark 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal. L. Whitby has been ringing only since the ban was lifted.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—At St. Luke's on Sunday, September 19th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. H. Kite 1, F. E. Pitman 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, P. J. Spice 4, J. Lyddiard 5, G. F. James 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, W. Lyddiard 8.

EXETER.—On Sunday, September 19th, at the Church of St. Thomas, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. J. Ryall 1, W. H. Howe 2, J. Hosgood 3, J. J. Hole 4, R. Truman 5, E. Rowe 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, Capt. W. J. Rawlings, R.E. 8. Rung for the christening of the Vicar's daughter, which took place during the service.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's on Sunday, September 26th, for harvest festival, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Bilby 1, W. Malins (conductor) 2, J. Kent 3, R. Mackrill 4, A. C. Williams 5, C. W. Otley 6, J. Herbert 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

LEWISHAM, KENT.—At the Church of St. Mary on Sunday, September 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss H. Oakshett 1, G. R. H. Smith (Royal Corps of Signals) 2, Lieut. J. Avenell, R.N.V.R. 3, R. G. Bryant (Bristol) 4, J. Bennett (conductor) 5, P. J. Spice 6, H. W. Clark 7, C. H. Walker 8. Rung for service to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

SUTTON-IN-THE-ISLE, CAMBS.—On Sunday, September 26th, being 'Battle of Britain' Sunday, Hospital Sunday and Sutton Feast Sunday, for evening service, 720 Bob Doubles: C. Thulborn 1, P. A. Corby (conductor) 2, W. Faux 3, G. Howard 4, R. Knight 5, H. Gimbert 6.

HARLOW COMMON.—On Sunday, September 26th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob: *Robert Springham 1, Fred Whitby 2, Ben Copping 3, Vincent Tipton 4, Stanley Clark 5, Lewis Cordell 6, Edward Rochester 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

CARDIFF.—On Sunday, September 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. Hulbert 1, F. Hannington 2, W. Richards 3, A. Parnell 4, A. Rowley 5, E. Coles 6, E. Coombes (conductor) 7, S. R. Barker 8.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Battle of Britain Sunday, September 26th, for morning service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, R. Wood 2, *E. Garbett 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, T. Ward 8. *First quarter in the method.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, at St. Michael's, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. M. White 1, R. Wood 2, F. Bird (conductor) 3, Dr. Spencer Phillips 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, T. Ward 7.

BIGGLESWADE.—On September 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. W. Smith 1, C. F. Page 2, C. J. Smith 3, H. Sherman 4, L. Bywaters 5, J. Church 6, S. H. Wallis (conductor) 7, J. Tompkins 8.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—For Thanksgiving Sunday, September 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1,295 changes: G. Preston (conductor) 1, Miss Sparshott 2, *J. M. Turner 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, E. T. Griffin 6, F. Blake 7, L. Stone 8, G. Scragg 9, H. Gillard 10. *First quarter-peal inside.

EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON.—On Sunday, September 19th, for harvest festival, 720 Bob Minor: Jack Deem 1, B. Pidgeon 2, F. Dimond 3, E. Sprague 4, John Glenville 5, L. Opl. J. N. Brown (Royal Marines) (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1., on October 9th, at 3 p.m.—Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Dorking, Saturday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business meeting in the Church Room at 7. — A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Northowram, Halifax, Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Northchurch on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. No tea arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice at Scottow on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 2 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Additions to food welcomed.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of the Gainsborough District at Upton on Saturday, October 9th, 5.30 to 8.30. No service or tea.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Withyham, October 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bedworth, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m.—Allesley, October 16th, ringing before induction (3 p.m.) of new Rector (Rev. F. W. Moyle), president of the Guild. Tea provided at 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Penwortham, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SAWSTON.—Meeting on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—F. Hurry, 2, Portobello Lane, Sawston, Cambs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Barwell on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Penistone, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

WEDNESBURY.—Open practice meeting at St. Bartholomew's Church, Saturday, October 9th, 3 to 5 p.m.—A. Hingley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice at Cookham on October 9th is cancelled.—T. J. Fowler, B.R.M.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Banbury (10 bells) Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and evening ringing. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45. Tea at Carlton Cafe 4.30. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, by October 12th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Woodstock, Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.15 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Bear Hotel 4.30 p.m. Names by Tuesday, 12th.—W. Evetts, Branch Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and LADIES' GUILD.—Joint meeting at Edmonton on Saturday, October 16th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (if possible). Names to Mrs. Fletcher, 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, by October 13th. Ringing possible during black-out.—T. J. Lock and I. Housden, Hon. Secs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD (Southern Branch).—Meeting at Rippingale on October 16th. Bells (6) 2-9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by free tea for those who notify Mr. S. Laxton, Rippingale, Bourne, by Tuesday previous. Business meeting 6 p.m.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Eaton Socan on Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Tea uncertain.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Wrington on Saturday, October 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Sileby (6 bells) on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. at the Fountain Inn. Names to me by October 13th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Lancaster Road, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Eastwood on Saturday, October 16th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea in schoolroom for those who notify Mr. J. Johnson, 29, Church Street, Eastwood, before October 14th. Handbells available.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, October 16th. Sandridge bells (6) 2.45-4 p.m., and Wheathampstead (6) 4 p.m. until blackout, followed by meeting. Refreshments available at Wheathampstead. Frequent buses (Nos. 304 and 391) from St. Albans.—R. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Egham on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 3d.) to Mr. W. Peck, 61, Stainash Crescent, Staines, Middlesex, by Tuesday, October 12th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice at Crawley, Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Tea arranged for those who advise me by October 13th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley, Sussex.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Pre-shute, October 16th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea 5.30. Names by October 12th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Lytham on Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Selston, Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring own food. Tea for those who notify Mr. W. Dobb, Stoney Lane, Selston.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby Cathedral, October 23rd. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. James Pagett, 19, Lynton Street, Derby, by October 20th. Bring sugar.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norwich on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing at St. Miles', 2 p.m.; Mancroft, 4 p.m. Service at Mancroft 4.45. Tea in Mancroft Parish Hall, 5.15; bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Ringing at the Parish Church every Sunday, 10.15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Practice during winter first and third Saturdays, 3 p.m., commencing October 17th.—E. E. Edwards, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

ROGERS.—On September 27th, in the Grove Nursing Home, Isleworth, to Olive (nee Ashbrook), wife of Capt. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E., on the 2nd anniversary of their wedding, a son, Christopher Harold.

DEATH.

FOWLER.—On September 27th, in a flying accident in Yorkshire, Sergt. Ronald C. Fowler, R.A.F., dearly loved eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Fowler, Black Butts, Cookham, Berks.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

There was a somewhat poor attendance at the meeting of the Essex Association at Great Bentley on September 25th, only twelve members being present. They came from Colchester, Great Holland, Ipswich, Thorington, Clacton, Little Clacton, Mistley, Tendring and Great Thurlow.

It is not possible to hold a service and tea and the business meeting were at the Plough Inn. In the absence of the Master, Mr. Chalk took the chair. Mr. Percy Almond was re-elected a member after a break of twelve years, and two probationers, Mesrs. Packard and Kenneth Mitchell, were elected.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at St. Peter's, Colchester, if the bells are available. If not, Mistley will be substituted.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Sunday, Sept. 26th, 500 Grandsire Triples: G. H. Harding (conductor) 1. W. Baxter 2. *Miss E. J. Crawley-Boevey 3. Mrs. F. Penn 4. R. Amor 5. F. Penn 6. J. Francis 7. A. Boyce 8. *First 500.

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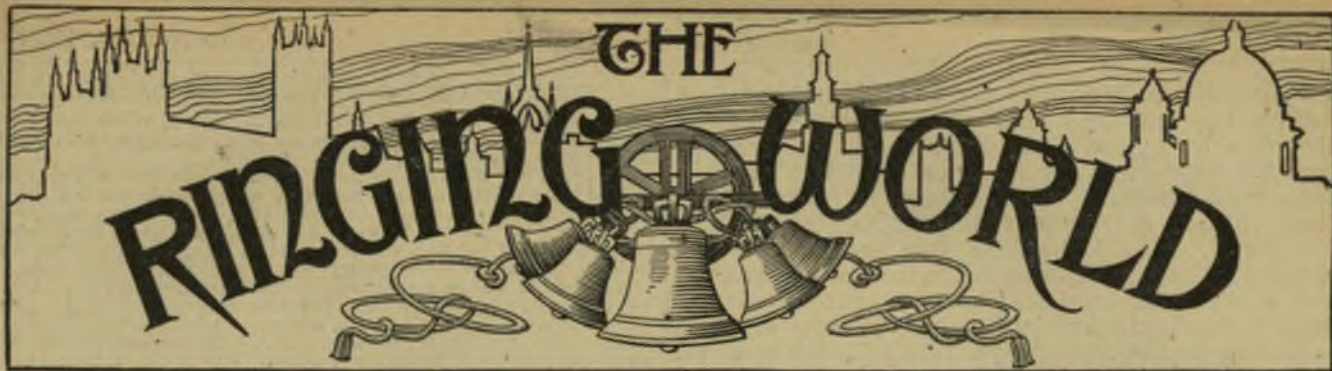
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1943.

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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 ITS MEMBERS.

Last week we printed a letter in which a correspondent attacked the Central Council and its members on account of their alleged deficiencies as ringers. The elected members are not, said the writer, the best ringers, and some ought not to be allowed to ring on a Sunday in a village church.

Even if these statements were true, they would be unfair and uncalled for; but they are not true. The Council is a small body, of little over one hundred persons, yet it includes probably the majority of the very best ringers in the country, and certainly a far higher proportion of highly skilled ringers than any other body in the Exercise.

No doubt there are some members who have no pretensions to be distinguished in any way as practical ringers; but that is a cause neither for reproach nor regret. Men are not elected simply because they can ring, and the qualities and knowledge needed in the Council chamber are not always the same as are needed in the belfry. The Council is intended to be a small body which can in every way represent the whole Exercise and deal authoritatively with all the many questions and interests which centre round bells and the belfry. Since these questions and interests are so diverse, it follows that all sorts of men are needed to make up a good Council. Practical ringers of the highest skill are needed, and the Council has them. Men who understand composition and the science of change ringing are needed, and they are not lacking. Men who are familiar with the working of the associations are needed, and they are there. Men are needed who can speak with authority on the making and hanging of bells; men who are versed in history and archæology; men who understand the problems caused by the relations between the Exercise and the Church; men of business and men of affairs. All these the Council needs, and all of them, in varying degree, it includes. And in addition there fortunately have always been a number of men whose character and personality have added to the dignity of the body and increased the respect in which it is held by the rank and file of ringers. Nor is their presence the least valuable whose main qualification is that they best represent the humbler sort of ringers because they belong to the same class.

During the fifty years of its existence the Council has steadily gained the confidence and respect of the Exercise as a whole, and it has done so because, taking all things together, it has deserved it. It may claim to be

(Continued on page 450.)

a thoroughly representative body, and it is seldom indeed that any man with the necessary qualifications fails to be elected, either by one of the great associations or as an honorary member. We cannot, indeed, call to mind the name of a single man who during these last fifty years had shown himself fully entitled to be a member and was not elected. No doubt there have been several men whose position and influence inside the Council were far less than among outsiders; but that was entirely because their abilities and inclinations were less suited to a debating and legislating body than to activities of the belfries. There is nothing in this unnatural, for men differ widely in gifts. To take an example from the past: Henry Earle Bulwer and James William Washbrook were both outstanding figures in the Exercise and both did splendid work for ringing; but Washbrook was as little qualified to play a leading part in the Council as Bulwer was in the belfry.

The Central Council is a public body, and, as such, is a fair target for comment. The pages of 'The Ringing World' are freely open for criticism, but we think that men who do venture to criticise should first take some trouble to understand the matter, and should avoid the unfair spirit which searches for small faults and is blind to many virtues.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LISS, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, October 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb.

EDWARD R. COLES Treble	TOWER R. TAYLOR 5
STAFFORD H. GREEN 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON 6
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
CHARLES E. BASSETT 4	C. ERNEST SMITH Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDERICK W. ROGERS.

WITNEY, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

*MISS VALHALLA V. HILL ... Treble	R. GORDON CROSS 5
†MISS MARGARET L. TUTT ... 2	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by T. LOCKWOOD. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal on tower bells. First peal of Treble Bob on tower bells as conductor.

SIX BELL PEAL.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 25, 1943, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In five methods, being eight 120's each of St. Dunstan's, London Singles, Antelope, Plain Bob, and ten 120's Grandsire (24 callings). Tenor 7½ cwt.

*MRS. G. WARREHAM Treble	*W. C. SHUTE 4
MISS P. MARSH 2	H. E. WHITE 5
*L. H. PINE 3	*G. WARREHAM Tenor

Conducted by H. E. WHITE.

* First peal in five methods. First peal in five methods as conductor. Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mr. F. Cole.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR H. BAILEY.

The death is announced of Mr. Edgar H. Bailey, which took place on September 28th. Mr. Bailey was the senior ringing member of the Bailey brothers of Leiston, Suffolk.

He joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1897 and was the first of the brothers to ring a peal, this being Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Leiston, on June 11th, 1898. He was quickly followed by his younger brothers, and during the years immediately before and after the last war took part in many peals on tower and in hand, in which the bands were either wholly or mainly made up of brothers of the Bailey family. In 1925 he dropped out of active ringing, but during recent years had been a member of the band at SS. Peter and Paul's, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

His peals, of which 138 were rung at St. Margaret's, Leiston, are as follows: Minor 8, Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 8 (2 in hand), Bob Royal (5 in hand), Bob Maximus (1 in hand), Kent Treble Bob Major 32 (11 in hand), Royal 2 (3 in hand), Maximus 1 (3 in hand), Oxford Treble Bob Major 14, Stedman Triples 7 (7 in hand), Stedman Caters 13 in hand, Stedman Cinques 2 in hand, Double Court Bob Major 33 (3 in hand), Double Oxford Bob Major 1, Superlative 38, Cambridge 27, Bristol 19, London 9, New Cambridge 4, Guildford 4, Suffolk 2, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Edinburgh, Rochester, Norfolk and Dublin Surprise Major 1 each, 216 tower 50 in hand, total 266.

His peals exclusively with his brothers consisted of two of Bob Major, in which the band stood in order of age and he rang the tenor, one each of Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge on tower bells, and all of the handbell peals were performed by members of the family. He rang the sixth to 11,040 of Double Norwich at Leiston with an entirely local band, and rang in the first peals of Suffolk, Rochester and Edinburgh Surprise Major.

PRIZE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following appears interesting in connection with the article on 'A Famous Ringing Match' which recently appeared in 'The Ringing World':—

John Garratt, a ringer at Sapcote in Leicestershire for the last 60 years, remembers when as a lad he used to visit the belfry with his father, who was a ringer, and hearing one of the ringers by the name of John Bishop telling the story of the Sapcote ringers visiting Long Buckley in Northamptonshire for prize ringing. It would appear that Bishop, who rang the tenor in the match, had great difficulty in controlling his bell, and remarked that it was just as if someone was pushing his bell over, and he attempted to ascend the tower to see, but was prevented from doing so, and the prize was awarded to the Long Buckley ringers.

During the revelry at the local inn which followed the match, Bishop again commented upon the behaviour of the tenor bell he was ringing during the match, to which one of the Long Buckley ringers retorted, 'You don't think we are fools big enough to allow your ringers to come here and take the prize away, do you?' This would appear to infer that tampering with the bells was quite prevalent in these matches.

H. BIRD.

Station Road, Broughton Astley.

HEARING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest your article on 'Curious Ringing Scraps' in last week's 'Ringing World,' particularly where you refer to Canon Wigram's inability to hear his own bell.

Until recent years these people had my sympathy, now I believe it is simply because they will not make the effort.

Some ten or so years ago we were fortunate in having several young boys who took to ringing as ducks to water. One was not the accurate striker we would have liked him to be, and I asked him whether he could hear his bell. 'No,' he replied, 'I can't.'

A few weeks later I had occasion to congratulate him on the improvement in his striking and said he must now be able to hear his bell. 'Yes,' he said, 'I've made myself hear it.'

This answer caused me to revise the opinion I held very considerably and since then I have been convinced that, provided the effort is made, the difficulty is easily overcome.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to protest against what Mr. Edwin Jennings says about members of the Central Council and their ringing abilities in your last issue. His remarks are unjustified and unwarranted. The Council contains most of the very best ringers in the country and very many better ones than your correspondent. Here is an eight-bell band written down at random from memory. Mr. Jennings cannot find a better one outside the Council, though he could easily find another, equally good, inside it: C. T. Coles, A. B. Peck, J. T. Dyke, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, C. H. Kippin, F. W. Rogers, A. Walker and E. C. S. Turner.

A MEMBER.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

(Continued from page 440.)

The next item in Sir Arthur Heywood's scrap book is an original copy of the broadsheet issued to record the first peal of Superlative Royal. On it is written: 'Mr. Proctor—Did you ever see this? J. R. Haworth.' The printed record is as follows:—

'On MONDAY, March 27th, 1826, the COMPANY of All-Saints RINGERS, Wakefield, ascended the Tower of the Parish Church, and had the honor of Ringing, in a masterly style a true and complete Peal of Superlative Surprise Royal, consisting of 5,400 Changes, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes, by TEN MEN only (Tenor weighing 31 cwt.). The great superiority of this Peal over any other is, it being the only true Peal ever rung in the Kingdom in so intricate a method, and will be a standing laurel for the Society, for ages to come. The Peal was composed by Mr. JOSEPH TEBBS, of Leeds, and was by him presented to this Society, and rung by them at the first attempt. The Peal was nobly conducted by Mr. WILLIAM WOODHEAD, and Rung by the following Persons:—

'The Band as Stationed.

Mr. William Fawcett Treble.

— Joseph Sugden 2nd.

— Mark Blackburn 3rd.

— George Pickering 4th.

— John Hall 5th.

— James Gill 6th.

— Joseph Gill 7th.

— Thomas Netherwood 8th.

— William Woodhead 9th.

— Robert Collett Tenor.

'The Peal.

45236

62534

56234 First Part end.

34562 Second Do.

62345 Third Do.

45623 Fourth Do.

23456 Fifth Do.'

There is also a lead of the method as given by Shipway.

Superlative Surprise Major was published in the 'Clavis' and, so far as we know, was first practised in Yorkshire. Shipway extended the method to ten bells, but, though his extension is an ingenious one, it is not theoretically correct and has nothing to recommend it for practical ringing. After the Wakefield peal it dropped into disuse, but Law James some years ago tried to revive it and called one or two peals.

The next 'scrap' is a printed page from some book giving particulars of the old six bells at Duffield Church, where Heywood was one of the ringers. They were a mixed lot, all of the eighteenth century and of various dates, the smallest being the oldest. The two trebles (1722) and the third (1742) apparently had no founders' names; the fourth (1763) was by Leslie and Pack of Whitechapel; the fifth (1786) by George Hedderly, of

Nottingham; and the tenor (1799) by Thomas Mears, the elder.

The fifth was, for an eighteenth-century bell, highly ornamented. The founder was one of the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' Heywood preserved engravings of the lettering and figures on this bell.

Next is a broadsheet recording the first peal of Stedman Caters of over ten thousand changes. It supplanted the 8,105 rung at Painswick in 1842 (which was afterwards found to be false in the composition), and was itself supplanted by the 11,111 rung by the College Youths at Fulham in 1883. The broadsheet is worded thus:—

'Change Ringing extraordinary. Birmingham. On Tuesday, the 8th of March, 1859, Ten Members of the united Societies of St. Philip's and St. Martin's ascended the Tower of the Parish Church, Aston, and succeeded (at 1st attempt) in ringing a True Peal of Caters on Stedman's Principle, containing 10,047 changes, in six hours and sixteen minutes; the Peal was allowed by competent Persons in the Science to be of first-rate quality, and the greatest number of changes ever yet rung in this intricate method.

The performers were: John Perks Treble, Amos Cresser 2nd, William Haywood 3rd, John Bannister 4th, Charles Shaw 5th, Thomas Macdonald 6th, William Chattell 7th, Robert Wright 8th, Joseph Spencer 9th, Jessie Cutler Tenor.

The Peal was composed by Mr. Henry Johnson and conducted by Mr. John Perks.'

Next is a broadsheet recording two of the marvellous feats of tapping accomplished by Elijah Roberts:—

'Change Ringing, extraordinary. On the 9th of April, 1830, Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the company of St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, accurately rung, as an opening peal, on a fine-toned new set of Musical Hand Bells, a complete peal of Treble Box Maximus, with the Kent variation, comprising 7,536 changes, in four hours and fifty-one minutes. Conducted by Mr. Joseph Powell, in the presence of Messrs. Henry Cooper, Thomas Cole, Thomas Worrall, James Howell, James Jarvis and Charles Thurstans, who were auditors of this distinguished performance, and Members of the aforesaid Society.

'On the 30th of June, 1833, was rung by Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the St. Martin's Company, Birmingham, on a Musical Set of Hand Bells fixed in a frame, and remained so for the whole of the Performance, a complete peal of that admired system, Stedman's Cinques, comprising 5,016 changes, composed by himself. Conducted by Mr. Henry Cooper, and was accurately rung in a most masterly style in Three Hours Twenty-four Minutes, which can be confirmed by the united testimony of Messrs. Thomas Worrall, Joseph Powell, and James Jarvis, of the above Company; James Allen, of the Cumberland Youths, London; I. J. B. Lates, Oxford; and Daniel Woods, of the Norwich Scholars; and by many other Change Ringers, who met on that interesting occasion.'

(To be continued.)

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.—At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels on September 29th for the patronal service. 1,259 Grandsire Caters: J. Minshull 1, A. Worth 2, G. Bottomley 3, W. Matthews 4, J. Worth (conductor) 5, V. Norbury 6, H. Dean 7, J. Westwood 8, W. Gayes 9, *F. Cadman 10. *First quarter-peal. Mr. J. Minshull has just started ringing again after 40 years away from the tower.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

To-morrow is Mr. Thomas Groombridge's 76th birthday and we offer him our congratulations. He had been associated with St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, for 40 years, but the belfry was closed at the beginning of the war, and he transferred his activities to the neighbouring tower of The Annunciation, where there was the making of a band. Then came his accident and the ban on ringing; and evacuation, active service and death have completely dispersed the band. Mr. Groombridge is left with one occupation—the forming of a new band, mostly composed of ladies. We wish him success.

In addition to the bells we mentioned, another Devonshire ring has been destroyed by enemy action. It did not hang in a parish church, and was of little value musically, but was interesting as having been cast by William Banister. The first change ringing in Devonshire was done on it.

The ringer of the fourth in the peal of Bob Major at Faringdon, reported in our last issue, was the Rev. Kenneth C. Davis, not the Rev. Kenneth C. Lewis as published.

On Sunday afternoon, October 10th, ringers from Kenninghall, North Lopham, Shelfanger, Winfarthing, New Buckenham, Mulbarton and Banham met and rung touches in various methods at St. Mary's, Banham, on the occasion of the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, of Banham. Mr. Cunningham, who is 81, took part in touches of Treble Bob Minor.

The bells of Emmanuel Church, Plymouth, were rung half-muffled to rounds and call changes on eight and Grandsire Doubles on Monday, October 4th, the second anniversary of the death of Mr. Joseph Woodley, for over 20 years leader of the tower.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ACTON.

A meeting of the Middlesex Association, held at Acton on October 2nd, was attended by over 40 members and friends from Acton, Brasted, Dagenham, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington, Romford, Ruislip, Stanmore, Twickenham, Wembley Park, Westminster (St. Stephen's), Weybridge and Willesden.

Acton bells were rung at intervals from 2.30 to 7 p.m., and St. Mary's, Ealing, from 7 to 8.30 p.m., the methods including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich and Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major.

A short business meeting was held in Acton Ringing Chamber at 4.45 p.m., at which the secretary apologised for the absence of Mr. E. C. S. Turner, the Ringing Master, and Mr. F. A. Finch was elected a life ringing member. It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Heston on November 20th. The secretary explained that the Rector of Acton had not found it possible to arrange a tea, as he had hoped, but had handed the secretary a cheque from the Church Council to cover the cost of tea for each individual, and the amount was duly distributed. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and Church Council for their generous action, and to the authorities at St. Mary's, Ealing, for the use of the bells.

A short service was held at 5 p.m., at which the Rector, the Rev. Percival Gough, welcomed the members and thanked them for the ringing.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT UPTON-ON-SEVERN.

A meeting of the Western Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Upton-on-Severn on October 2nd, at which touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and Double Norwich were rung.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. S. Bailey, assisted by Minor Canon A. C. F. Davies, of the Cathedral. Tea and business meeting followed. The Rector took the chair.

It was decided to hold a monthly meeting for probationers—the first at Kempsey on October 30th—and to restart the ringing of quarterly peals—the first to be arranged by the Master of the branch. Mr. H. Willett was elected a member, and G. and M. Willett and M. and B. Jauncey were elected probation members.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

MEETING AT EDGBASTON.

A meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham on September 25th at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, was attended by about 50 members and friends. Service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon Stuart Blofeld, who is a vice-president. In his address he urged his hearers always to ring to the best of their ability and so give no grounds for complaint. He congratulated the Guild on keeping their fellowship and organisation alive. The attendance of the organist and choirboys helped in the enjoyment of the service.

Tea was at the British Restaurant, and the cost was kindly defrayed by the Vicar.

At the business meeting Mr. Albert Walker, vice-president, occupied the chair. Apologies were received from Messrs. A. Paddon Smith and F. E. Haynes. The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. Fred Dickens, which occurred on August 23rd. He had been a member of the Guild for upwards of 40 years. The secretary read a letter from Mr. Dickens' daughter thanking the members who attended the funeral and for the floral tribute.

Mr. C. T. Coles had expressed deep appreciation of the letter of condolence sent on the occasion of the death of his son, Capt. Coles.

The following new members were elected: Mr. Leonard Tuffrey, of Hall Green, Mr. Horace Hough, of South Yardley, and Mr. Charles Williams, of Quinton. As a life member: Mr. Harold Chant, of Felkirk. The tower election of Mr. W. L. B. Leese, of New College, Oxford, as a life member was ratified.

It was decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration on the first Saturday in March, 1944, on similar lines to previous war years, the arrangements to be left in the hands of the secretary.

The next meeting being the annual, it was decided to hold it at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the organist and choristers and to Mr. Sydney Freemantle for making the local arrangements was proposed by Mr. W. C. Dowding.

During the afternoon and evening some good touches were rung, ranging from Grandsire Triples to London Surprise Major.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT GREAT DODDINGTON.

The meeting of the Wellborough District of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Doddington, was attended by over forty members.

The Vicar of Doddington (the Rev. W. R. Flex), in his address, spoke of the recent announcement from Russia of the re-establishment of the Orthodox Church and of the thankfulness with which Christians would welcome the news. He referred to a bell which was once used by the Russian Church in Moscow and later in Sevastopol. During the Crimean War it was carried off as a trophy and now hangs in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle. Mr. Flex thought it would be a fitting gesture on the part of England to return this bell to Russia as a memorial of the revival of Christianity, or the recognition of the Church in Russia.

Three new members were elected, and Irchester was selected for the annual meeting. If facilities are not available there Irthlingborough will be the alternative.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT GARSTON.

A meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Garston on October 2nd. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Swift, who gave an address. Tea was in the Church Institute and was followed by the meeting. The Vicar presided and was supported by the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Mr. H. S. Davies, churchwarden.

Members were present from Oxtown, Wallasey, Farnworth, Childwall, Woolton, Halewood, Liverpool (St. Luke's and St. Nicholas') and the local company.

Miss M. Stenhouse was elected a performing member and Mr. A. J. Webster, of Wallasey, a non-resident member. The next meeting will be a joint one with the Wirral Branch of the Chester Guild. The Rev. D. P. Roberts thanked the Vicar and churchwardens for supplying the tea, the ladies who served it, and Mr. P. W. Cave, who played the organ.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.

St. Michael's Church, Sunderland, was the venue for a meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association on October 2nd, and ringers attended from Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland (St. Ignatius') and the home tower.

The ringing comprised Minor, Triples and Major methods. The Rector visited the belfry and expressed his delight at hearing his church bells ringing again. He invited the ringers to come again in the near future.

Mr. Denis Bayles thanked the ladies who looked after the tea, and Mr. Patterson (vice-president) moved a vote of thanks to the Rector and churchwardens.

The next meeting was arranged for October 23rd at St. Mary's, Gateshead.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 445.)

The ascent to the central tower of Southwark Cathedral is somewhat unusual. It starts at the corner of the north transept (inside) by a spiral stairway until one arrives at a wall passage under the first floor (roof of nave level), then turn right along a narrow gallery on one side of the tower, then left. When halfway along this side, a door opens to the roof floor of the nave. Turn round and ascend wooden steps to the first floor of the tower, thence a spiral wooden stairway to the next floor, which is the ringing room.

Perhaps one could not do better than quote again from Charles Dickens, of whom Sir A. Quiller-Couch, speaking at a Dickens birthday dinner some years ago, said that he—Dickens—created a world of his own and filled it with men and women. This is, indeed, very true, so true that pilgrimages to places associated with him and his stories are a regular feature of various literary societies and rambling clubs. He himself tells us that 'every barn in the neighbourhood, every stone in the church, and every foot of the churchyard had some association of its own. . . . I have seen Tom Pipes go climbing up the church steeple; I have watched Strap, with knapsack on his back, stopping to rest himself upon the wicket gate, and I know that Commodore Trunnion held that club with Mr. Pickles in the parlour of our little alehouse.' Thus did Dickens see life in all around him—life at its very best and worst.

But perhaps to us bellringers Dickens will appeal more vividly in his graphic description of a visit he made to see the Society of College Youths at their meeting 'in a long, rather low room on the first floor of the King's Head in Winchester Street, in the borough of Southwark,' about Christmas, 1868. This account first appeared in 'All the Year Round' for February 27th, 1869. Rarely do we read a true account of bellringing except when written by a student of the art. Usually to the 'outsider' it appears a fathomless mystery, and many vague and distorted articles have appeared regarding it. It speaks much, therefore, for the observation and accurate rendering of Dickens that his description of this visit is so correct in every detail. His pen-picture is a true and picturesque one.

After telling us about the room, its furniture, peal books, records, etc., he continues: 'A sufficient muster of College Youths has come together, and an adjournment is made to the church (St. Saviour's, Southwark), where they all ascend the spiral stairway to the first landing, then another spell of steep winding staircase, and we emerge breathless in the ringing room. Large and lofty is the ringers' room, lighted by a gas apparatus rather like the hoop that serves for a chandelier in a travelling circus. The walls are adorned by large black and gold frames, looking at first like monumental tablets to the memory of departed ringers, but proving on examination to refer to the performances of the Society. Peals of all kinds appear to have been rung on these bells, but on one occasion it seems that the company achieved "a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus." Bob Major we have heard of, but Bob Maximus! Will they introduce us to Bob Maximus to-night?

'The ropes of the twelve bells pass through the holes

in the ceiling and reach the floor. Under each is a little raised platform for the ringer to stand on, with a strap for his foot to help him in getting good purchase, and each rope half-way up is covered with some four feet by a fluffy, woolly-looking covering, technically called a "sally," and intended to afford a good hold to the ringer as he checks his bell on the pull-down. The case of the church clock fills up one side of the room, and from it unearthly clickings and wheezings presently come as the clock strives in vain to strike. To strike a vibrating bell suddenly from a fresh quarter is to crack it, so when the bells are rung their connection with the clock has to be temporarily severed.'

How keen he is in giving minute details, and we as ringers can only marvel at the technical grasp that Dickens displays. Gissing says, in his 'Critical Study of Dickens': 'I suppose there is no English writer, perhaps no writer in any literature, who so often gives proof of his wonderful minute observation.'

Dickens then proceeds: 'Coats are taken off, sleeves are turned up, and business is evidently about to begin. But nothing connected, however remotely, with music can be done without a quantity of tuning or other preliminary performances, and change ringing is no exception to this rule. Before the ringing can begin it is necessary to "set" the bells. To set a bell is to get it on the right balance, mouth upwards. Some of the bells are set already, some consent to be set with little trouble, but the "tenor," a small plaything of fifty-two hundred-weight, or thereabouts, is obstinate to-night. Three Youths take him in hand, and presently his deep note booms out sonorously, but he absolutely declines to assume the required position.

'We take the opportunity and go up, preceded by our friend with the lantern, into the belfry, and among the bells.'

Dickens then describes the ascent. 'The tenor's voice becomes louder and louder,' and how, on arriving among the bells, 'We shrink back as from a blow, from the stunning clash of sound with which he greets us.' While there, he watches the conductor adjusting ropes, oiling, etc., 'sublimely indifferent to the clanging monster so close to him,' and muses on various bell legends he has heard. Then they descend once more to find the ringers ready, and they start.

'The tower rocks, the bells clash, tenor booms at appointed intervals. After some little time, one gets used to the noise, which is not so great as might be expected, and begins to pick out the rhythm of the chime. The ringers all have an earnest, fixed expression; attention is written on every face. Occasionally a slight wandering look betokens that a ringer is a little vague as to his place in the change, but he soon seems to pick it up and comes right again.'

Then he goes on to describe the actual ringing, handling of the bell and rope, in his own inimitable way. Equally correct is Dickens' description of actual change ringing. The, he says, further Collegians have arrived, and 'half a dozen boys who gaze at the performances with eager eyes, probably looking forward to the happy days when they, too, will be ringers.' A second touch is rung with the two smallest bells, hitherto idle, 'the treble sounding after the tenor, like a good-sized dinner bell, and a third and last touch is rung with great spirit.'

(To be continued.)

'NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.'*To the Editor.*

Sir,—After the experience I had last Sunday evening at a certain church, I really must express my agreement with 'Ringer in the Services' that, despite war-time difficulties, some kind of belfry reform is definitely necessary.

The church in question is fortunate enough to possess a full band of ringers, but they do not realise how fortunate they are. I know for a fact that there are many people in the town who would be only too glad to learn to ring in order to keep their glorious ring going on Sundays, but the ringers seem to think it too much trouble to give up at least half an hour to an hour each week to training new material which we shall badly need after the war.

As a result of their lack of enthusiasm for practices, the ringing on Sundays gets steadily worse instead of better, and even the local population are beginning to notice it, judging by some remarks made to me during the evening. Vain attempts are made to ring advanced methods when even an attempt for a course of Grandsire breaks down after only half a dozen changes or so have been rung. As a result the striking is appalling, which, considering the band are all fairly experienced ringers, is, to say the least, a very bad show.

The above should be sufficient to show that, in spite of the troublous times through which we are passing, there is a lot to be done in the way of reform if the Exercise is to carry on until we are all home again after this nasty business is all over. PETER N. BOND.

SERGT. R. C. FOWLER.

The funeral took place at Marlow Cemetery on Saturday, October 2nd, of Sergt. Ronald C. Fowler, who, as reported in our issue of October 8th, was killed in a flying accident in Yorkshire. Sergt. Fowler was the eldest son of Mr. T. J. Fowler, the Ringing Master of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

The service at Holy Trinity Church, Marlow, and the committal was taken by the Rev. B. H. Hayward-Browne, Vicar of Cookham, where the deceased was a member of the band. The Marlow Company of the Home Guard, under Major B. B. Wilcox, formed a guard of honour. Six sergeants of the R.A.F. acted as the bearer party and the coffin was draped with the Union Jack. At the graveside the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bandsman B. Palmer, of the R.A.F.

The chief mourners were Mrs. R. C. Fowler (widow), Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Fowler (parents), and Mr. R. R. Fowler (brother). Among the ringers present were Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker, George Martin, Eric Hobbs, W. H. Buckingham, H. Howard, F. O. Nicholls and V. Gibson. The Cookham ringers were represented by Mr. E. W. Tuck. Mr. M. Koster represented Messrs. Odeon Theatres, Ltd.

The many floral tributes included wreaths from the Marlow bell-ringers, and the ringers and choir of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham. After the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Mrs. A. D. Barker 1-2, A. D. Barker 3-4, George Martin 5-6, W. H. Buckingham 7-8.

Sergt. Fowler was a very keen ringer and had rung about a dozen peals. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT PAISLEY.**

Eighteen ringing members were present at a meeting of the Scottish Association held at St. James' Church, Paisley, on October 2nd.

The following ringing members were elected: Mrs. L. M. H. Caldwell, Messrs. C. E. G. Banham, F. J. Cheal, F. Kitchen, H. Parkinson, N. Randall and P. J. H. Small. Tea was provided by Mrs. L. M. H. Caldwell, after which Grandsire Caters and Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells. A collection for the Red Cross amounted to 18s. 9d.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT GREAT WALTHAM.**

The South-Eastern District of the Essex Association held a meeting at Great Waltham on September 18th, when there was some good ringing in various methods and call changes for beginners.

The Vicar, the Rev. P. H. Crozier, conducted the service and welcomed the ringers, who came from Great Baddow, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Maldon, Springfield, Writtle and Great Waltham.

It was agreed to hold a meeting at Writtle on November 6th or 13th, and to recommend to the next meeting that the annual district meeting be held at Great Baddow in January.

Mr. H. Mansfield thanked the Vicar on behalf of the members.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LELANT, CORNWALL.—On Saturday, September 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (ten callings): E. D. Seymour 1, *D. M. Tregarthen 2, W. H. Seymour 3, Rev. A. S. Roberts 4, V. Williams (conductor) 5, P. R. C. Williams 6. Believed to be the first quarter-peal on the bells. Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mrs. A. S. Roberts. *First quarter-peal inside.

DINDER.—On Sunday, September 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: F. Harvey 1, P. Hull 2, F. Rickards (conductor) 3, F. Bird 4, Rev. R. C. T. Wallis, C.F. 5, C. Dinham 6. Rung on the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

CHILDE OKEFORD, DORSET.—On Sunday, September 26th, at St. Nicholas' Church, Childe Okeford, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: A. Haughton 1-2, A. Hart 3-4, F. Winter 5-6. Conducted by Messrs. Haughton and Winter. On the following day a quarter-peal by A. Haughton 1-2, A. Hart 3-4, and G. Spencer. Conducted by Messrs. Haughton and Spencer. Rung for the harvest festival and the Battle of Britain respectively.

TRULL, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, September 26th, for harvest festival, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *A. Pyke 1, *R. Shire 2, A. S. Pyke 3, *G. Perry 4, H. Churchill (conductor) 5, *H. Escott 6. *First quarter-peal.

EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, September 26th, at St. Bartholomew's, for the harvest thanksgiving and the third anniversary of the Battle of Britain, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major. 504 Stedman Triples: William Dowler 1, J. Atkins 2, G. H. Williams 3, D. T. Matkin (conductor) 4, C. Williams 5, E. Boylin 6, T. Russell 7, S. W. Freemantle 8. W. Mumford, N. G. Goodman and J. Pinfold also rang in the touches.

BURFORD, OXON.—On Sunday, September 26th, for harvest festival, 720 Bob Minor with 6 and tenor covering: G. Holton 1, W. J. Dixon 2, R. Hudson 3, B. S. Nichols 4, Pte. Astbury 5, *L. Jewell 6, F. Soden (conductor) 7, *J. Brown 8. *First 720.

STOKE, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, September 26th (Battle of Britain Sunday), 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Stone 1, F. Pervin (conductor) 2, A. Roberts 3, *R. Hayne 4, C. Parker 5, D. Ellender 6, C. Freeman 7, *N. Knight 8. *First quarter-peal.

STAPLEGROVE, SOMERSET.—At St. John's Church on Battle of Britain Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 42 minutes: S. G. Coles 1, E. Elson 2, F. Copham 3, J. Roy 4, A. H. Reed (conductor) 5, S. Pyne 6.

MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.—On Sunday, September 26th, at All Saints', Boyn Hill, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Smith 1, W. Judd 2, G. Martin 3, J. Bales 4, T. Goodchild 5, W. Walker 6, J. Eldridge (conductor) 7, H. Baldwin 8. Rung for the harvest festival.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, September 26th, at the Parish Church, after morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, J. C. Eden 3, A. Law 4, H. C. Bond 5, W. A. Godwin 6, W. H. Hayward 7, F. F. Bloxham 8. Rung half-muffled to the memory of Earl Bathurst, of Cirencester Park.

BATH.—At St. Michael's Church, on Sunday, October 3rd, for harvest festival, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Baverstock 1, W. J. Prescott 2, Mrs. A. Evans 3, E. King 4, G. Hawkins (conductor) 5, F. Andrews 6, J. Hallett 7, S. Woodburn 8.

CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.—At Holy Trinity on Sunday, October 3rd, for harvest festival, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Mitchell 1, G. Woods 2, E. Quickenden 3, C. L. Mitchell 4, G. Lewry 5, G. W. Cecil (conductor) 6, G. Apps 7, A. Mitchell 8.

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On Sunday, September 19th, for the harvest festival, 1,280 Bob Major: Miss M. Wingrove 1, G. Martin 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, P. Newton 4, W. Lee 5, H. Jones 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Friday, Sept. 10th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, J. Harrison 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, W. H. Fletcher tenor.—On Sunday, Sept. 26th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, H. Wingrove 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, W. Edwards 6, J. Harrison (conductor) 7, A. Routh (first quarter-peal) 8.

ICKLETON, CAMBS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, for the harvest festival, 504 Oxford Bob Triples: W. Smooty 1, P. Webb (conductor) 2, L. Lilley 3, A. Fleet 4, L. Flitton 5, G. Lilley 6, W. Flitton 7, A. G. Lilley 8.

WINDSOR.—On October 3rd, at the Parish Church, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Barkus 1, T. Smith 2, F. H. Hicks 3, W. W. Phipps 4, A. Ratton 5, A. J. Glas 6, C. A. Levett (conductor) 7, J. Simmonds 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).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45. Tea at Carlton Cafe 4.30.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and LADIES' GUILD.—Joint meeting at Edmonton on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Charity Schools, Church Street, 5.15. Bring own sugar. Ringing possible during black-out.—T. J. Lock and I. Housden, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Sileby (6 bells) on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. at the Fountain Inn.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Lancaster Road, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, October 16th. Sandridge bells (6) 2.45-4 p.m., and Wheathampstead (6) 4 p.m. until blackout, followed by meeting. Refreshments available at Wheathampstead. Frequent buses (Nos. 304 and 391) from St. Albans.—R. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Egham on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice at Crawley, Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley, Sussex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Lytham on Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

GLASGOW, ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.—Practice first and third Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., commencing on Oct. 16th.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Mark on Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry and Guilsborough Branches.—Meeting at Whitton (6), Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Notify for tea, also meeting at Weedon (6), Saturday, Nov. 13th.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting, Wollaston (6), Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Bring own sugar.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual meeting at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea, which will be arranged if possible, to me by Oct. 19th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, October 17th, 9.30 a.m. 306th anniversary luncheon at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, at 1.30 p.m., Nov. 6th. Tickets 6s. 6d.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Annual meeting at Barnwood, Saturday, Oct 23rd. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.15. Card for tea by Oct. 20th.—W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby Cathedral, October 23rd. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. James Pagett, 19, Lynton Street, Derby, by October 20th. Bring sugar.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norwich on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing at St. Miles', 2 p.m.; Mancroft, 4 p.m. Service at Mancroft 4.45. Tea in Mancroft Parish Hall, 5.15; bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Church Kirk, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—F. Hindle, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Gateshead, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring own refreshments. — F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Ufford on Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names to Chas. E. Fisher, Ufford, near Woodbridge, before Oct. 20th.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Bray on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 to 7 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Oct. 16th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Mary, Balderstone, on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells at 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton.—Combined practice; Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

ST. PETER'S, CROYDON.—Sunday ringing, 10.30 a.m., 3.30 p.m. Practice, Mondays, 7.45 p.m.—Chas. Dean.

DEATH.

SPERRING.—On Sept. 28th, at Kent House, 19, Devonshire Place, Chester, Annie, the beloved wife of Robert Sperring, aged 63 years. After a long illness patiently borne.

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SPEED IN RINGING.

During the last twenty-five years or so there has been a marked increase in the speed at which bells, both tower bells and handbells, are rung. This is particularly noticeable in the case of peals, where the rate can definitely be checked, and it is also evident in service and practice ringing.

For it there are several reasons. They include improvements in bell hanging and bell tuning, changes in ringers' temperament and character, the examples and influence of a few leading men, and the custom of affixing notes to reports stating that such-and-such performances were the quickest on the bells, and so creating the impression that new and desirable records had been set up. There is, in fact, among some men the idea, openly avowed or tacitly held, that quick ringing is in itself superior to slow ringing.

Such an idea was not unknown in the past, and in the prize ringing at Flixton, of which we recently gave an account, there was an extreme example. But, generally speaking, the best ringers did not recognise any virtue in ringing a particular peal of bells faster than what was looked on as the normal rate. Which is the correct view?

Now it is undoubtedly the case that when the band is a first class one, a smart, brisk pace is to them more pleasing than a slow one, especially when they are peal ringing. It is easier to maintain a good rhythm, and a competent tenor ringer, provided he has in front of him a band he can depend on, can much more easily manipulate a heavy bell at a quick rate than at a slow rate. Men ring peals usually for their own enjoyment (as they are fully entitled to do), and if a quick rate of ringing best suits their purposes, it is so far fully justified. Only they have no particular cause for boasting.

But all ringing is not done for the ringers' enjoyment, and the effect of any ringing on the outside listeners or hearers is not just the same as on those who are taking part in it. This is a point which ringers as a rule completely ignore. They usually assume (if they think at all about such things) that what satisfies them must be the best for the public. But that need not be so. To try to lay down general rules for all bells would be absurd and futile, and in the case of an individual ring any even approximately sound opinions could only be reached after prolonged experiments. But one or two conclusions seem clear.

Modern bells, tuned on the five-tone principle, should, to produce the best musical effect, be rung at a much slower speed than old style bells. We doubt if this is

(Continued on page 458.)

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usually done and the necessity for it would vary considerably. All five-tone tuned bells are not alike and all bell towers are not alike; but where there is a big weight of metal in a small bell chamber the great volume of sound calls for slow ringing.

All half-muffled ringing should be slow, as slow as the ringers can manage. Usually it is rung at exactly the same rate as a wedding peal.

Good slow ringing is very rare. It is much more difficult than good fast ringing. A really skilful band ought to be able to adapt its tempo to varying circumstances. But how many can?

What applies to tower bell ringing applies equally to handbell ringing. There the tendency has been towards much faster ringing, and since peal ringing on handbells is a matter which only concerns those who take part in it, the best rate is the rate the ringers like best. But they make a great mistake when they apply (as they usually do) the same test to the handbell ringing they perform for the public. Almost always the handbell ringing done in churches, in concert halls, and even at ringers' gatherings, is much too long and much too fast. So far as the public is concerned, three leads of Grand-sire Triples, well struck at a slow rate, are far more effective and more appreciated than a double course of Stedman Caters rung at ordinary handbell speed.

TEN BELL PEALS.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 6067 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

JOHN HADDLETON Treble	NORMAN G. LEECH 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 2	JOHN SMITH 7
J. WILLIAM SMITH 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 8
CHAS. H. WOODBERRY 4	ALBERT J. WRIGHT 9
KEITH SALTER 5	PERCIVAL RICHARDS Tenor

Composed by M. J. MORRIS.

Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of John Woodberry, a ringer at the above church for over 40 years.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E flat.

EDWIN JENNINGS Treble	PHILIP A. CORBY 6
GEORGE M. KILEY 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 7
TONY PRICE 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 8
FRANCIS KIRK 4	*FREDERICK E. COLLINS 9
GEORGE W. STEERE 5	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* 50th Surprise peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor size 13 in F.

JOHN WALDEN 1-2	P. MICHAEL FREEMAN 3-4
JOHN A. FREEMAN 5-6	

Conducted by JOHN A. FREEMAN.

Rung on the birthday of John Freeman.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*JAMES TOMSETT... ..Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON... .. 5
†THOMAS LEE 2	THOMAS W. HESKETH 6
WILLIAM F. M. STENHOUSE 3	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 7
GEORGE H. HESKETH 4	*JOHN TITTLE Tenor

Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal. † First peal on a working bell. Rung in honour of the preferment to a canonry of the Vicar, Canon Swift, and to mark the recent successes of the Allied armies.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

*WILFRED E. BOX ... ..Treble	S. GEORGE CHAPLIN... .. 5
FRANK E. HAYNES 2	GEORGE E. FEARN 6
WILLIAM C. DOWDING 3	†JOHN N. LINDON 7
HENRY H. FEARN 4	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples on an 'inside' bell. First peal on the bells since recasting.

SIX BELL PEAL.

GOSBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb.

*HORACE BENNETT ... ..Treble	HAROLD BARSLEY 4
ARTHUR J. FARR 2	*WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON... 5
†JOHN G. AMES 3	CYRIL R. BURRELL Tenor

Conducted by C. R. BURRELL.

* First peal in seven methods. † 125th peal.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT BEDWORTH.

A meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Bedworth on October 9th, was attended by about 40 members and friends. Service in church was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. F. N. Didsbury), who spoke of the legal aspect of ringing, of Canons of the Church as they affected ringers, and of others which had fallen into disuse. The organist was Mr. G. N. Knight, of the Stoke band. Mr. F. Pervin read the lesson.

Tea in the school was followed by the business meeting, the Rector being in the chair. It was decided to dispense with the November and December meetings and to hold the next quarterly meeting at Warwick in January. The members of the Bedworth band were re-elected to the Guild, and Mrs. W. Horton, of the Nuneaton band, was re-elected.

Mr. E. Stone gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting that the annual subscription should be reduced from 2s. to 1s. 6d., as no report had been issued since 1938.

Thanks were voted to the Rector and to the ladies who had prepared tea.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The peal rung at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, on Sunday, September 26th, was Grandsire Caters, not Stedman as printed in 'The Ringing World'.

I should be obliged if you would insert this correction.

A. PRITCHARD.

Station Road, Hadley, Salop.

GREAT PAUL.

ENGLAND'S BIGGEST BELL.

Great Paul, the big bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, is still the heaviest bell in this country, though not the heaviest that has been cast here. General opinion will probably be that in quality it has been surpassed by smaller bells from the same foundry, which now hang at York and Bristol and perhaps elsewhere; and it is not heard to the best advantage. Its casting in the year 1881, however, was a notable event in English bell founding.

Here is a report by Sir John Stainer, the organist of the Cathedral, which appeared in 'The Times' of December, 1881:—

'Big Ben sinks into comparative insignificance by the side of Great Paul, now lying comfortably mouth upwards in the foundry of Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough. She (for I fear Great Paul, as a bell, must, like all other bells, be considered feminine) will take her rank among the six or eight heaviest bells in Europe. At present her position cannot be accurately assigned, as she has not yet passed the scales; but it will probably lie between the great bell of Olmutz, weighing 17 tons 18 cwt., and that of Vienna (cast in 1711), weighing 17 tons 14 cwt.'

THE CASTING OF THE BELL.

'Three furnaces, one of which was specially built for the purpose, poured out more than 20 tons of molten metal into the gigantic mould of Great Paul, and after writing off 43 cwt. as overplus, and 8 cwt. as waste, this will leave 350 cwt. actually in the mould, or a weight of 17 tons. This mass of metal, consisting of pure tin and copper in due proportions, was about 8½ hours in course of melting; it was placed in the furnaces in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 23rd of last month, and was pronounced fit for use at half-past 10 at night. Four minutes after the rush of molten metal the mould was full, and Great Paul came into existence in one of those deep pits so mysterious to lookers-on.

'It was not until the evening of Tuesday, the 29th, that the heat had sufficiently abated to allow the men to hoist out of the pit the mould and bell in their case. This cast-iron case had an all-important duty to perform; it had to resist the enormous strain of such a weight of metal when forcing itself impetuously into the mould; and so, in order to prevent the bursting asunder of the mould, it was made strong enough to bear a pressure of 200 tons. The upper part of the case weighed 14 tons; the lower plate on which it rest 7 tons. Including clamps and bolts, it is probable that the whole weight of this huge box was not far short of 25 tons.

'It may be easily imagined how great was the anxiety of all when the case was being taken to pieces, the clay mould broken up and the mighty bell, bit by bit, exposed to view. The casting proved to be as smooth and delicate in surface and outline as if it had been a little treble of 5 cwt.

ITS DIMENSIONS.

'I have to-day, in conjunction with Mr. F. C. Penrose, been examining the bell and testing its tone. The skin of the casting showed no flaw of any kind whatever, and when the tone was produced by swinging a heavy bell of iron against the sound-bow, a musical note boomed out which was impressive beyond description.

'The dimensions of the bell are as follows: Height perpendicular (from lip to top of canons), 8ft. 10in.; diameter (from edge to edge of lip), 9ft. 6½in.; thickness (of middle sound-bow), 8½in., or about 1-13th of the diameter. The note is E flat, the upper particles B flat, E flat and G, being just audible with the sonorous ground-tone.

'The general appearance of the bell is handsome, and all campanologists should, if able to get to Loughborough, take a walk round her, and also have an eye to the many valuable appliances which Mr. Taylor has brought together for the perfecting of his art.

'The cost of the bell and hoisting it into its place in the upper part of the north-west tower will be about £3,000, a portion of which has already been contributed. It has been decided to use the bell on Easter Sunday next, when I shall be surprised if Londoners do not realise the fact that Great Paul is worthy alike of their ancient city and splendid cathedral.'

The actual weight of the bell is 16 tons 14 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. and it actually is hung in the south-western tower. It would seem from Sir John Stainer's statement that the original intention was to hang it in the other tower above the ringing peal. Probably it would sound better there, but the problem would be how to get it there.

DEATH OF MR. PETER CHARMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Peter Charman, who passed away on October 7th. He was an old member of the band at Warnham, Sussex, and had taken part in 85 peals, including 10,432 Kent Treble Bob Major.

The funeral was at Warnham on October 12th and was attended by members of the local band and by Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford, Mr. Raymond Wood, of Billingshurst, and Mr. George Woodman, of Lower Beeding. Handbells were rung over the grave.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Michael's on Sunday, October 17th, for evensong, 1,260 Bob Minor: H. E. C. Goodenough 1, Miss B. Copson 2, A. Howkins 3, W. J. Arnold 4, R. F. Ewer 5, S. Farmer (first quarter-peal as conductor) 6.

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

A DISTINGUISHED BYGONE SOCIETY.

The year 1660—the year of the Restoration of King Charles the Second—is an important landmark in the history of England. It marks the fall of puritanism as a political power, and was the beginning of a violent reaction against the tendencies which, since the death of Elizabeth two generations before, had been dominant in religious, social, and political opinion.

For twenty years or so the Church of England had suffered from humiliation and disaster, her liturgy forbidden, her buildings defaced, and many of her ministers ejected from their livings. She now returned triumphantly to power, and her enemies were crushed by severe penal laws. For the next half-century she enjoyed a greater amount of political power and influence than at any other time since the Reformation, and probably a greater amount of popularity among all classes of people. The restrictions of harmless and innocent amusement under the recent 'reign of the saints' led naturally to a correspondingly increased laxity of manners, though the effect on the English character of the genuine elements of puritanism was permanent.

These things were bound to affect change ringing and they did, but not quite in the way we should have expected. Puritan opposition to bell ringing was two-fold. It was objected to as superstitious, and also because it was a Sabbath-breaking sport. On the first point the Puritans won so completely that, not only was all semi-liturgical use of bells abolished in England, but change ringing was almost entirely divorced from the service of the Church, and only in comparatively recent times has been recovered as part of the ritual of divine service. But secular ringing and ringing as a sport the Puritans could not stop. It went on during the time of the Commonwealth much as it had done in previous years, and though there was little or no bell founding during the Civil War and the years which followed it, as soon as the country became settled under the rule of Oliver Cromwell the number of new bells cast each year steadily increased, and in the year 1660 the Exercise was ready for a great expansion in everything connected with ringing. New bells were cast and hung, the fittings of the old bells were improved so that they could be rung higher, new methods were introduced, and new societies formed. 'Whole-pulls was altogether practised in former times,' wrote Richard Duckworth in 1667, 'but of late there is a more quick and ready way practised called half-pulls, which is — only once round in a change, that is one change made at the Fore-stroke and another at the Back-stroke, which way is now altogether in use (unless it be at some great bells which are too weighty to be managed at so high a Compass at the Back-stroke as Half-pulls requires) it being now a common thing in London to ring the 720 changes, Trebles and Doubles and Grandsire Bob, Half-pulls, which is commonly rang with so round and quick a compass that in the space of half an hour or little more the 720 changes are rang out from the beginning to the end. And also the Six-scores, Doubles and Singles, Old Doubles, Grandsire, and many other cross peals on five bells are commonly rang Half-pulls.'

So far as London is concerned we may place the beginning of modern change ringing in the early days of Charles the Second's reign. Plain changes had served

their purpose and were practically obsolete; Cross Peals in half-pulls were the usual methods practised; and a modern ringer, could he take a rope in one of the then companies, would have found little difference from the ringing in his own tower.

Eight bell ringing was still a thing of the future. In 1667 the longest length on seven bells was 1680 Plain Changes. The College Youths rang Grandsire Bob Minor with 4-8 behind as covers; and Grandsire and Tendring's Doubles with three bells lying behind, varying the three bells and sometimes bringing the tenor into the work. Another way was to ring Minor on the middle six bells with the treble always leading and the tenor as a cover.

Between the year 1660 and the end of the century bell ringing, as a sport, was widely popular among all classes of people, ringers and non-ringers. It was still simple enough for ordinary people to know something about. Later it became so highly technical that none but the initiated could appreciate it.

This popularity of ringing led to the establishment of many new societies. Most of them have long since disappeared and been forgotten. The names of one or two have survived buried in the pages of rare books, like the Loyal Youths of Lichfield and the Society of Western Greencaps. Copies of the rules of others are among the manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, among them the Northerne Youths and the Greenwich Youths. The important Society of London Scholars dates from soon after this time, and particulars of another prominent company have within recent years come to light.

This society was founded in 1662 by Henry Chauncy, who had joined the College Youths in 1660; but, for some reason, had left them. It consisted mainly of members of the Middle Temple with some other people, some of whom probably held minor appointments connected with the royal household. They called themselves the Esquire Youths and were an exclusive body who apparently did not admit anybody beneath the rank of esquire, which in those days was a real rank and not merely a polite form of address. The rules of the society and the list of original members are extant, and the reason they have survived and come down to us is curious.

One of the early English poets was a man named John Skelton, who lived between the years 1460 and 1529. He was a clergyman of somewhat dubious reputation who wrote a number of poems in a short vigorous metre. One of them was called 'The Tunnyng of Elynour Rummyng,' a fantastic description of an old ale wife and her guests who visited her establishment near Leatherhead. It is rather funny and very coarse. A manuscript of this poem belonged to King Charles the Second. It is written in an ornamental hand in a little book handsomely bound in leather and embossed with the royal crest—a crown and CRII. This poem fills up only part of the book, and when the Esquire Youths wanted something to write their rules in, they took this book, turned it upside down and used the blank pages. How they got hold of it I cannot tell. Perhaps the king gave it them; or he may have tossed it aside after reading it and someone picked it up; or the Esquire Youths may have gone into the royal library and helped themselves. Anyway, they were using it only a few months after it had been bound for the king, which seems to show that some of them, at any rate, were fairly closely connected with the royal court.

And what became of it after the society lapsed I cannot say. Such a book, the property of the king, and containing a rare poem, would naturally be valued by anybody into whose hands it might fall. Most likely it got into the library of some country house and came on the market when that library was sold and dispersed. Eventually it was in the possession of Messrs. Sotheby, the booksellers of Piccadilly, and from them was purchased by the British Museum in 1870, and there it is now. The chief value to the Museum is, of course, in Skelton's poem, but the history of this MS. and of the College Youths' name book suggests the possibility that there are still books buried in country libraries which may yet throw more light on old ringers and ringing.

The rules of the society are in two different hand-writings, and are partly in English and partly in Latin, with occasionally a sentence in Greek. They are headed with the aphorism *Salus populi suprema lex este* (Let the welfare of the community be the first rule) and the statement, *Omnium societatum nulla prestantior est nulla firmiter quam conjuri boni moribus e simul sunt familiaritate conjuncti* (No society is stronger nor more excellent than when men of good nature are joined together in friendship).

The officers consisted of a Generall or Principall, whose title is given in Greek, a Treasurer, Clericus or Clerke, senior and junior Stewards, and senior and junior Wardens. Under each officer is a description of his duties. The Treasurer was to gather steepleage 'at all extra ordinary peals and forfeitures for use of ye company.' The Stewards were to prepare for the yearly feast and to 'consult the Treasurer on what moneys he can spare and what can be gathered.' Mention is also made of a Warner, who, among other duties, had to

give notice to the members on the marriage or death of any member so that suitable peals could be rung.

Candidates for admission to the society were required to sign 'an Engagement for all those who are desirous to be Installed members of the Society—I doe declare and promise to keep and maintain all these orders to my full power and utmost endeavour as they are now established by the whole society and further engage to have not now or hereafter any interest in any company but this of the esquires.' The same form appears again with the names of the members written beneath. They are not, however, signatures, but the same handwriting.

Provision was made for monthly and quarter (i.e., quarterly) peals, and the following form was provided to summon the members on these occasions: 'Form of a Warrant. Whereas it is ye pleasure of the generall and his assistants to approve the next monthly peale for the company at B. These are therefore to will and require you upon sight hereof to make yr personall appearance at the aforesaid Church on Tuesday next the 12th day of July between 4 and 5 of ye clock by the same Church Clocke in the afternoon there to help and perform the sd. Peale to your best skill and utmost Indeavour and hereof you are not to fail on pain of forfeiture. A.B. Generall.'

Two of the rules are as follows:—'None shall find fault with another's ringing but the generall or whom he shall appoint. None shall prate or make any noise at peals.' 'None shall engage the Company in a Challenge without the Generall's consent on pain of being amerced 2s. 6d. and in case the Company shall be engaged every man shall lend his best assistance if required and contribute his equal share to the rest of his fellow members.'

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first peal on the old bells of St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, was rung 65 years ago, on February 20th, 1878. Two of the band, Messrs Thomas Miller and R. H. McDonald, are still alive. R. H. McDonald now lives in Australia. It was Mr. Miller's first peal, and was the same method and composition as the peal rung upon the new bells on Saturday, October 16th, which appears in this issue.

At Bramley Church, near Guildford, the band has the valuable services of Mr. J. R. Mackman, who is training recruits.

Last Monday was the 100th anniversary of the death of Thomas Tolladay. In his time he was a leading man among London ringers and he probably did more than anyone else to make the St. James' Society one of the principal Metropolitan companies.

The anniversaries of the deaths of two other famous ringers fall within this week: John Martin, of Leicester, October 16th, 1799, and Charles H. Hattersley, October 21st, 1915.

The bells of St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, a light ring restored and increased to eight in 1907-8, were rung for the first time for some years on October 10th. It is hoped to ring them regularly during the winter on Sundays at 6.15 p.m. for evensong.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

PRESENTATION TO CANON BURROWS.

On October 9th, the ringers of Bournemouth and district met at St. Peter's to ring on the occasion of a presentation to Canon Hedley Burrows, the late Vicar, who has been appointed Archdeacon of Winchester. Thirty-five ringers were present from a wide area, and the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Tea was in the small hall while a parochial presentation was being made in the large hall. When Canon Burrows joined the party Mr. Martin Stewart took the chair. He spoke of the many services the Canon had rendered to ringing during his ministry at St. Peter's and while the ban was in force. The Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. George Preston, the local secretaries, then presented Canon Burrows with an altar book suitably inscribed from the Bournemouth and district ringers.

Canon Burrows, in his reply, said he loved the sound of bells and had always been accustomed to hearing them rung at the churches where he had ministered. He had learned to handle a bell, but had never persevered with change ringing. He thanked them all for their comradeship and services in the tower.

Handbells were rung to Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

A meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on September 18th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Wallis. Tea and the general meeting followed, the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, being in the chair, supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the peal secretary, Mr. W. Barton, and the vice-president (Western District), Mr. P. J. Johnson.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, F. Cryer, E. Hudson, H. Armitage and G. Lewis. Mr. S. F. Palmer, who had attended the committee meeting, was unable to remain to the general meeting.

Mr. P. J. Johnson moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens. This was seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and carried. The Vicar replied.

A vote of thanks to the local company was moved by Mr. W. Barton. He said that many years had elapsed since the association had held a general meeting at a six-bell tower. He could see no reason why that state of affairs should continue. Mr. W. H. Senior seconded and Mr. J. W. Moxon replied. He said the secretary assured them that it was about time a general meeting was held at a six-bell tower, and this had encouraged them to do all possible to make the meeting a success.

The following out-county members were elected on the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. J. F. Harvey: W. L. B. Leese and E. C. S. Turner, of London, Mr. J. E. Spice, of Sittingbourne, Kent, and Miss Joan Houldsworth, of St. Annes-on-Sea.

DICKENS AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with some interest the article by Mr. E. Morris in his series on central towers, in the course of which he deals with the tower and bells of Southwark Cathedral.

Mr. Morris quotes from an article published in February, 1869, in 'All the Year Round,' of which Charles Dickens was then editor. Because of this fact, many people, including, it would seem, Mr. Morris, have concluded that Dickens himself visited the College Youths in their meeting house and in the Southwark tower, afterwards writing the article describing his visit.

This question has always been a debatable one, which has from time to time cropped up during the whole of my ringing experience. Some writers have argued that Dickens did not and could not have written the article. Mr. Morris is evidently of the opposite opinion, and the confidence which is evident in his comments leads one to a belief that information in his possession alone puts the authorship question beyond doubt.

For my own part, I have always regarded the article as an ordinary piece of journalism written for the popular press of the time, and not at all in the Dickens style. I am rather confirmed in this view by the very trifling effect this visit and subsequent article had upon the ringers present. I have met and rung with a number of men who were certainly ringing in 1868-9, and, being College Youths, would almost as certainly be present at Southwark. For instance, the late Mr. Harvey Reeves, at that time about 30 years of age, a journalist by profession, would at once assess at its full value such a visit by the great Dickens. He appears to be as silent as others, which, remember, included such men as Matt. Wood, Hayworth, Cooter and Pettitt. The latter was Master in 1868 and was succeeded in 1869 by Edwin Horrex, who was probably steward in 1868. It is, therefore, probable that both gentlemen were present at Southwark. Their silence is significant.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

Guildford.

JOY BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps the meagre information supplied in the report of the annual meeting of the Lancashire Association with regard to 'Joy Bells' has caused some misapprehension as shown in this week's leader of 'The Ringing World.'

When peace does come, 'authorities' will be the last thought in any ringer's head. It will be a ringer's day of days.

As the one who brought this matter up at this meeting, I had in mind some lead as to when to celebrate or mourn. The Press have announced from time to time special calls to prayer, etc., recently great publicity was given for the celebrations and thanksgiving for the Battle of Britain. For this occasion 'The Daily Telegraph' announced the special services and 'the ringing of bells.'

In Moscow, Stalin orders the firing of guns to celebrate great events and achievements of their forces. The public know why they are being fired, and I presume that if the event was not publicly announced, panic would ensue.

I suggested a letter to the secretary of the Central Council to see if it was possible to get in touch with the Minister of Information with the object of having a day, other than Sunday, set aside for the special ringing of bells, whether it be to celebrate or mourn some great loss. The ringers' share in these events would then be more appreciated by the public generally.

I know many ringers who lamented at not being able to muffle the bells for the late Duke of Kent. Traditions must be upheld. Last December, ringing was on the front page. Let us keep our place on that page. In these times the public would listen with an appreciative ear to a special occasion, but would have no interest in peals or long touches if they were ignorant of the reason for the ringing. Sunday ringing is generally accepted as a call to prayer.

During the 6 o'clock news of this date the bells could be heard ringing from a town in Italy occupied by the Allies.

PETER CROOK.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT RIPPINGALE.

A meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, held at Rippingale on October 16th, was attended by about fifty ringers from Peterborough, Deeping St. Nicholas, Market Deeping, Thurlby, Bourne, Morton, Edenham, Billingborough, Donington, Heckington, Great Hale, Sempringham, Folkingham and the local band. Good use was made of the six bells, and the methods ranged from Plain Bob and Grandfire Doubles to London Surprise Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. Williams, conducted a short service, and tea, provided by the churchworkers and ringers of Rippingale, was served in the parish room.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting and tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. T. L. Bainbridge, an old and valued member of the Southern Branch. Seven new performing members were elected, and it was proposed to hold the annual meeting next January at Grantham, subject to permission being granted.

BELLS AND THE MEMORY.

One of the most remarkable things about church bells is the power they have of touching emotions and awakening memories in those who hear them. This power is felt by many persons of widely different character and in widely different circumstances, though, for obvious reasons, ringers are, as a class, probably less susceptible to it than others.

Many of our readers will remember the striking experience related by Earl Baldwin in one of his books of collected speeches. He was, he said, standing on the terrace of a beautiful villa near Florence one September evening. 'And then I heard a bell, such a bell as never was on land or sea, a bell whose every vibration found an echo in my utmost 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 DESERT EXPERIENCE.

An earlier and more remarkable incident is related in a book called 'Eothen,' written by a man named A. W. Kinglake, who had a considerable reputation as a writer and was the author of a many volumed History of the Crimean War. 'Eothen' is an account of a journey through Turkey, Syria and Egypt in days when those lands were little visited by Englishmen. He described his journey on a camel through the desert, and he goes on:—

After my first two days this way of travelling became so familiar to me that (poor sleeper as I am) I now and then slumbered for some moments together on the back of my camel. On the fifth day of my journey the air above lay dead, and all the whole earth that I could reach with my utmost sight and keenest listening was still and lifeless, as some despoiled and forgotten world that rolls round and round in the heavens through wasted floods of light. The sun, growing fiercer and fiercer, shone down more mightily now than ever on me he shone before, and as I drooped my head under his fire, and closed my eyes against the glare that surrounded me, I slowly fell asleep—for how many minutes or moments I cannot tell—but after a while I was gently awakened by a peal of church bells—my native bells—the innocent bells of Marlen that never before sent their music beyond the Blagdon hills!

'My first idea naturally was that I still remained fast under the power of a dream. I roused myself, and drew aside the silk that covered my eyes, and plunged my bare face into the light. Then at least I was well enough wakened, but still those old Marlen bells rang on, not ringing for joy, but properly, prosily, steadily, merrily, ringing "for church." After awhile the sound died away slowly; it happened that neither I nor any of my party had a watch by which to measure the exact time of its lasting, but it seemed to me that about ten minutes had passed before the bells ceased.

AN AURAL ILLUSION.

'I attributed the effect to the great heat of the sun, the perfect dryness of the clear air through I moved, and the deep stillness of all around me; it seemed to me that these causes, by occasioning a great tension, and consequent susceptibility of the hearing organs, had rendered them liable to tingle under the passing touch of some mere memory that must have swept across my brain in a moment of sleep. Since my return to England it has been told me that the sailor, becalmed under a vertical sun in the midst of the wide ocean, has listened in trembling wonder to the chime of his own village bells.

'During my travels I kept a journal which enabled me to find out the day of the month and the week according to the European calendar; referring to this, I found that the day was Sunday, and roughly allowing for the difference in longitude, I concluded that at the moment of my hearing that strange peal, the church-going bells of Marlen must have been actually calling the prim congregation of the parish to morning prayer. The coincidence amused me faintly, but I could not allow myself a hope that the effect I had experienced was anything other than an illusion—an illusion liable to be explained (as every illusion is in these days) by some of the philosophers who guess at Nature's riddles.'

A FAMOUS CARILLON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought perhaps you would care to know that I have recently had the opportunity of visiting the Rockefeller Memorial Church, Riverside, New York. As you know, Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's famous carillon are hung in the tower of this beautiful church. Having heard them in the foundry on 'Ringers' Day' at Croydon some years ago, it was a unique experience to hear them in their true setting. They have recitals played on them once or twice a day and more so at week-ends.

I was able to ascend into the tower, where there is a public gallery immediately around the bells. I also met the carillonneur, M. Kemell Le Fèvre.

A. PURDOM.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 453.)

In his article last week Mr. Morris quoted from an account of a visit to Southwark Cathedral said to have been written by Charles Dickens (though the authorship is disputed). It continues:—

'After we had received and modestly declined a polite invitation to try our hand at a bell, we file down the cork-screw stairs, not without a comfortable feeling that, if we were to slip or stumble, an avalanche of College Youths is behind certain to be precipitated on to our prostrate body. Reaching the chapel again without damage, though with a good deal of damp and dust on our coats from the walls of the staircase, we find the organist still at work (we wonder how he likes the bells ringing overhead while he is practising), and passing over the stone that marks Massinger's last resting place, emerge into the churchyard. Thence, pursued by a triumphant burst of sound from the organ, as if the organist were glad to get rid of us, we troop off to the meeting place of the society at the King's Head.'

Dickens then gives an elaborate but minutely correct account of the proceedings, remarking that: 'It soon becomes pleasantly apparent that change ringing is by no means merely an excuse for beer. There is an excellent rule, strictly enforced, that no refreshments are allowed in the belfry, and moderation is clearly the custom in the club room.'

Thus we see a very good description, not only of the ascent and descent of the famous central tower of Southwark Cathedral, but a vivid description of the grand ring of twelve housed therein.

As early as 1424, in the time of Prior Wentworth, there were seven bells, of which the weights and names were: The largest, called Augustus, 38 cwt. 7 lb.; Maria, 27 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.; Stephen, 19 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.; Anna Maria, 15 cwt. 19 lb.; St. Laurence, 13 cwt. 8 lb.; Vincent, 12 cwt. 21 lb.; St. Nicholas, 5 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb. Afterwards, in the same year, the Prior caused other bells to be made and of greater weight, and added an 8th, altering the names, as may be seen in the Leiger Book. They are St. Trinity, Mary, Augustine, St. Laurence, Gabriel, All Saints, St. John Evangelist, and Christ. In 1735 the bells were new cast and made into a ring of twelve by Samuel Knight. The 10th was recast by C. and G. Mears in 1844, the 11th by T. Mears in 1820, and the tenor in 1911 by Mears and Stainbank. It now weighs 50½ cwt. In 1931 the same firm recast the 7th bell.

Southwark has been the scene of many famous peals, and it was here that one of the very earliest performances of which we have records was achieved. It was upon 'the six large bells' that the College Youths in 1684 rang three 720's, consisting of 2,160 changes, without stopping, and the methods were, we are informed, Oxford Treble Bob, College Single and Oxford Single.

The College Youths also rang on March 12th, 1758, 'a complete Peal of 5,040 tripple bob 12 in, in 4 hours

13 minutes, being the greatest performance ever done on twelve bells.'

In the same year 6,336 Bob Maximus in 5 hours 13 minutes; and in 1784 another peal of 7,008 Triple Bob Twelve In in 6 hours 5 minutes. On peal tablets in the ringing chamber are records of many famous peals rung during the last 150 years, by the College Youths and the Cumberland Youths, many of which have been quoted in these columns, in Mr. J. Armiger Trollope's histories of these ringing societies. The present writer had the privilege and honour to take part in one outstanding peal here when, on April 9th, 1938, a peal of 5,007 Stedman Cinques was rung in 3 hours 57 minutes by twelve secretaries of twelve different ringing associations and guilds. It was composed by the late Gabriel Lindoff, of the Irish Association, and conducted by Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, of the Ladies' Guild. Rung with half-muffled bells to the respected memory of the late Wm. T. Cockerill, for 46 years secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

We have already described the peculiar ringers' gallery and the unusual approach to it, in the Minster at Southwell, Notts (see page 368). This gallery has only one other equal in Great Britain and that is at Merton College, Oxford.

Besides being unusual in its actual ringing gallery arrangement, Merton 'approach' is somewhat out of the ordinary. Passing through the main gateway of the college, veer slightly left by the east window of the chapel; turn right under an arch out into a small quadrangle—the oldest portion of the college, dated 1264. Pass through another arch and thence go up a spiral stairway which brings you out on top of the chapel roof. (The spiral itself is surmounted by a conical top.) Then walk along the chapel roof into a hole in the corner of the tower and up two or three steps: immediately left through a door and you are on the ringers' gallery by the side of the fourth bell right, and fifth bell left. The only light is from a little west window behind the seventh rope.

Merton College possesses the most ancient collegiate buildings in Oxford. It was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton at Malden in Surrey, but was transferred to Oxford some ten years later. The chapel—by far the finest in the University—was begun in 1277. The interest attached to the building is increased by the existence of Bursar's Rolls dating from the foundation of the college. These Rolls show that the chapel was built bit by bit, according to the state of the college revenues.

The most beautiful feature of the spacious choir—120 feet long—is the splendid east window of seven lights. It is of the intersecting mullion type, with a fine wheel under the point; but, in addition to the tracery, each light is surmounted by a fine pediment with pinnacles in between. There are seven three-light decorated windows on each side.

Like all other Oxford College chapels, Merton possesses no nave, the choir being used for college services:

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while the transepts were originally intended for Scholars' 'disputations,' though at a later time they were used as the parish church of St. John.

The beautifully moulded tower arches rise from lofty clustered piers, and date from 1330. The tower—one of the most conspicuous in Oxford—has eight large belfry windows, and is crowned by tall pierced battlements with bold pinnacles rising some 120 feet above the ground. Owing to its breadth it has a somewhat stunted appearance, though it is to some extent relieved by the skilful disposition of the ornamentation.

It was built in 1420, but a tower of some description must have existed previously, as mention is made of bells in the Bursar's Rolls as early as 1288, and in 1330-1 there is an account of a heavy outlay upon the belfry tower.

A new ring of five was given by Henry Abyndon, the warden, in 1448: the work took two years to accomplish, and was superintended by Thomas Edwards. On September 15th, 1655, a great part of the roof of the south transept adjoining fell, breaking many of the monuments below.

It was decided in January, 1657, to melt down the old bells and to recast them into a ring of eight. This decision met with great opposition, especially from Anthony Wood, who advocated the simple addition of a treble, saying that the great bell passed for one of the finest in England. The new bells, by Michael Darby, were not a success, and they were recast by Christopher Hodson, of London, in 1680.

The bells had originally been rung from the ground, but in 1680 a floor was made just above the top of the tower arches. This remained until 1845, when it was taken down to display the finely carved tower-roof, and the present ringers' gallery was erected.

The tower itself is square, the internal measurement being 25 feet each way: the gallery is octagonal, wood-work 15 feet long running parallel to each wall, alternating at each corner with woodwork 3 feet 9 inches long, running off at an angle of 45 degrees. The wood-work is 3 feet 6 inches wide, except, of course, at each corner of the tower. The distance between each pair of ropes averages about 10 feet. The tenor is quoted as 27 cwt., and usually took two men to ring her through a full peal. In 1889 (August 24th) Mr. Francis E. Dawe visited the tower and conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples on the bells, James W. Washbrook ringing the tenor single-handed. Later on Mr. Washbrook succeeded in ringing a peal of London Surprise on these bells. The bells, being only some 20 feet above the ringers' heads, the noise is very great and, to add to the difficulties, the gallery was only lighted by candles.

(To be continued.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORTHWRAM.

About thirty members of the Yorkshire Association attended a meeting of the Western District, held at Northowram on October 9th. Among the visitors were Capt. Wright, the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith and Mr. C. W. Woolley.

The business meeting in the schools was presided over by Mr. P. J. Johnson. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Marshall, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, Mr. W. Barton, Mr. H. Armitage and Miss L. K. Bowling. It was decided to hold no meeting in December, and the spring meeting in April, in the Huddersfield district. Thanks to the local company were expressed by Mr. J. F. Harvey, seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall. One new member was elected, and the collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 7s.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

(Continued from page 451.)

A printed bill gives particulars of the bells of Cambourne Parish Church on Easter Tuesday of some unspecified year. The ringers were the Devonshire Guild, the services were Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m., morning prayer at 11, and evening service at 3.30. At 5.30 there was a public tea, and at 7.30 a lecture by Lt.-Col. H. R. Trelawny on 'Church Bells and Bell Ringing,' illustrated on handbells by the ringers of St. Mary's, Penzance. The public were afforded 'an opportunity of hearing Touches of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major on eight bells, Grandsire Caters on ten bells, Grandsire Cinques on twelve bells.' Heywood noted that 'the handbell performance was by the Miss Trelawnys.'

In bygone days it was the custom of ringers to compose doggerel verses in praise of some outstanding peal and to sing them, at suppers and convivial meetings, to some traditional folk tune. Men still alive remember James Dwight's song beginning 'The famous peal of Stedman Cinques, the College Youths did ring,' which was in the true line of these effusions. They were all of the same pattern, each verse or couplet being devoted to the praise of one of the ringers who took part in the peal. Heywood preserved one or two of these 'poems.' The oldest is in manuscript, and is 'A Song to celebrate a peal of Bob Maximus rung at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, in 1801.' One verse, the second, will serve to show what it is like:—

'Thomas Spilove the treble with pleasure did ring,
The bells are melodious and sweetly did sing,
Richard Cross at the second with memory great
This peal he composed, and the bobs did repeat.'

Later on in Heywood's book is another one of these songs. It was composed by James R. Haworth, and was in praise of a peal of Stedman Caters, rung by the St. James' Society at All Saints', Fulham, in 1842. One verse of this shows how all these songs were on the same model.

'Henry Haley, the treble, who rung it so well,
Took hold of the rope and soon pulled up the bell;
John Fairbairn, the second, who did the same thing,
And all of the band were soon ready to ring.'

Someone was persuaded to pay for the printing of Haworth's verses. He says in an introductory note that 'the poetry is not of a high order,' which can hardly be said to be an overstatement.

A newspaper cutting, dated 1851, gives an account of the death of Benjamin Thackrah, of Dewsbury, who in the early years of the last century held a prominent position among Yorkshire ringers. He rang over fifty peals, among them being the first true peal of Superlative Surprise Major, and he has the distinction of being the author of the very worst text book that has ever been published on change ringing.

Another cutting from the same paper gives this interesting piece of information: 'On Saturday, the 15th ult., the Painswick Youths ascended the tower and rang a touch of Triples on Stedman's Principle, containing 1,851 changes (being the date of this eventful year) in the space of one hour and sixteen minutes. The touch was composed by James Escourt (thirteen years of age) and conducted by Mr. William Escourt.' Was the touch true? we wonder.

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.

THE BELLS AND RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwin Jennings' account of Bushey bells and some of the many notable performances accomplished there was very interesting, particularly to me, because during a stay of over three and a half years in the district I had many opportunities of appreciating the very high standard of ringing which is maintained thereabouts.

His remark that 230 peals had been rung on the bells brought back a question which occasionally crops up in my mind—at which tower have the most peals actually been rung? There are a number which appear consistently in the peal columns year after year—Leiston, for example, Warnham for another, and, if it can be included, Loughborough Bell Foundry. Despite these, however, I should be surprised if first place does not lie between two towers in adjacent parishes, St. John the Baptist's, Erith, and St. Paulinus', Crayford. Well, Erith must be left for an Erithian to champion, though it may be mentioned that Charles Wilkins, who up to a month or two ago still resided there, completed his century on the bells as far back as 1902, since when there has been no diminution in the flow of peals from that tower.

A SPLENDID LIST.

Meanwhile, for those who, like myself, are statistically minded, here are some details of Crayford peals. From 1889 to date, no fewer than 378 have been accomplished. I have no facilities for finding a complete list of those rung between 1877, when the bells were augmented to eight, and the end of 1888, but I do know of 12 rung in that period. This brings us to 390, and it would not be unreasonable to assume that 400 is a fair approximation of the complete total. Crayford cannot compete with Bushey's imposing array of some 25 Surprise methods, a modest 13 having been rung, but, nevertheless, 42 methods are included, as well as four Spliced Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Spliced or Combined, four different combinations of plain Major methods and one of Cambridge and Superlative Surprise. There have been nine Triples methods—that would take some beating. This is the complete list of known peals:—

Triples.—58 Grandsire, 54 Stedman, 8 Union, 3 Oxford Bob, 3 Plain Bob, 2 Darlaston, 2 Erin, 1 each Court Bob and Canterbury Pleasure.

Major.—

- (a) Plain.—48 Double Norwich, 32 Plain Bob, 8 Double Oxford, 8 Canterbury Pleasure, 3 'Real' Double Norwich, 2 each Reverse Bob, Double Bob and Hereward, 1 each St. Clement's, Painswick College, Pulford Bob and Cheltenham Bob, also 1 each combined Double Norwich and Bob Major, Double Norwich and Double Oxford, Double Oxford and Bob Major, and Bob Major and Canterbury.
- (b) Little.—3 Little Bob, 2 Erith Little Bob, 1 each Dartford Little Bob and Crayford Little Court.
- (c) Treble Bob.—32 Kent, 3 Oxford, 1 Granta, also 3 Kent and Oxford (1 Spliced, 2 Combined).
- (d) Surprise.—40 Cambridge, 14 London, 11 Superlative, 7 Bristol, 5 Four Spliced, 5 New Cambridge, 4 Yorkshire, 3 Lincolnshire, 3 Norfolk, 1 each New Cumberland, Crayford, Staffordshire, Painswick, Pudsey and Ipswich, also one combined Cambridge and Superlative.

Of these peals, 26 were the first of their kind for the Kent County Association.

It might be assumed that this total was amassed by an even flow of peals during 60 odd years, but actually this is not so. For instance, whereas in the 25 years 1896-1920 only 63 peals were rung, the 12 years 1928-1939 produced 211, and since the first peal in June, 1923, after the bells were rehung, to date there have been 256.

THE STORY OF THE BELLS.

While I am writing, perhaps a few details concerning the bells themselves and the ringing generally might be of interest. A board in the belfry records that 'On Wednesday, January 10th, 1877, this peal of bells were dedicated.' Previously there was a peal of five, the tenor of which was inscribed: 'Thomas Bartlett made me 1624.' These were recast and new metal added by Mears and Stainbank, by whom the subsequent rehanging was also carried out.

As often happens, it is from churchwardens' accounts that the only information about early ringing can be obtained. We read that on September 30th, 1725, 'Paid Mr. Gilburd for ringers when ye King dined at May Place, 11s. 0d.' A later royal visit apparently provoked greater thirst than usual, another entry reading: '1820, November 17th. For beer for the ringers for the King's coming through Crayford, 10s. 0d.'

When the new bells came to Crayford, they were taken from the railway station to the church by Mr. Edward Audsley, who died at a great age in 1941. He himself was not a ringer, but four of his sons have been, of whom the youngest, Mr. Herbert E. Audsley, is, of course, very well known.

On November 17th, 1877, the first peal, Grandsire Triples, was accomplished by J. Sloper, treble, E. Hamman, 2, W. I. Reeve, 3, F. J. French, 4, A. Payne, 5, A. Coles, 6, J. Garard, 7, and J. Foreman, tenor. The conductor was Edwin Hamman, who before his death in 1879 at the early age of 39 had called a number of peals in the district. He

was the parish clerk and vergers. Of the others, William Reeve, a native of Essex, was also a vergers at the church in the neighbouring parish of Bexleyheath, and custodian of the cemetery there. Frederick J. French, a Bexley man, was a master builder. Alfred Payne and Alfred Coles were Crayfordians, the former having learned on the old five. His occupation was delivering bundles of firewood, the result of the Union Workhouse inmates' activities, to shops in the district. John Garard came from Suffolk, and for many years had charge of St. John's, Erith, bells, it being largely due to his efforts that his employers gave two new bells to complete the octave there. The other two, Joseph Sloper and John Foreman, were also Crayford men.

GEORGE CONYARD AND EDWIN BARNETT.

After Edwin Hamman's death, George Conyard became parish clerk and also towerkeeper. He will no doubt be remembered by many older ringers, and some of his compositions are occasionally still rung. He in turn was succeeded about 1909 by Edwin Barnett, sen., who had come to Crayford in 1889. So much has been written about my grandfather's qualities as a ringer and a gentleman that I hesitate to attempt to add to it, except to say that the number of people whose first peal he called must be nearly a record. Not all these were at Crayford, of course, but notable ringers who began their peal ringing career there are Herbert E. Audsley, Frederick J. Cullum, Arthur Mason (who for several years after the last war was a regular member of William Pye's band), and, of course, my father. I believe Charles Wilkins' first was at Crayford, too. He is probably the only survivor of the 13,440 Double Norwich at Romford in 1894, and with George R. Pye of the 15,072 of the same method at Erith in 1899.

Since 1889 there have been many peals of more than passing interest. A peal of Double Oxford in 1900 was the only one rung in that method by William, Ernest and George R. Pye. It always looks very lonely in their huge totals of peals. A peal of Erin Triples by a local band in 1911 was, I am told, completed with a remark by my grandfather that 'he would never call another bob in that method as long as he lived.' In more recent times the first Masonic peal of Cambridge was rung in 1926, and one of Bob Major, also, I believe, the first, in 1936.

SOME OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES.

Mrs. Fletcher called the first peals of Cambridge in 1928 and Superlative in 1936 for the Ladies' Guild, and several gallant attempts for London were made before success was finally achieved at Harlow Common. Peals of Stedman Triples in August, 1929, in 2 hours 14 minutes—on the hottest day of the year—and Bob Major in 1930 in 2 hours 47 minutes are the two quickest peals on eight church bells, Loughborough Bell Foundry alone, with a tenor half the weight, having recorded a peal in less time. The first peal of Erith Little Bob in 1930 recalls that when the method was later rung elsewhere under another name, the ringer at whose instigation the new name was used not only declined, contrary to all precedent, to recognise the prior claim, but also contended that his name of 'Double Little Bob' was a better one for a method not even symmetrical, let alone Double.

In 1934, Miss Margaret Pack, at the age of 17, took part in a peal of four Spliced Surprise, the youngest lady to do so. Another notable peal of four Spliced was in 1935 by a band of average age 22½ years, conducted by Ernest C. S. Turner. In the previous year a peal of Bob Major had been rung by eight ringers whose combined ages, including all their odd months, totalled only 120 years, a performance of which all were very proud, for, as 'The Ringing World' said, 'not only did they ring the peal, but they rang it supremely well.' Of the band, one, Sgt.-Pilot Arthur W. Jones, of Croydon, has made the supreme sacrifice during this year. A peal of Cambridge in 1935 was John H. Cheesman's 1,000th peal, while one in the same method in 1937 was the first of Surprise by a local band. A fitting climax to the peals so far rung was one of Stedman Triples in July this year, the 1,000th by Charles T. Coles and James Bennett.

It is only to be expected that individual totals would be high. Edwin Barnett, sen.'s, 235 on the bells still leads, and his son is second with 197, closely followed by Herbert E. Audsley with 196. Of living ringers the writer is next with 142, but John H. Cheesman rang 155. Thomas Groombridge, sen., and Harry Hovard are in the 120's, and Thomas Groombridge, jun., has registered 101. James Bennett and John Wheaden have both rung over 60, and P.O. Derek M. Sharp, missing since July, had rung 57 before he went away.

Whatever, therefore, may be held in store for ringing at Crayford, a future ringing historian will surely find something worthy of comment in what has already been achieved.

E. A. BARNETT.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A monthly meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Warmley on October 9th. The bells, a ring of six, were set going at 3.30 p.m. Service was held in the church at 4.30 p.m. and was taken by the Vicar of Warmley. About 40 members attended from Warmley, Mangotsfield, Henbury, St. Werburg's, Abson, Bitton, Westerleigh, and Coalpit Heath. At the meeting votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to the organist, and to the ladies for providing the tea.

Bitton was chosen for the next meeting on Saturday, November 13th.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Wollaston (6), Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Bring own sugar.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual meeting at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 2.30 p.m.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 306th anniversary luncheon at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, at 1.30 p.m., Nov. 6th. Tickets 6s. 6d.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby Cathedral, October 23rd. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norwich on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing at St. Miles', 2 p.m.; Mancroft, 4 p.m. Service at Mancroft 4.45. Tea in Mancroft Parish Hall, 5.15; bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. — Meeting at Church Kirk, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—F. Hindle, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Gateshead, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring own refreshments. — F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Ufford on Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — Meeting at Bray on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 to 7 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Standon on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 26th. Train leaves St. Margaret's for Standon 2.15 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. — Meeting at St. Mary, Balderstone, on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells at 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Twyford on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 6-8.30.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Martock, Saturday, Oct. 30th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, North Street, Martock.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Thorne, Saturday, Oct. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by Oct. 26th. Buses every 15 minutes from Doncaster.—W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION and CHESTER GUILD.—Meeting at Port Sunlight on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30. No tea arrangements yet made. — H. S. Brocklebank and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—A combined practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30 to 5 p.m. — G. Pullinger.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54. Names for tea to A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Nov. 1st.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

A set of 27 handbells, diameters ranging from 2 to 5 inches. Offers to Messrs. Belcher and Son, Auctioneers, Darlaston, Staffs.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VIII., to be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price 1s.

WANTED.—Parts IV. and VII. of Walter's 'Church Bells of Worcestershire.' Write, stating condition and price, F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.—On Sunday, October 10th, 720 Boh Minor: Mrs. R. March 1, F. Wallington 2, P.C. J. Rawson 3, W. Wallington 4, R. March 5, W. Hector (conductor) 6.

SOUTHGATE.—At Christ Church on Sunday, October 10th, for morning service, 1.167 Stedman Caters: D. Wright 1, J. G. Nash 2, W. J. Bowden 3, S. Wade 4, E. King 5, J. Miller 6, N. A. Tomlinson 7, H. Miller 8, J. Armstrong (conductor) 9, G. S. Piper 10.

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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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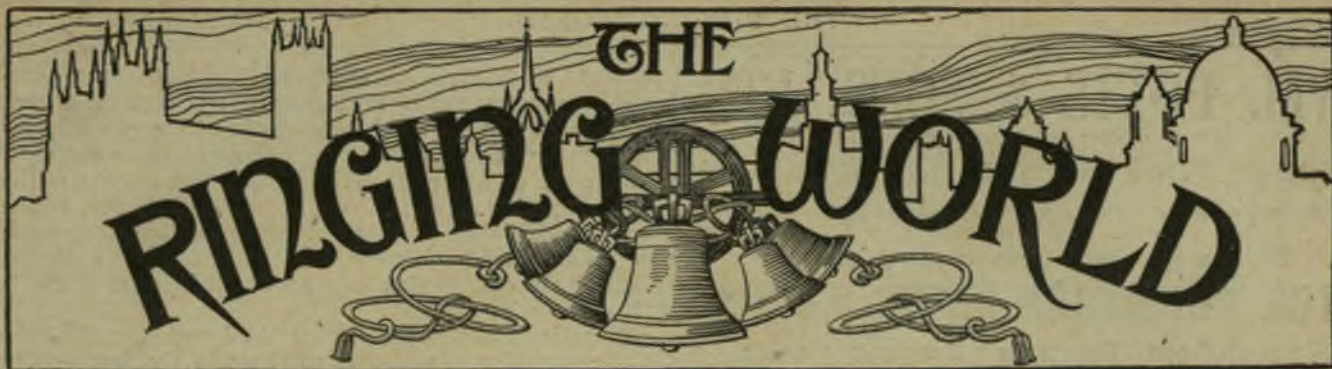
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'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.

Printed for the Proprietors, Executors of the late J. S. Goldsmith, by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breame Buildings, London, E.C.4.



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE NOTATION OF PEALS.

During the course of many years the Exercise has evolved a plan by which touches and peals can be set down on paper. Instead of having to write down every change, a few figures are sufficient to show what bobs must be called. But for various reasons this can be done very much better in some methods than in others. The method which best shows the ideal is Bob Major. There a few course-ends and some dashes under some letters will clearly and at once reveal, not only the bobs which must be made, but the bells which are concerned in them, the effect they have on ringing, and the actual changes produced. This clarity is due in no small degree to the fact that the calling positions have definite names. When we speak of a bob at the Wrong, or the Middle, a clear and definite picture is formed in the mind which is of the utmost value to the conductor.

Not only so, but the knowledge gained from Bob Major is directly applicable to all other Major methods in which second's place is made at a plain lead-end. In all of them a bob Wrong, or Middle, or Right is exactly the same thing, is made by the same bells, and produces the same results. In a bob Wrong, whether it comes at the first lead-end as in Bob Major, at the fourth lead-end as in Cambridge and Superlative, at the seventh lead-end as in London, or at any other lead-end, the bell next the seventh in coursing order always makes the bob, the bell next that always runs out, and the one next that always runs in. It is easy to see how great an aid the knowledge of this and similar facts is to the conductor.

Unfortunately, other classes of methods do not lend themselves so readily to an ideal notation. In Grandsire Triples it takes a good deal of close study of a rather uninviting mass of figures to understand the calling of a peal or even of a touch. In Stedman Triples, for peals and touches on the twin-bob plan a system has been adopted not unlike that of Bob Major, but it has only a very limited application. The figures of most touches are almost unintelligible unless many changes are pricked out.

So with other methods, and anything which can be done to introduce a better notation would be a great gain. For most methods it is difficult to see how improvements can be made, but there is one large and important group where new ideas are clearly called for.

This is the Major methods in which eighth's place is made at a plain lead-end and sixth's place at the bob. So far the only one in the group which has had sufficient popularity to bring it among the standard methods is Double Norwich. But the group contains many good

(Continued on page 470.)

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methods, both Plain and Surprise, which are pretty certain to prove useful in the future. It is significant that of the new Surprise methods rung in recent years by far the greater proportion have been second's place methods, and we are convinced that the comparative neglect of the eighth's place methods is due, in no small degree, to the fact that conductors prefer methods which have the familiar bobs at Middle, Wrong and Right. For, as methods, eighth's place methods are in no way inferior to second's place methods.

What is needed is to give standard names to the bobs in the second group similar to those in the first group. It is just as easy to do so in one case as in the other. The only difficulty is that in Double Norwich, the most popular of the group, ringers have always designated the bobs by numbers. Numbers do not create a definite impression like names do, and a bob at, say, 6, in one method may be totally different from a bob at 6 in another method. It would be a good thing, therefore, to change the notation of Double Norwich and make it the pattern for the whole group. Fortunately the means of doing so are ready at hand. All that is necessary is to extend the use of the terms introduced by Heywood for Duffield. They are already used in the Collection of Plain Major Methods and the new Surprise book, but they will not gain their full value until they are generally adopted for Double Norwich. A bob at 1 should become an 4n, a bob at four should become Fifth's, 5 become Home, and 6 Out.

Old customs and habits are not easily changed, and we do not expect to see an immediate reformation, but if composers and conductors, especially of the younger generation, gradually accustom themselves to use words instead of numbers, they will be surprised how much it will widen their knowledge, and the ultimate gain to the Exercise cannot fail to be large.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Sunday, September 26th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Lawrence 1, C. H. Harding 2, A. Dille 3, J. Church 4, R. Houghton 5, L. Bywaters 6; and 720 Bob Minor: A. Dibley 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. Houghton 3, L. Bywaters 4, P. Tompkins 5, C. H. Harding 6. Rung for the harvest festival.

STONEHOUSE, GLOS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Harmer 1, T. Price 2, L. Edwards 3, E. Preedy (conductor) 4, W. Dean 5, E. Wilkes 6. A birthday compliment to Mr. Hubert Scriven, who attained his 85th year on that date.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, 720 Kent Minor: H. Lawrence 1, R. Houghton 2, J. Church 3, Corpl. J. Stubbs, R.A.F. 4, C. H. Harding 5, L. Bywaters 6; and 720 Plain Bob: R. Houghton 1, L. Bywaters 2, H. Lawrence 3, C. H. Harding 4, J. Church 5, Corpl. J. Stubbs 6. Rung for the harvest festival.

EYTHORNE, KENT.—On Tuesday, October 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. George (Dover) 1, L. Bodman 2, C. Turner (Dover) (conductor) 3, T. E. Ellender 4, W. Brooks 5. Rung for the induction of the Rev. C. Mayhew as Rector.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, October 10th, 1,316 Grandsire Triples: Miss K. Brooks 1, *A. Thirst 2, *G. Dodds 3, †Lieut. W. F. Gibbons 4, F. D. Bishop 5, S. Croft 6, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, D. Chamberlain 8. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal above Doubles on tower bells. First quarter-peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Capt. and Mrs. Rogers.

OXFORD.—At New College, on Sunday, October 10th, 1,349 Grandsire Caters: W. L. B. Leese 1, W. F. Judge 2, Miss B. Spice 3, W. C. Porter 4, Miss M. R. Crose 5, N. Allnutt 6, H. Miles 7, J. E. Spice (conductor) 8, J. H. R. Freeborn 9, G. Caudwell 10. Rung before evensong for the annual commemoration of the founder, William of Wykeham.

ALMONDBURY.—On Sunday, October 10th, for evensong at All Saints' Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: William Bramham 1, Sydney Briggs 2, C. Smithies 3, F. Boothroyd 4, T. A. Carter 5, J. Newton (conductor) 6.

CHATHAM.—On Sunday, October 10th, at the Church of St. Mary, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *R. C. Norris 1, D. T. Hills 2, T. Beaumont 3, W. J. Walker 4, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 5, C. E. J. Norris 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

NORMAN HEAPS Treble	*ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 5
JACK LUNHAM 2	JOSEPH RIDYARD 6
JAMES TAYLOR 3	†WILLIAM STOPFORTH ... 7
JAMES MARSH 4	‡ROBERT CRITCHLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by J. RIDYARD.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal on eight. ‡ First peal.

IVER, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt, 2 qr. 14 lb.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	WILLIAM H. COLES 5
GEORGE M. KILBY 2	FRANK CORKE 6
WILLIAM WELLING 3	TONY PRICE 7
THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON. Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN

SIX BELL PEALS.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, October 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... Treble	JOHN TAYLOR 4
HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 2	JOHN W. TAYLOR 5
ERNEST STONE 3	GEORGE GARDNER ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

SUTTON, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, viz., Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK ... Treble	MRS. C. W. LAWTON 4
JOHN WORTH 2	2/LT. CHARLES W. LAWTON 5
TOM TAYLOR 3	JAMES A. MILNER ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 1-2	JOAN HOULDSWORTH 5-6
†BETTY SPICE 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE 7-8
‡ARTHUR V. DAVIS 9-10	

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No 19).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal on an inside pair.
‡ First attempt for a peal on ten handbells.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Scottow on October 9th, when some good work was done in getting learners through some of the simpler methods. Ringers attended from Buxton, Haddiscoe, Norwich, Ranworth, Scottow and Wroxham.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**

The following touches of Grandsire Triples are all composed of four-lead courses and these courses are of two kinds.

In the first kind there are bobs at the first and second leads of the course, the seventh is called in and out of the Hunt, and the sixth is called in 4-5 up and Before. These courses are marked A.

In the second kind there are bobs at the second and third leads of the course, the seventh is called Before and Wrong, and the sixth is called in and out of the Hunt. These courses are marked B.

There are three observations for calling any one course and the conductor can use which he pleases. He may use them all. At the end of every course 6-7 dodge at Home.

Here are the lead ends (bobbed and plain) of a sample course of each kind:—

A	B
234567	234567
752634	P.L. 253746
467352	672453
P.L. 436275	346572
P.L. 423567	P.L. 354267

Either of these twice repeated will produce 168 changes. These, of course, are two of the best known touches there are.

A	B
336	336
35426 B	42356 A
45326 A	25346 B
Twice repeated	Twice repeated
336	336
35426 B	35426 B
43526 A	43526 A
54326 A	32546 B
Repeated	Repeated
504	504
42356 A	42356 A
34256 A	34256 A
45246 B	45236 B
53246 B	53246 B
25346 A	25346 A
32546 A	54326 B
24536 B	35426 A
52436 A	52436 B
23456 B	23456 B
504	504
35426 B	35426 B
43526 A	43526 A
54326 A	32546 B
42356 B	53246 A
25346 B	34256 B
32546 A	45236 B
24536 B	24536 A
52436 A	52436 A
23456 B	23456 B

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.'

As will be seen from an advertisement among the 'notices,' the eighth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's book on 'The Church Bells of Berkshire' has been published and is now on sale.

This part is uniform with its predecessors, and the style and interest with which many of our readers are familiar are fully maintained. In addition to single bells, a dozen rings are described, of which the most important is the ten at Newbury. These, which are said to be a very fine-toned ring, were all (except the trebles) cast in 1803 by James Wells, of Aldbourne. 'Although the tenor,' says Mr. Sharpe, 'is a very thin bell, 21½ cwt. being exceptionally light for a bell sounding the strike-note D natural, James Wells designed her so excellently that her tone in no way appears weak. This thin scale is repeated, to a lesser degree, in the ninth, but no further. Wells seemed to be aiming at not having his fine trebles overpowered by the heaviest bells, and his designs have proved a great success.'

The augmentation to ten in 1933 was made possible, we are told, chiefly by a legacy of £100 bequeathed to the Newbury ringers. The new bells from Whitechapel were dedicated on Palm Sunday, and on Easter Monday an open meeting was held. This was marred by the tragic death of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn. After ringing he went outside to listen, and collapsed and died in the street.

For the archaeologist the more interesting bells will be found among the humbler rings. Those dealt with in the present part include bells cast by the Knights and Carter of Reading, Corr, of Aldbourne, Keene, of Woodstock, as well as the more famous Rudhalls, of Gloucester. One small bell, hung in a turret at Marlston, and hitherto unnoticed and unvalued, turned out to be by Peter de Weston, who was casting bells in London more than 600 years ago.

Mr. Sharpe's book is a worthy addition to bell literature, and the complete work will rank as one of the best of the county histories of bells.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

ITS BELLS AND RINGERS.

By CHARLES T. COLES.

A paper read on January 17th, 1935, to the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society.

Mr. Coles began his address with a general description of how bells are hung and how they are rung. He explained change ringing and its early history and then continued as follows:—

The first mention of bells in St. Mary's Church tower that I have been able to trace is that in 1552. At the time of the Edwardian Inventory there were three bells, the largest of which was probably about 22 cwt., the others being a Sanctus bell and a small bell. Later on there were six bells, including the three bells mentioned above.

All these bells were broken up in 1778, when the peal of eight was hung in the tower. The metal of the old bells would no doubt be used in the casting of the new bells, but in those 18th century days people did not trouble about perpetuating records, and there do not appear to be any details of the bells, their weights and inscriptions, in existence. In 1778, the largest eight bells of the present peal were hung in the tower by Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. About this time there was a great deal of enthusiasm for ringing, fostered by the feats of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Society. The members of these two societies rang a number of peals, ranging in length from 6,000 to upwards of 11,000 changes, on ten and twelve bells at the Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, and Christ Church, Spitalfields. The rivalry of these two well-known ringing societies undoubtedly fostered enthusiasm for bells amongst the public generally; there was probably very little to occupy people's minds in these days in their spare time, and it is quite possible that this enthusiasm resulted in the peal of eight bells being placed in the tower of St. Mary's Church.

The Ancient Society of College Youths were interested in the bells, and shortly after they were hung in the tower that society rung a peal of Oxford Treble Bob on them in three hours and 13 minutes. The ringers of this peal were well known in London at the time, and many of them had actually taken part in some of the peals referred to above. The peal accomplished at St. Mary's was rung on July 21st, 1778, 'to celebrate the opening of the new bells at the above church.' We are told nothing, however, of any local ringers at this time, and it is quite probable that any ringing done was by the London members of the Ancient Society.

Later, in 1784, we hear of the Junior Cumberlands ringing a peal on the bells. The Junior Cumberland Society was composed of young, enthusiastic ringers, who broke away from the Royal Cumberlands because the older men were not advancing quickly enough in the art. In other words, a quarrel arose. The Junior Society did not, however, survive many years. After 1784 there is no record of ringing at St. Mary's for a long time. Indeed, in 1852, the tenor bell was recast, and there seems little doubt that for a period it had been cracked. This has a certain significance, as the cracking of a bell does not generally occur if a bell is rung properly. It was too often the case in early days for bells to be 'clocked,' by which we mean that a rope is tied round the clapper and run through a pulley fixed in the bell frame. The clapper is then pulled hard against

the inside of the bell. This practice was undoubtedly the cause of many bells being cracked in the early half of the 19th century. A list of bells cracked through being clocked was published in 1863 by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe and, although this list referred only to London churches, there were no less than 28 bells, mostly tenor bells, named in it. Tenor bells are usually used for funerals, and tolling the bell by clocking it, instead of by ringing it, would be the method of the time. It would therefore be safe to assume that the tenor at St. Mary's had been used in this way, perhaps because there were no ringers about who could ring it.

Five years after the recasting of the tenor, a peal was rung on the bells, and it was described as being the first peal on the bells for 27 years. This is another pointer that either there were no ringers to speak of for some time, or that the tenor bell had been left in its cracked state for several years. However that may be, here was the beginning of a revival, and in 1874 the St. Mary's Society was formed.

The revival of ringing spread throughout the country, for in the same year the first of the county associations, the Devonshire Guild, was formed. Shortly afterwards the West Middlesex Association came into being, and in 1875 the Yorkshire Association was born. In 1879 came the Essex Association, and in 1880 the Surrey Association, the Kent County Association, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild, this being the first ringing association definitely connecting itself by name with the Church.

The St. Mary's Society was formed as a branch of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and its rules followed closely upon those of that society. The leader of the band or, as known by ringers, the Ringing Master, was Thomas Maynard, who was also sexton and steeple-keeper. Mr. Maynard was an undertaker by profession, his business being carried on in Orford Road, opposite the Town Hall. He was undoubtedly the leading spirit in the belfry and, in more senses than one, the Master. He was foremost in promoting the scheme which resulted, some years later, in the restoration and augmentation of the bells, and he had undoubtedly left his mark in ringing circles in Walthamstow when, in 1909, he died at the somewhat early age of 57.

John Wilkins was the first hon. secretary and treasurer, and he held this office until 1916, a period of 42 years. Mr. Wilkins was a commercial traveller by profession, and it was not until his retirement that he severed his connection with the ringers, although he had done no ringing for many years.

Amongst the other members we find several gardeners, three carpenters, a pit sawyer, and an engineer's apprentice. It is a sign of the changed times in Walthamstow that there are no gardeners, except amateur gardeners, in the company at the present time.

Another member of the company in its earliest days was Harvey Reeves, who afterwards made a successful attempt to found a weekly newspaper entirely for ringers. This paper, 'The Bell News,' started as a monthly paper in 1881, and after about 12 months it was issued weekly. It was read by ringers throughout England and Wales, it had a circulation in Scotland and Ireland, and to a small extent in certain of the Colonies and the U.S.A. Mr. Reeves did not remain a member of the society for many years, probably because there cannot be two masters in one company, but his paper was published week by

week until 1915, a few years after his death. Another and perhaps better paper appeared in 1911, and this paper and the war brought an end to Mr. Reeves' fine effort. He carried on his business for many years at No. 1, Selborne Road, close to Hoe Street station.

I have endeavoured to give some idea of the type of men who composed the society. I will now give a brief summary of the rules they laid down to govern their conduct. We find a rule providing for entrance fees and quarterly subscriptions, showing a desire to be self-supporting. Another rule provided for fines for late arrival on practice nights, on occasions of peals and on meeting nights. There was a rule providing 'that any member behaving in the belfry in an unseemly manner shall be cautioned by the Master or secretary, when, if he persists, the ringing shall be brought to an end and a meeting of members present shall be held the same evening to consider, etc.' A similar rule dealt with the behaviour of members outside the tower, 'to preserve the good moral tone and respectability of the society,' etc. In the event of such a case arising, the members would meet to consider whether the offending member was acting in a manner detrimental to the interests of the society, and to act according to the necessities of the case.

'And we, the members of the St. Mary's Society, hereby agree on all occasions to abrogate self, and study at all times to preserve the interests of the Society; and while practising forbearance towards each other are determined to use every effort in our power to excel in the noble art of change ringing.' Very fine sentiments indeed!

(To be continued.)

REAL.

A WRONGLY USED TERM

In his excellent account of the bells of Crayford, Mr. Edwin A. Barnett mentioned some peals which were rung on the bells as 'Real' Double Norwich. It is a term occasionally used by ringers and always wrongly. A few years ago some peals of Superlative were rung and called Real Superlative, as if ordinary Superlative is not real.

What ringers mean when they use the term is that some of the bobs are made when the treble is behind and not when it is in front, but that is not the correct use. What happened was this:—

In the eighteenth century Double Bob was a popular method in London, and at first it was rung, as it is to-day, with the bobs in front. Then some purists pointed out that that way of doing it was not correct. In a double method the bells must work from the back exactly as they work from the front, and unless every bob made in front is balanced by another made behind, the method is not really double. Some went so far as to maintain that there must be two bobs in a lead or none at all. In any case, only peals which had as many bobs behind as in front were entitled to be called real double.

The peals of so-called Real Double Norwich and Real Superlative rung in recent years had only occasional bobs made behind, and are no more really double than ordinary peals in the method. To introduce two kinds of bobs into a peal may be quite legitimate and expedient, but it does not entitle the method to be called by a new name.

BELLS AND THE MEMORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The experience of A. W. Kingslake in a book called 'Eothen,' in your issue of October 22nd, is very interesting. His hearing of church bells whilst riding on a camel in the solitude of the desert was explained in a letter in 'The Daily Mail' early in 1932. It was then stated that the camel's feet on the sand produced a certain jingle which would resemble bells.

The following letter was published in 'The Daily Mail' of April 5th, 1932: 'May I mention another case of "phantom bells" which occurs in Suffolk? The North Sea having swallowed up about 15 churches in the district, the residents of Dunwich declare that the bells can be distinctly heard chiming under the waves in stormy weather.'

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

P.S.—Should not 15 churches read 50? Perhaps you know, Mr. Editor.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Two interesting items should have been included in Mr. Edwin A. Barnett's account of Crayford bells published last week. A sum of money was raised by ringers as an endowment to provide ropes for the bells. This is a memorial to Edwin Barnett, sen. who was so long associated with the tower, and so well known and well loved by ringers generally. It is worthy of note, too, that the first peal rung after the lifting of the ban was at Crayford. It was Double Norwich on June 5th. It was not Mr. Barnett's fault that the items were omitted.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Southport on October 16th was rung for the wedding of Senior Second Engineer B. G. Graham Sherratt, Christ Church, New Zealand, and Miss M. Thomson, W.R.N.S., of Freshfield. The intention was to ring Kent Treble Bob Major, but the band met short.

The peal of Cambridge Minor at Allesley on October 17th was rung by members of the local band as a welcome to the president of the Warwickshire Guild, the Rev. Francis Walter Moyle, who was instituted to Allesley Church on the previous day.

To-day is the 106th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dains, who will always be remembered by the Exercise as a composer of peals of Treble Bob.

Last Sunday was the 60th anniversary of the death of Col. Harry Trelawny, who was mentioned in last week's extracts from Heywood's 'Curious Scraps.' He was a pioneer in change ringing in the West and taught the band Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Minor at his Parish Church of Calstock in Cornwall. Afterwards he formed a change ringing band at Penzance. Naturally he had few opportunities for peal ringing, but he did score one of Grandsire Triples at Lewisham.

When Mr. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand, visited Christchurch, Hampshire, on October 15th, he expressed a wish to see the ringers at work, and, accompanied by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk, climbed the belfry stairs and remained some time watching the ringers and examining the peal boards. He spoke to several of the ringers and was introduced to Mr. George Preston.

Replying to an address of welcome afterwards at the Town Hall, Mr. Jordan said how much he had been impressed by his visit to the Priory, 'to see things and hear of things of long ago: to hear that very fine peal of bells and to see the bellringers under the leadership of Mr. Preston, who for nearly 57 years has guided that little band of bellringers—it was a privilege to meet him.'

The peal of Grandsire Triples by the Lancashire Association recorded in our last issue was rung at the Church of St. Michael, Garston.

Mr. Nolan Golden, now in a hospital in South Wales, writes that he has received an airgraph from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who after 2½ years' service in India is longing to return home to ringing. He is pretty fit except for neuritis.

Mr. John E. Spice, the Master of the Oxford University Society, has taken the degree of B.Sc. He is now engaged in research work at Oxford under the Ministry of Supply.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TONBRIDGE.

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on October 9th and was attended by 35 members. The visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Housden, Mr. E. Bassett and Mr. T. E. Sone.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Child, who gave an address and welcomed the members. Tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar took the chair. The hon. secretary's report and accounts (which showed a balance of nearly £10) were adopted. Mr. T. Saunders was re-elected hon. secretary, and Miss B. Richardson and Mr. A. Battin district representatives. Mr. B. Collison was appointed ringing master in the place of Mr. E. J. Ladd, who has joined His Majesty's Forces. Master J. Bateman was elected a member of the association.

Tonbridge Wells was chosen for the next meeting, which will be on December 4th and be held jointly with the East Grinstead and District Guild. Thanks to the Vicar were expressed by Mr. A. Batten and Mr. H. Goodwin, to the organist and to Mr. Medhurst. A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to 9s.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOURTON.

A meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Bourton on October 9th, when members were present from Gillingham, Zeals, Mere, Stour Provost, Kington Magna, Stoke Trister and the local tower.

Service was conducted by the Rev. W. Uphill, and the Vicar, the Rev. T. Sefton, gave an appropriate address. Eighteen sat down to a plentiful tea, kindly provided by ladies of the village.

The Rev. F. L. Edwards presided at the business meeting. As it was the first meeting held this year, the secretary reported that the accounts for 1942 showed a credit balance of £20 19s. 5d. The Vicar of Bourton was elected an honorary member and Messrs. F. Green and H. Coward ringing members. Thanks were accorded to the Vicar, the organist and the generous hostesses in charge of the tea table.

Ringing was enjoyed on the six bells at Bourton and eight at Mere.

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 461.)

SIR HENRY CHAUNCY.

Two of the rules are as follows:—'None shall find fault with another's ringing but the generall or whom he shall appoint. None shall prate or make any noise at peals.' 'None shall engage the Company in a Challenge without the Generall's consent on pain of being amerced 2s. 6d. and in case the Company shall be engaged every man shall lend his best assistance if required and contribute his equal share to the rest of his fellow members.'

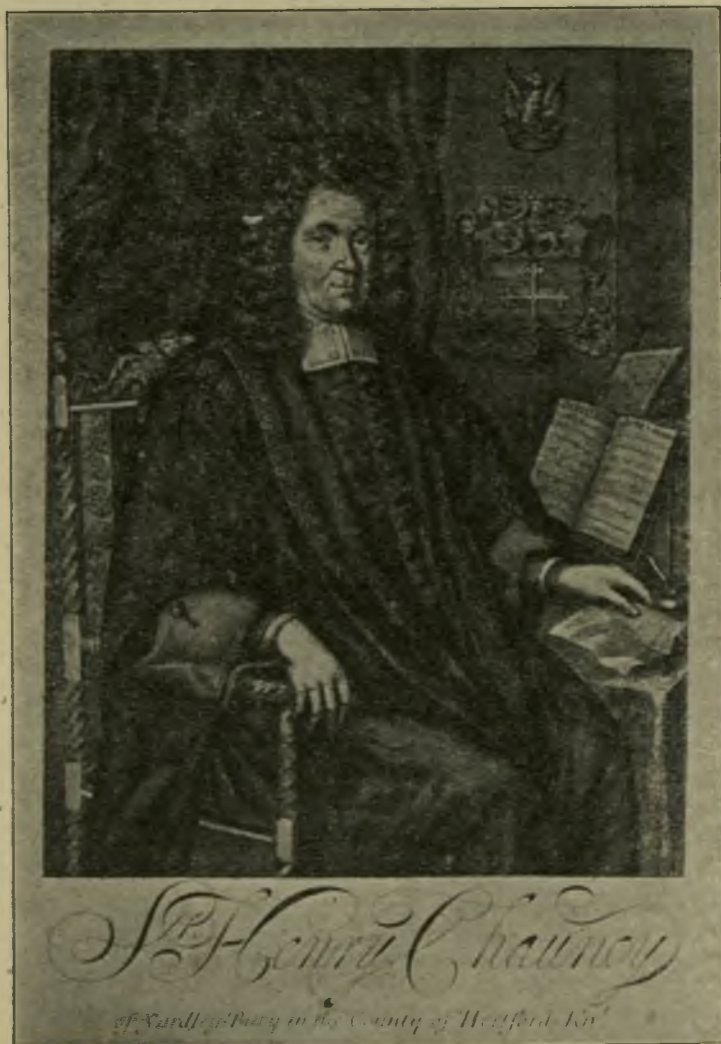
significant. It may mean merely that politics was barred from the society's meetings, but it may mean that no one was to discuss anything that he had heard or that had come to his knowledge in the course of his official duties. 'None,' so it ran, 'shall offer to talke or occasion ye talke of his majestie or any state affairs or none concerning ye same among all ye Company to the disturbance of any in pain to be amerced 8d.'; and the thing was considered so important that the rule was repeated in different words.

The last entry in the book records a resolution altering the date of the annual feast. The day first chosen was St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24th, but that fell in the middle of the long vacation, when many of the members desired to be out of London on their estates or among their friends in the country. It was therefore altered to All Souls' Day, November 2nd. It is interesting to note that in 1663 the Law Courts were still using as a date the title of a holy day which the Church of England had dropped since the Reformation, and which had not reappeared in the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer then just recently revised. The resolution is dated the 'Feast of St. John Baptist in the year of our Lord, 1663,' and reads as follows: 'Whereas the generall feast of this Society, annually kept on Bartholomew day, which falling in the midst of the long vacation proved very inconvenient to the Company by reason of the Major part of them being at that time out towne, it is ordaind and decreed this Present Day by a full vote of this Society, that the said generall feast for the future be kept on the feast of All Souls, at which time the officers of the Society shall be elected.'

These rules are very reminiscent of those of the Scholars of Cheapside, so much so that it is evident, either that the compilers had the older code before them, or that all the societies of the time framed their rules on the same model. The first supposition is probably the more likely, but it must be remembered that we have no original rules of the Society of College Youths, and it is not unlikely that the presiding officer of that body was at first called the general and not the master.

The list of members of the society contains twenty-six names, and among them are men of considerable importance at the time. The first general was Henry Chauncy. He was by birth a Londoner, and came of an old Hertfordshire family, one of whom (so he claimed) was among the followers of William the Conqueror. He was born in 1632, and was educated at the High School, Bishop's Stortford, and Caius College, Cambridge. He entered the Middle Temple in 1649, and was 'called to the Degree of the Bar' in 1656. In 1661 he was made a Justice of the Peace for Hertfordshire, in 1673 for Hertford town, and in 1688 for the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock and Radnor. He was chief Burgess of Hertford, Steward of the Borough Court, and when the town was granted a charter he was the first recorder. He became successively Bencher (1675), Reader (1681), and Treasurer (1685) of the Middle Temple, was Serjeant-at-Law and was knighted in 1681 at Windsor Castle by Charles the Second. Altogether he was a man in his time of weight and importance.

(Continued on next page.)



SIR HENRY CHAUNCY

It would be interesting to know what form ringing for challenges took, but, apart from the references to it in these and similar rules, no trace of it remains. A close study of the history of the London societies like the College Youths can reveal nothing whatever about prize ringing or competitions between different bands, yet it is clear from various hints that they did sometimes take place. Either they were taken for granted as ordinary incidents in a ringer's career, or so unusual as not to be worth notice.

One of the Esquires' rules was unusual and perhaps

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

On the death of his father in 1681 he succeeded to the rich family estates, and about the same time he was engaged in writing the book which for non-ringers is his title to remembrance, 'The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire,' one of the earliest of those ponderous folios, ponderous alike in bulk and style, which record county history, family pedigrees, and sepulchral inscriptions. Chauncy was a pioneer on his own ground, and it required a vast amount of research to gather together the information in his book. Thomas Hearne said he was a person of very little learning, and his book was not very well done, but then Hearne was an archæological scholar and not much else, while Chauncy could only give to archæology the leisure hours of the busy life of a lawyer, magistrate and landowner. The professional man is not infrequently scornful of the amateur.

Five hundred copies only of Sir Henry Chauncy's book were printed, and in consequence it became rare and very valuable. Before 1857 a single copy had fetched as much as £35 14s. at an auction. Tastes in book collecting change, and at present the book is worth about £5 more or less, according to its binding and condition.

'The Antiquities of Hertfordshire' contains a description of the various parishes and manors in the county, with an account of the churches and their monuments, pedigrees of county families, and suchlike information. As we should expect, the author gives the number of bells in all the churches, sometimes with a short comment on their quality; but, unfortunately, he says nothing about their inscriptions, or their founders, or history. The archæology of bells was not as yet a recognised science. No reference, of course, is made to local ringing, for that would be outside the scope of the book; but he does take an opportunity of inserting an account of the origin and general uses of bells. Part of it is worth quoting, for it has been copied many times (unless Chauncy himself copied it from an earlier writer), and has reappeared in various forms in the pages of encyclopædias and reference books. 'Bells,' he wrote, 'were invented by Paulinus about the year of Christ, 400; they were called Nola's from the City, and Campana's from the Country. Some through mistake do attribute this invention to Sabinian, a Bishop of Rome, that he might first distinguish the Canonical Hours by the sound of a Martial, Tibbulus, Stratius, Manilius, and the ancient Bell; but others fetch it from the Heathens; for Ovid, Greeks mention the Tintinnabula, the Ting-tangs, and the Pelves in their time; and also the noisie Brass that was used for the purpose we now use Bells.'

After referring to the bells of Croyland Abbey, he goes on, 'In the Roman Church these Bells were anointed Olea Christmatis; they were Exorcised, the Bishop blessed them and gave them the name of some Saint; and when these Ceremonies were performed it was verily believed that they had Power to drive the Devil out of the Air, to make him quake and tremble, to make him flie at the sound thereof, Tanquam ante Crucis vexilliam, that they had power to calm Storms and Tempests, to make fair Weather, to extinguish sudden Fires, to recreate the Dead, to restrain the power of the Devil over the Crops whilst they rung, which was the reason of the Custom of Ringing Bells at Funerals.'

'But since the time of the Reformation it has been the usual course in the Church of England, and it is a very laudable one, that when any sick person lay drawing on, a Bell tolled to give notice to the Neighbours that they might pray for the dying Party, which was commonly called a Passing Bell, because the sick person was passing hence to another world; and when his Breath was expired, the Bell rung out that the Neighbours might cease their Prayers for that the Party was dead.'

Among the engravings in the book is a portrait of the author by J. Savage. It is entitled, 'Sr. Henry Chauncy, of Yardley, Bury, in the County of Hertford, Kt. Serjeant at Law.' He is seated in a chair vested in his lawyer's robes, and wearing the full wig, which was part of the ordinary gentleman's dress of the period. The face is rather fleshy, with a full upper lip and large mouth which shows good nature. The eyes and upper part of the face are better than the lower. Chauncy clearly was no ascetic, but a man who took the good things of life as they came.

One of Sir Henry Chauncy's judicial acts as a magistrate is of some historical interest. It was under his warrant that the last arrest in England for witchcraft was made. An old woman named Jane Wenham was accused of bewitching cattle and servant girls; she was tried at Hertford, convicted and sentenced to death in 1712; but a free pardon was granted by Queen Anne through the exertions of the judge who conducted the trial. Chauncy's act in issuing the warrant is, of course, no indication of his personal opinions on the matter. Witchcraft was a crime in the eye of the law of the land, and if Jane Wenham's accusers had made out a *prima facie* case against her, as no doubt they had, he had no option but to send her to take her trial before a judge and jury. At the time belief in witchcraft was dying among the educated classes, but it was only a few years before that so great and humane a judge as Sir Matthew Hale had tried two women for witchcraft, and when they had been found guilty expressed himself satisfied with the justice of the verdict and condemned them to death. He and all the men of his generation believed in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, and they took the injunction, 'Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live,' to be as much binding on them as on the Israelites of old. Jane Wenham's case attracted a vast amount of attention and did perhaps as much as anything else to enlighten public opinion on the subject of witchcraft.

Sir Henry Chauncy died at Yardley, Bury (now called Ardley), and was buried in the church there. His eldest son having predeceased him, he was succeeded by his grandson, who quickly dissipated the estate by riotous living. Chauncy, in the preface to his book, says he was prevented from carrying out his original design by having to spend money in resisting the ruinous machinations of a degenerate member of his family and his malicious accomplices. The Chauncy arms are among the shields which ornament the roof of St. Albans Abbey, showing that he contributed to the repair of the church in 1681. There are six bells at Ardley, all of which date from Chauncy's time or earlier.

(To be continued.)

FULMER, BUCKS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, for harvest festival, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. H. Gutteridge 1, G. E. Swift 2, G. H. Gutteridge 3, Mrs. M. King 4, F. W. Goodfellow 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 465.)

Another instance of a ringers' gallery with a 'well' in the centre, is at Monks Eleigh, Suffolk. This is not a central, but a west tower, and the Rector writes: 'The tower is a very fine structure, built in the latter part of the 15th century, and there are six bells in good order. There is a gallery in the belfry, or rather a ringers' platform, about 10 feet from the ground floor, with a well in the middle of it. This enables the lower part of the belfry to be used as a choir vestry.'

Before the completion of the grand central tower, Buckfast Abbey, Devon, had a similar gallery for the ringers to stand on. The old ring of twelve bells hung in the tower at a level where the present ringing chamber is, and were rung from a narrow stone gallery 51 feet from the floor of the Abbey, and it gave one a queer feeling to have to look right across the open space to the ringers around and on the opposite side, and also to see people looking up from down below in the nave.

The situation was much the same as that at Merton College, Oxford, and Southwell Minster, only larger. In spite of this a visiting band of ringers rang on October 25th, 1930, in 3 hours 50 minutes a peal of 5,007 Stedman Cinques. The late William Pye rang the tenor (then 28 cwt.) and conducted the peal.

In 1936, after the completion of the building of the tower, a great bourdon bell was given by Miss Hilda de Trafford, in memory of her sister, Lady Mildred Bellow, who died December 29th, 1934, and is named 'Hosanna.' It weighs 7 tons 9 cwt. 18 lbs. and strikes the lower F. The old bells were transformed into a noble peal with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. in C, and these are hung on one level round their big brother. Two additional semi-tones provide a variety of 'rings,' including three major eights. The ringers now have a proper chamber to perform in, and the first full peal ever to be rung on the new bells was 5,019 Stedman Cinques on October 9th, 1937, in 3 hours 47 minutes, conducted by Albert Walker, of Birmingham.

The central tower of the ancient abbey church of Hexham, Northumberland, has a curious ascent. The route to the belfry is up the broad 'night stairs,' a stone staircase open to the church. They are on the west wall of the south transept, and lead to a door at the bottom of a circular enclosed stone staircase which terminates at the south-west corner of the south transept clerestory. From there you proceed along the open triforium, passing to the belfry stairs at the south-west corner of the tower. These stairs are only short, being the distance between the clerestory and the floor of the ringing chamber.

Looking back through Saxon times, we can find no record that St. Wilfred, who built the cathedral here, of which he was the first Bishop, about 674, placed any bells in it. Probably Acca, the fifth Bishop, who had accom-

panied Wilfred as his chaplain in one of his journeys to Rome, may have furnished it with a bell or bells, as we are told that 'he furnished and decorated the church begun by St. Wilfred,' and that 'vases, lamps and other things which belong to the House of God were added by him.' This church was harried and wrecked by the Danes in 875, and again in 995. It remained in a ruinous state until the latter part of the 11th century, when a partial restoration took place. Thomas, the second Archbishop of York, made it into a priory of the canons of St. Augustine in 1113. There is no definite record of the time when the present abbey church, dedicated to St. Andrew, was commenced, but the earlier portions seem to point to the latter part of the 12th century. It was erected on the spot where St. Wilfred built his cathedral, and his crypt still remains under the site of the nave.

The tower was probably furnished with bells on its completion in 1240. Following this date, Hexham passed through some troublous times, and the bells would often ring out an alarm, calling up the fighting men of the district to defend their homes against various invaders. In 1475, in an account of the election of William of Bywell to the priorate, it says that, after the chanting of the Te Deum, 'the bells were solemnly rung,' and other records give details of the ringing of the bells on various occasions, both parochial and national.

Wright, in his 'History of Hexham,' gives a copy of the inscriptions of the six old bells dated 1404, and these show that at least three of the bells had been made during the priorate of John of Hexham, who was appointed about ten years before by Archbishop Walby. These six bells are mentioned by Mr. William Bell, of High Shield, near Hexham, in a letter written by him to the Editor of the 'Gentleman's Magazine' of 1755. He says: 'Six bells, which were broken and in great disorder about 16 years ago, we had recast into eight, and they are now, without controversy, as fine a ring as any in England of their weight. They were made and hung by your London artists.'

The eight bells were cast by Thomas Lester in 1742, and of these bells only two—the treble and tenor—remain, the other six having been recast. Sir Walter Blackett, whose name appears on the tenor, was a nephew of the lord of the manor, at whose marriage the great bell was broken. Its weight is given as 21 cwt. in E flat. Tobias Benton, who hung Lester's bells, used the oak beams of the old bell cage in constructing the new one. That built by him has a gangway round it six feet wide, rendering access to the bells very easy. The second was recast by Thomas Mears, 1833; 3rd, 5th and 7th by S. Lawson, 1884; the 4th has no inscription, but the date, 1775, roughly chiselled in where an inscription is apparently erased; the 6th by T. Mears, 1801. In 1848, and again in 1884, peals of 5,040 changes were rung on the bells, and other peals have also been accomplished here.

(To be continued.)

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MR. PETER CHARMAN. AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am more than sorry to read in 'The Ringing World' this week of the death of Mr. Peter Charman, of Warnham. I shall always remember him by his cheerful and courteous manner and the happy welcome he always gave to visiting ringers. I have spent many happy hours in his company. He told me several years ago that at one time there was not a house in Warnham that did not contain a cricketer and a ringer.

He was a most lovable man and I am proud to have known him and to have rung several peals with him, including the 10,432 of Kent Treble Bob Major mentioned in 'The Ringing World,' conducted by my old friend Mr. Alfred Pulling. May he rest in peace.

Wrighton.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—To me, the article, 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' was very interesting reading, knowing as I did most of Squire Proctor's band.

The writer is right in assuming that Sam Page was the son of Thomas Page. When his father died he took on the conducting. He was a very fine ringer and keen right up to the end of his life. He worked with me for seven years and many were the interesting and amusing stories he told me of visits with the old squire, as they called him.

I wish I had kept them written down. On one occasion they went as a band to, I think, Long Melford, and there they were welcomed by a black flag flying from the window of a nearby house. On another occasion (I forget where) they were ringing fairly fast when a man appeared, evidently thinking they were ringing too fast, and said, 'You are ringing only frame high. I shall leave you a gallon of beer at the Blackbirds,' evidently at a nearby inn. Sam used to tell me the story and laughingly say, 'I wonder if that gallon of beer is still waiting at the Blackbirds, for we never called for it.'

On another occasion the Squire and Sam had been somewhere together, meeting, amongst others, Mr. F. Pitow, of Saffron Walden, and Mr. George Breed, of York. These two gentlemen had on clothes exactly alike, and on leaving the tower had put on each other's coats. When the mistake was realised it caused much amusement to see on the station platform the changing of coats.

Yes, the Benington men were in their day a very fine company, and as a boy I used to listen to their bells, which when the wind blew from the west we could plainly hear across the fields scarcely one and a half miles as the crow flies.

I believe that for 50 years without a break they visited Braughing on May 10th, and there the Saffron Walden ringers, Messrs. Pitow, James with H. Tucker, of Stortford, Mr. Tarling and Mr. W. Morris and others would meet, being sure of some good ringing in all standard methods.

One old custom on practice nights at Benington was after practice to adjourn to the Bell Inn, where was a standing order for half a gallon of beer and half an ounce of tobacco to be divided amongst them. This was paid for by the Squire.

These days have gone and with them the old faces. The bells are there still and fine feats are recorded in the tower, which for so small a village were wonderful.

Little Munden.

W. H. LAWRENCE.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

The Oxford University Society held a general meeting on October 12th at New College, the vice-president, Mr. H. Miles, being in the chair. It was especially a recruiting meeting, and wide advertisement resulted in about 20 newcomers.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, reported considerable activity during the summer term and long vacation. Great progress had been made on tower bells, and many excursions arranged to the towers in and around Oxford. During the vacation an informal ringing tour was held, various members visiting Birmingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Leeds and Keswick.

At the close of the meeting, the Master gave a short talk to the recruits on the subject of the nature, peculiarities and fascination of change ringing. Everyone then adjourned to the belfry, where several of the beginners were given a short practice on silent bells.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On October 5th in the belfry at All Saints' Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor: *G. G. Goodman 1-2. W. Sparrow 3-4. H. W. Barrett (first 720 as conductor) 5-6. *First 720 on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY SIMMONS.

The band at Holy Trinity, Dartford, have lost their oldest member by the death of Mr. Henry Simmons on October 14th at the age of 87 years.

Henry Simmons, who was a millwright by trade, learned to ring on the six bells at St. Werburgh, Hoo, near Rochester. He moved to Northfleet, where with the help of the local band he put the bells into a reasonable condition and attempts were made for a peal. One was lost by a miscall in the last 720.

In 1899 Mr. Simmons moved to Dartford. At that time the tower contained an old peal of bells, some of them almost unringable, and the belfry was bare and neglected. Through his efforts and Mr. John Wheadon's, the bells were kept in fairly good order and material was obtained and the ringing chamber provided with a new floor, the walls panelled and seats fitted.

In 1917 the bells were recast by Mears and Stainbank. Harry Simmons took part in the first peal and continued as steepkeeper until six years ago, when rheumatism prevented him from ascending the stairs and handling a rope.

Harry Simmons was an excellent tenorman to Stedman Triples. He rang in all 55 peals, the first a peal of Grandsire Triples for the College Youths in the early years of this century. The remainder were rung for the Kent County Association and consisted of Stedman Triples 32 (24 on the tenor), Grandsire 10 (2 on tenor), Union Triples 2, Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 5 (on the treble). Fourteen were rung on the old bells, this being almost entirely due to his efforts in keeping them in reasonable repair.

His last peal, when he was 79 years of age, was for King George V. Silver Jubilee in 1935. He cherished the hope of ringing the tenor to the Coronation peal two years later, but he was persuaded not to do so and shortly after was compelled to retire from active ringing.

He maintained his interest to the end, accompanying the Dartford ringers on their outings and attending local association meetings.

During his long period of devoted service as a ringer he was an example to others by his punctuality and attendance, and he will long be remembered.

The interment, which was preceded by a service in the Parish Church, took place at Dartford Cemetery on October 18th. Messrs. John Wheadon and R. A. Jenkins represented the local band.

On Sunday afternoon an unsuccessful attempt was made for a half-muffled quarter-peal by Mrs. J. E. Bailey, R. Summerhayes, J. Wheadon, H. Raynor, R. A. Jenkins, J. E. Bailey, of the local band, and Alan and Denis Hall, of Bexley.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR SHARRATT.

The death is announced of Mr. Edgar Sharratt, sen., of Leek, Staffs., which occurred rather suddenly on October 3rd at the age of 60 years. The funeral service was held on October 7th at St. Edward's Church, Leek, where his 45 years' ringing career was spent, and was conducted by the Rev. W. C. A. Povey and the Rev. E. Leah. The tower bells were rung fully muffled, and a bell-shaped floral emblem was sent by his fellow ringers. The interment in the local cemetery was conducted by the Rev. W. C. A. Povey and was followed by a touch of Grandsire Doubles on handbells at the graveside.

Mr. Sharratt was a conscientious service ringer and a lover of good striking. He rang peals in all the standard methods—Triples, Major, Caters and Royal—and usually rang at the heavy end.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER MARSHALL.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Marshall, of Lamberhurst, which occurred suddenly on October 7th. He had been in failing health for some time, but was able to get about, and on the day of his death had been out in his garden.

Mr. Marshall had been a ringer at Lamberhurst for 40 years and had rung about 40 peals. The last was one of London Surprise Minor rung half-muffled for King George V.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

About twenty members of the East Grinstead Guild were present at a meeting at Withyham on October 9th, the towers represented being Balcombe, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Cuckfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield and Wadhurst. The Rector, the Rev. A. Miles, welcomed the ringers, and the ringing on the fine peal of bells ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise, and included a well-struck cease. Meetings were arranged at East Grinstead on November 13th and at Tunbridge Wells on December 4th.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Standon on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 26th. Train leaves St. Margaret's for Standon 2.15 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at St. Mary, Balderstone, on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells at 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Martock, Saturday, Oct. 30th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, North Street, Martock.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION and CHESTER GUILD.—Meeting at Port Sunlight on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30. No tea arrangements yet made. — H. S. Brocklebank and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Kingsthorpe, Saturday, October 30th. (Not at Moulton as originally arranged.) Service 4.15 p.m. Bring own food.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Open practice on twelve bells, Saturday, October 30th, 6.30 to 9 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54. Names for tea to A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Nov. 1st.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, November 6th. Bells (10) afternoon and evening. Names for tea by Wednesday.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd. Business meeting afterwards. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, Nov. 7th, 10.15 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GAMSTON, NEAR RETFORD.—Meeting on Saturday, November 6th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food and sugar.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Birstall, Saturday, November 6th, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Business meeting after tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Swineshead, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.45 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Thurlaston (6 bells), Saturday, November 6th, 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Handbells afterwards.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at Seend, Saturday, November 6th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—F. Green, 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, November 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.45 in Schoolroom. Names by Thursday, November 4th.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual committee meeting at Hanley, Saturday, November 6th, 3.30 p.m. Bells (10) 3 p.m. For tea, notify Mr. G. Jones, 46, Harley Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, by November 2nd.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Shildon on Saturday, Nov. 6th, 2 p.m.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by November 10th.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at numerous cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Long Eaton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names to Mr. C. Geary, 194, Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Notts, by Wednesday, November 10th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

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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 COLLEGE YOUTHS.

To-day is the 306th anniversary of the founding of the Society of College Youths, and to-morrow the company will celebrate it by holding the war-time equivalent of the traditional annual feast. In itself, the event is perhaps of no great importance to others than those who will be present, but it has a symbolic value which, in these days of change when people are, for good and for ill, more and more cutting themselves adrift from the past, that should not be lost sight of. For the College Youths' annual feast is one of the most striking of the links which bind the present-day Exercise to its remote past. To say that the feast throughout the years has been maintained at the same high level would not be true. To say that there never has been a break in the regular succession would be somewhat hazardous. Yet there is good reason for thinking that not one year has gone by since 1637 without some such gathering. The Society of College Youths has had a varied and chequered career, but it has never lost its continuity. It is not merely a revival, as are many of the apparently old institutions we come across at times.

Three hundred and six years are a long time in the history of the modern world. The Society of College Youths is older than the United States of America and the Dominion of Australia. It saw the beginnings of the Kingdom of Prussia and the Empire of Austria, and their end. England and Englishmen have been vastly and profoundly altered.

Yet the society in all its essentials has not changed. It lives much the same life, is governed by much the same rules, and pursues much the same objects as it did when it was founded. But it does not survive as a museum piece. It survives because it is needed as much to-day and is as much up-to-date as it was when it was founded.

In this the Society of College Youths is merely representative of the whole Exercise. It was not by any special merit of its members that it has had an unbroken life. There are many provincial towns where, in essentials though not in form, there has been almost as long a continuity of ringing. If the Exercise as a whole had not continuity, the College Youths would have disappeared long ago.

It is our great privilege that our art of change ringing is firmly based on mathematical truth and is so hedged about that it must keep within certain strait limits. Its use in the service of the Church is also a stabilising influence. And for all its rigid boundaries, it yet has practically endless scope for development. This it is which holds out a promise of unlimited life for change ringing.

(Continued on page 482.)

'Doomed to death, though fated not to die,' it has often been despaired of by people; but to-day its vitality is as great as ever, and the very fact that the College Youths are to-morrow meeting at lunch three hundred and six years after the society's first feast is a promise and an assurance that three hundred years from now the College Youths of that day will be still holding the traditional function.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES 2	Francis Kirk 5
MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
THOMAS J. LOCK 3	EDWIN JENNINGS 7
*FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 4	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. J. H. Humphries.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF HEYWOOD'S No. 1. Tenor 14½ cwt.

L/CPL. W. FARMER, R.A.S.C. Treble	VICTOR A. JARRATT 5
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.E. ... 2	ALBERT PICKLES 6
CLIFFORD ELLISON 3	WILLIAM AMBLER 7
HAROLD PEARCE 4	SAM LONGBOTTOM Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	HERBERT W. BISHOP 5
WILLIAM C. PORTER 2	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 6
WILLIAM W. T. DANIELL ... 3	NEIL ALLNATT 7
REV. KENNETH C. DAVIS ... 4	CHARLES J. GARDNER Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

Rung to celebrate the diamond jubilee of St. John's Church, of which the ringer of the 4th is priest-in-charge.

MEETING AT HADDENHAM.

A meeting, held at Haddenham on October 23rd, was attended by ringers from Willingham, Wilburton, Over, Sutton, Ely and a representative local band, all of whom rang their first course of Bob Minor. Tea was in the Church Hall, after which Mr. L. Norfolk proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, the Rev. K. G. Sandberg, and to the ladies who had provided the tea.

The bells were kept going until 8 p.m., when coffee and refreshments were provided. The methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Woodbine, Cambridge and Norwich Surprise and Plain Bob. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Chatteris on Saturday, November 27th, at 3 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT KINGSTHORPE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Kingsthorpe on October 30th, with a good attendance of members. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. L. Couchman, after which tea was provided at the Vicarage. The business meeting followed, and thanks and appreciation of Mr. Couchman's generosity were heartily endorsed.

The bells were well used, and ringing enjoyed before the service and in the evening.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Arranged for Pte. A. Ballard, who was home on leave from the Forces.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET L. TUTT 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7-8

Composed by H. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.' A birthday compliment to the ringer of 1-2.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, October 25, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 106, GAY'S GARDENS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten callings).

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	JAMES BULLOCK, SEN. 3-4
*FRANCIS BULLOCK 5-6	

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK, SEN.

Umpire—Thomas Bullock.

* First peal and first attempt.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, October 31, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT 106, GAY'S GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	JAMES BULLOCK, SEN. 3-4
*ERNEST W. PYE 5-6	

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK, SEN.

Umpire—Thomas Bullock.

* First peal of Minor on handbells.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the last paragraph of your short article last week you say that peals rung in recent years of so-called 'Real' Superlative and Double Norwich have only occasional bobs behind. This may be true of Superlative, but not Double Norwich.

I think it fairly safe to say that in all, only seven peals of 'Real' Double Norwich have been rung.

The first was at Woolwich in 1848 and only five bobs were made when the treble was behind.

The second was 50 years later at Irthlingborough, when James Houghton, jun., called a peal by the Rev. Bankes James. In this peal all the calls were at 1 and every one a double call.

The third, in 1906, was at Erith. This peal contained 65 calls, all single ones, 40 of which were made when the treble was behind.

A year later one was rung at Lewisham. There were three calling positions in this peal, 1.2.5, and every call was a double one. I well remember this, as my father had some difficulty in composing it.

The three remaining peals were at Crayford and were the same composition as that rung at Erith in 1906.

There may have been one more. Just before the present war someone, I forget who, wrote and asked whether my father had left any compositions of 'Real' Double Norwich, as he was anxious to ring a peal of it.

E. BARNETT.

10, King's Close, Crayford.
[We thank Mr. Barnett for his explanation. The Irthlingborough and Lewisham peals were Real Double according to correct usage. The others were not.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 476.)

SOME OF THE MEMBERS.

Another member of the Society of Esquire Youths was Christopher Turner. He was the son and heir of Sir Christopher Turner or Turnour, of Milton Erneys, who was a prominent member of the Middle Temple and was made a judge at the Restoration. A large oil painting of him hangs to-day in the Guildhall picture gallery.

The younger Christopher was entered as a student of the Middle Temple on February 27th, 1663, and was 'called to the degree of the utter bar' on November 27th, 1663. He had two brothers, Charles and Edmund, who also were law students. The young men of the Inn rebelled against the puritanical restrictions imposed by authority, and determined to have an old-fashioned Christmas. They broke open the doors of the Hall, the Parliament Chamber, and the kitchen, and proceeded to enjoy themselves. They carried on their revelries until Twelfth-night, and then authority came down on them with a heavy hand. At a Parliament (of the Middle Temple), held on July 26th, 1671, Charles and Edmund were each fined £20 for 'setting up a gaming Christmas,' and Charles was expelled the Inn, but was afterwards reinstated on due submission.

Christopher managed to escape that time, possibly through his father's influence, but in 1674 a Parliament decreed that 'Messrs. Christopher, Edmund and Charles Turner are expelled for their scandalous and shameless behaviour late at night in several courts, unless they can show good cause to the contrary on Friday next.' A copy of the order, left at their chambers, was to be sufficient notice. No doubt they made an edifying submission and were let off, for ten years later Christopher handed in a petition relating to his and his brothers' chambers, the rent of which was in arrears.

The chief butler at the Middle Temple at the time was John Chapman. I do not know whether the office was held by a person of social standing. If so, then the John Chapman who was an Esquire Youth was pretty certainly the same man, but there was a John Chapman, an esquire of Cheine, in Surrey. After the Esquire Youths broke up, John Chapman in 1684 joined the College Youths and was successively steward (1691) and Master (1698).

John Griffiths was the son and heir of William Griffiths, of Llanwaythley, in Anglesey. He entered Gray's Inn in 1654. In June, 1661, he petitioned the King for a grant in writing of the place promised him of Clerk Comptroller. He was granted the office of Clerk of the Billets in the Court of the Marches of Wales when it should be re-established, and he petitioned the King to add another life, that of Charles Coling, to his grant. His profits, he said, were about £50 a year, and arose solely from a fee of twopence a billet paid by the subject.

The name of the clericus of the society is not given, but it probably was William James. The son of Henry James, he was born at Mahone, in Monmouthshire. He was educated by his uncle, and, says Anthony Wood, 'being extra ordinary rath-ripe and of a prodigious memory, was entered into his accedence at five years of age.' In 1646 he was elected a King's Scholar of Westminster, where he became the favourite pupil of the famous Dr. Busby. He was elected a student of Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1650, and returned to Westmin-

ster, first as usher, and then as second to his old master. He died on July 3rd, 1663, greatly regretted by all who knew him, and was buried in the Abbey. A brilliant scholar, he probably was responsible for the Latin and Greek in the society's rules. I have traced three or four others of the members. They are all of the same class, sons of country gentlemen and members of the Inns of Courts.

How long the Society of Esquire Youths was in existence we do not know. Probably it disappeared after a comparatively short time, leaving scarce a memory behind it. In the 'Tintinnalogia' is given a method called the Twelve Score Long Hunts, or the Esquires' Twelve Score, which was, no doubt, the composition of one of the members, and a favourite peal. It is practically an extension to six bells of the older Eight and Forty on five bells. The sixth and fifth are in turn the whole hunt. First the sixth hunts from back to front and then up again, the fifth meanwhile acting as cover. Then the fifth hunts down and up, the sixth acting as cover. When either is leading full, the other four bells ring one change of the twenty-four Plain Changes, or (in a variation of the method) one of the changes of Plain Box Minimus.

(Concluded.)

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.

QUICK PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Barnett, in his interesting letter on the bells of St. Paulinus', Crayford, states that Stedman Triples in 2 hours 14 minutes and Bob Major in 2 hours 47 minutes are the two quickest peals on eight church bells. As the tenor is about 12½ cwt., surely there must be a mistake in these times. I make the average time for Stedman Triples on these bells about 2 hours 48 minutes.

In the year 1902 several quick peals were rung in London, and to quote one, viz., Stedman Triples at Walworth in 2 hours 37 minutes with a 15 cwt. tenor is a fair specimen of quick ringing.

Perhaps Mr. Barnett will enlighten me on the difference of 33 minutes between the two peals.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

A CORRECTION.

Dear Sir,—I would like to congratulate 'Teddie' Barnett on his account of Crayford, also to correct what I imagine to be a printer's error. The peal of Bob Major in 1930 was rung in 2 hours 17 minutes, not 2 hours 47 minutes as published. Even your article of last week does not prevent me pointing this out, as on this occasion we set out to see just how they would go if we really got in a hurry.

I agree with most of your article. I have had equal enjoyment out of a peal of Stedman Triples in 2 hours 14 minutes, my quickest, and one in 3 hours 27 minutes, my slowest, but there is one point you overlooked, I think, that is that on many of the old peals which are still with us, a slowing up exposes the imperfections and short windedness which is often hidden when a good pace is maintained.

I well recollect a peal I took part in 20 years ago. The locals used to reckon about 3 hours 20 minutes for seven 720's. We visitors pulled one off in 2 hours 50 minutes, and heard the question asked when we adjourned, 'Why can't our ringers make our bells talk like that?'

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

SPEED IN RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your reference to the speed of ringing brings to my mind a physiological experiment I have tried several times on bands ringing a peal.

They were good and reliable bands, and, without warning them of my intentions I began to make the calls in a soft and drawn out tone, and continued so for the first part. The second part much louder and snappy and so on alternately for the six parts. The effect was that the first, third and fifth parts were rung slower than the others. I have known it vary as much as two minutes between two parts, and without any apparent effect on the rhythm.

I remember one particular peal I called with a mixed band in London. It was a six-part peal, and all the slow parts were rung in exactly the same time, so were the quick ones, only in 1½ minutes shorter time each.

This effect may be one of the reasons for the difference in times taken to ring peals on the same bells.

PETER CROOK.

203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Wednesday, Canon G. F. Coleridge will reach his 86th birthday. The whole Exercise will join us in offering him congratulations and good wishes.

Members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association should note that the meeting arranged at Christ Church, Swindon, for to-morrow is cancelled.

The latest news of Mr. Audsley, received from Mr. Edwin Barnett, is that he is making excellent progress. The operation was a far more serious one than it was at first thought to be.

Congratulations to Mr. W. H. Barber, who reached his 67th birthday yesterday.

Francis Bullock, who rang the tenors to the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Dagenham on October 25th, is the fourth son of Mr. James Bullock to score a peal. Francis was successful at the first attempt and on his twelfth birthday.

The ancient peal book of the Bromley Youths, which was badly damaged by exposure after the church was destroyed in an air raid, has been carefully restored by Mr. Percy Spice, the secretary of the local company. Mr. E. A. Young recently inspected the book and has suggested further precautions, and it is hoped the records will be preserved for posterity.

For reasons connected with the war, the band at Lamberhurst in Kent was reduced to two members. Since the ban was lifted recruits have been obtained from the girls' club, and after careful training they rang the bells for the first time for harvest festival on Oct. 10th.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

DEATH OF MR. FRANK M. BUTLER.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank M. Butler, which occurred at Mitcham on October 25th. The funeral was on the following Friday, and was attended by Mr. A. Miller, who represented the Ancient Society of College Youths and arranged for the bell to be tolled at Christ Church, Mitcham, where the first part of the service was held. The bells were rung half-muffled last Sunday.

Mr Butler joined the College Youths in 1892 and rang a number of peals with the society, 16 of them with the late W. T. Cockerill. Early in the present century he moved to Stanstead and afterwards lived at Clacton-on-Sea. He was a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral band and rang there until the ban was imposed on ringing. He had been ill for about 2½ years.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The Mastership of the Society of College Youths in 1643 and 1644 was held by two brothers, Henry and Robert Mackworth, the sons of Sir Henry Mackworth, Baronet, of Normanton in Rutland.

The Mackworths were a Derbyshire family living at the village of Mackworth. George Mackworth settled at Empingham, in Rutland, in the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and his wife and son Thomas gave the tenor to the ring of five at that church in 1611. It was inscribed, 'Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei. Ann Mackworth and Thomas Mackworth, Armiger, 1611.'

Ann died in 1612. Thomas, her son, was sheriff of the county, and was created a baronet by James the First in 1619. He died in 1626 and was succeeded by his son Henry, who matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1615, was admitted to Gray's Inn 1618, was sheriff of Rutland 1627, and died and was buried at Empingham in 1640.

His third son Henry was born in 1627, and so was only a boy when he presided over the College Youths. The Civil War had just begun, and the older men like Lord Brereton and Clifford Clifton were either with the King at Oxford or in the country on their fathers' estates. Henry Mackworth was the youngest Master in the long history of the College Youths. He died in 1681.

His brother Robert, two years older, was baptised at North Luffenham on April 10th, 1625. He was admitted a student of the Inner Temple in November, 1640, and died on February 1st, 1717, at the good old age of 97. He was buried at Empingham. He probably retained his love of bells and ringing throughout his long life, for his son Thomas, who was born in 1662, joined the College Youths in 1684, and was steward in 1693.

SQUIRE PROCTOR AND HIS BAND.

VISITS TO SUFFOLK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The remarks that have been made from time to time concerning the Squire and his men are interesting. May I be allowed to add some more notes concerning them.

The Squire and his men first visited the South Suffolk area in June, 1874, but as the Lavenham anniversary fell on a Sunday, they postponed their visit until the Monday. On arriving at Lavenham they were met by F. T. Bardway, M.D. (a great friend of the Squire's), and other friends, and at once ascended the tower and rang some touches of Stedman, Double Norwich and Superlative on the bells there.

The following day they visited Long Melford and they were ignored, and not allowed to enter the tower, so had to content themselves with viewing the church. Then they went to Foxearth, where they were met and entertained by the Rector, the Rev. John Foster, and rang some 120's each of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and 720 of Kent Treble Bob, being the first that was rung there.

After that they visited Clare and rang 504 Stedman Triples. Their visit to Clare was broadcast and a large concourse of people assembled in the market place to hear the bells rung, which were then in very bad order. On coming out of the tower, the master of the Clare Town Brass Band, whose name was Glazier, ran and got hold of the Squire and said, 'You have done well. You can go and have a gallon of the best beer at the Bear.'

On a visit another year, after ringing at Lavenham, the Squire and his men visited Bury St. Edmunds, and after ringing at St. Mary's, rang 1,122 Stedman Caters at the Norman Tower.

After the bells in Sudbury had all been made into octaves, the Squire and his men visited Sudbury and rang some touches on all the three octaves. Finding it difficult to ring Major on the heavy and bad going peal at All Saints', they tried Stedman Triples, and Nathan Warner did not set the tenor soon enough for the Squire, so he told the Squire to try it a blow, and the Squire gathered up the tail rope and pulled it off, and Warner and Thomas Page had to set it up for him. During their visit to Sudbury they were entertained to dinner at the Bear, then the headquarters of the Sudbury ringers. During dinner they had to have the Sudbury ringers' favourite dish, leg of mutton, mint sauce and green peas.

The Squire was a great lover of Lavenham bells, and at the time of the funeral a band met there and attempted to ring a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5,088 changes, but the attempt failed after three hours and seven minutes. On the following Easter Monday the band met again and rang a long peal of this method.

The things I have written I have heard the old ringers, now passed away, speak of many a time. I have no account of the Squire and his men ever ringing at Long Melford, for after the affair in 1874 the Squire would say, 'We are not wanted there, so please don't go.'

At the time the Squire and his men visited Clare the ringers stood on a floor to ring level with the sill of the west window. This was not replaced when the tower was restored and the bells rehung by the late Mr. F. Day, of Eye. While Clare bells were being rehung there was much doubt as to where the men should stand to ring, and Mr. Day said if they stood on the ground floor there would be the same length of rope as at St. Peter Mancroft Norwich. When the Vicar knew of this, he said no other ringing floor was needed and none was put in.

T. E. SLATER.

24, Hunts Hill, Glemsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Counties Association at Eastwood on October 16th was attended by about 40 members, and the ringing was very successful despite the fact that the treble stay had been broken half an hour earlier during ringing, for a wedding. It ranged from call changes to Cambridge.

In the Parish Hall the visitors were entertained to tea, provided by the ladies of the Parochial Church Council. The Rector gave a welcome, and thanks were expressed by Mr. Thomas Groombridge (the hon. secretary), Miss I. D. Thompson and Mr. J. Hobbs.

Four new members were elected. Handbells were rung to Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman and some tune playing.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT PENISTONE.

At a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Penistone on October 9th, the following towers were represented: Almondbury, Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Silkstone, Shelley, Sprotborough, Worsley and the local company.

The Vicar, the Rev. F. Buchanan, welcomed the visitors and presided at the business meeting at which Mr. G. Gordon Graham, of Eckington, was elected an honorary life member. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, November 13th. Good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 477.)

The grand old central tower and spire of All Saints', Rotherham, Yorks, has a somewhat curious approach to the ringing chamber. This church was originally a Saxon building, portions of which and of the succeeding Norman fabric are incorporated in the present church. It is a cruciform structure, mainly in the Perpendicular style, and about the middle of the 15th century the greater part was rebuilt and enlarged. In 1845, and again in 1875, further restorations were carried out.

The tower and spire are carried through on four huge pillars, the one at the north-east crossing being more or less a shell, and has a spiral stairway inside. At some time, possibly to 1820 (when the bells were made to 10), the opening at the bottom was inside the church. One can see quite plainly where the doorway has been built up. At about this time the stairway inside the pillar was continued downward towards the foundations, the last 12ft. being finished off with a perpendicular iron ladder. This brought the actual bottom to some 8ft. below the church floor level, and into what appears to be a coffin-shaped passage, 2ft. or so in width and about six yards long, and leading out into the churchyard on the north side. The land level falls away considerably to the north and east, and this, of course, allowed such a curious alteration of route being made.

The earliest mention of bells at Rotherham is in the will of William Greybern, first Provost of Rotherham College, who in 1501 left 6s. 8d. to the bells. In 1704 the great bell was recast by Samuel Smith, of York, at a cost, including various expenses, of £49 16s. 3½d. In 1752 a tenor weighing 24 cwt. and treble were cast by Hilton, of Watts. In 1821 a new ring of ten bells was provided; all except the 8th (which was blank) bore the founder's name, 'T. Mears, of London, fecit 1821.' These bells were first rung on December 20th, 1821, and formally opened on the Easter Monday following. In 1925 the whole were recast and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The old oak frame was removed and a new steel and iron frame with pits for twelve erected. The old tenor weighed 31 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb., but the new one now weighs 34½ cwt. The work was done 'in memory of Robert Dyson.'

A very similar arrangement of ascent to that originally applying at Rotherham, i.e., a spiral stairway up one of the pillars supporting the central tower, also occurs at Halesowen, Worcestershire. This entrance is rather hidden away and somewhat difficult for a stranger to find. The same applies at the central tower of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester. Both towers contain a ring of eight, that at Halesowen having been augmented from six in 1753. The treble was recast by J. Warner and Sons in 1864, the 2nd is by Lester and Pack, 1753, while the old six are by Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, 1707, the present 5th declaring:—

'Bee it knone to all that doth me see,
that Joseph Smith in Edgbaston made all wee, 1707.'

The tenor says:—

'When sovnd of bell doth pearce yovr eare
Come to the chvrch, God's Word to heare.
My movrnfvll sovnd doth warning give
That heare men cannot all wayes live.'

The bells of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, are by the Rudhall family of that place, and date variously from 1710 to 1769. At this church a company of ringers was formed from an early date, and a chandelier in the ringing room bears the inscription, 'God preserve the Crypt Youths.' A number of peals rung by these 'youths' are recorded on tablets in the belfry, mainly Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and New Treble Bob.

(To be continued.)

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT GATESHEAD.

At a meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association held at St. Mary's, Gateshead, on October 23rd, 26 members were present from Newcastle (Cathedral), Whickham, Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland (St. Ignatius' and St. Michael's), Morpeth Watch Tower and the home belfry.

Tea was provided by the local ladies in The Anchorage, and the ringers were welcomed by Canon Stephenson. Mr. Thomas H. D. Horne, of Morpeth Watch Tower, was elected a member. A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies was proposed by Mr. Frank Ainsley.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on November 13th at Houghton-le-Spring.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

Members of the Warwickshire Guild turned up in good numbers on October 16th to witness the induction of the Rev. F. W. Moyle, president of the Guild, to the living of Allesley, near Coventry. The bells were rung for an hour before the service and an hour after. Then an adjournment was made to the Rainbow Inn, where tea was waiting, prepared by Mrs. Taylor and helpers.

Speeches were made welcoming the president as Rector of Allesley, and the Rector expressed his thanks and his desire to serve the Guild to the best of his ability. He asked his friends from Chilvers Coton (his former parish) to drink with him to the continued success of the Guild.

The Rector was then toasted by all, after which Mrs. Moyle entered the room for a fleeting visit and was presented to the local ringers.

WILTON.

A practice meeting, arranged by the local band, was held at Wilton, near Salisbury, on October 9th. Visitors came from Calne, Devizes and the Salisbury towers of St. Martin's, St. Thomas', St. Edmund's and St. Paul's. There were also ringers from Cirencester, Glos., and Westerham, Kent. The Rector of Wilton, the Rev. W. E. Drury, conducted a short service with address, and tea was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Haines of the Dalston Cafe.

The bells were kept going throughout the afternoon and evening to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor, and there were also cell changes.

WEDDING AT BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS.

On Saturday, October 23rd, at All Saints' Church, Barnby-in-the-Willows the wedding took place of Kathleen M. Vessey, member of the local band, to Percy Holmes, of St. Botolph's band, Lincoln. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. — Walton. Several ringing friends were present at the reception.

Later a quarter-peal of Minor, containing 720 of Kent Treble Bob and 540 of Bob Minor, was rung on All Saints' bells by L.-Cpl. S. G. Vessey treble, Mrs. K. W. Mayers 2, R. Thomas Vessey 3, Jack C. Vessey 4, Kenneth W. Mayer 5, Leading Seaman Jack L. Millhouse (conductor) tenor. All ringers but the ringer of the tenor are members of the bride's family.

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STAPLETON PARISH CHURCH. BELL REPAIRING BY VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several weeks ago during a practice for learners, strange movements were noticed in our third bell (of a ring of six). Investigations disclosed that the bell was hanging from the headstock by one bolt only instead of the usual four bolts and clapper bolt. The portion of the crown surrounding the clapper bolt had broken away to a radius of four or five inches, the break extending (in the form of a band about nine inches wide) over the shoulder and about four inches down the bell.

The bell weighs about 7 cwt. and is inscribed, 'Richard Phillips 1669 R.P. W.P. Miles Hobson.' The canons have been removed, and to the knowledge of the steeplekeeper the bell has been cracked in the crown for the last fifty years or so.

A description of the damage was submitted to one of the well-known bellfounders, who informed us that the only thing to be done was to recast the bell and that this could not be attempted until after the war. There was no temporary repair which could possibly be effective.

Although some of us were convinced that the majority of the local inhabitants would not even notice the loss of one bell, the thought of ringing or chiming 12456 till after the war was too much for our captain to contemplate. He, therefore, suggested that a temporary repair could be effected in the shape of a giant steel 'washer' made to fit under the crown of the bell with a lip where the broken piece extended over the shoulder. The whole bell could then be pulled up to the stock by its usual five bolts, which would first pass through the washer. The idea was acclaimed as worth trying, and the village blacksmith was, therefore, approached to see if he would tackle it. He probably had more idea than we had as to the difficulties ahead, but agreed to 'try anything once' and unearthed a suitable plate of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. steel which would meet the case.

What turned out to be three weeks' hard work by two of us and the blacksmith then commenced. We made templates from the bell and started work at the village forge. We couldn't take the bell to the workshop, so after each successive two or three hours' work forge-blowing and sledge-hammering, the steel patch and broken piece of bell, each weighing about a quarter of a hundredweight, had to be taken to the church about half a mile away, up the 46 tower steps and up ladders to the bell chamber. There we would find that it didn't fit by a mile, so down we had to go to the smithy for alterations. Steel plate $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick doesn't adapt itself like sheet lead, and even minor adjustments meant a morning's work. After five or six journeys between the forge and the bell chamber and the hard slog-ging on the job, our enthusiasm for the enterprise began to wane considerably. However, the steel plate was eventually manhandled into a shape which fitted snugly up under the crown of the bell and thus provided the maximum support.

The final job was drilling holes, and even this took two days, with journeys to and fro, so that the blacksmith's drilling machine could be used where possible and so avoid too much laborious hand drilling in the bell chamber.

At last, however, the job was finished and the bell rehung on Saturday afternoon ready for trial at Sunday morning's service. It went all right and during the course of the following week a few extra turns of the spanner were given to all the nuts in case there had been any settlement during its first ringing. The bell was then voted as good as new and was considered ready for ringing at our harvest festival service the next Sunday, when we hoped to have the pleasure of assistance from a neighbouring tower. The general opinion was that although when rung on its own the tone of the bell was a little less resonant, nothing amiss could be detected when it was rung in peal.

Our technical advisers were probably quite justified in saying that they were not prepared to recommend a temporary repair, and although we are all naturally very pleased with ourselves and our amateur 'bell-founding,' we are the first to admit that what we have done may be a foolhardy thing to have risked. Such a risk could not have been taken by a firm of bell founders who value their reputation, and if ever the bell falls to pieces over our heads, we will accept their 'We told you so.' What we may say if such an occasion should ever arise may have to be recorded as 'Famous Last Words.'

Meanwhile we have made the best of a bad job and have shown what really can be done if ringers are keen enough to keep their bells going.

'NIL DESPERANDUM.'

HOUNSLOW.—On Sunday, October 17th, at St. Paul's, 720 Bob Minor: Miss K. Brooks 1, A. Thirst (first 720 of Minor) 2, G. Dodds 3, S. Croft 4, F. Bishop (conductor) 5, H. Rogers 6.

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BELFAST.

The annual general meeting of the Northern Branch of the Irish Association was held in St. Thomas' Parochial Hall, Lisbourn Road, Belfast, on October 23rd, when the following towers were represented: Bangor, Ballylesson, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Dublin (St. George's), Enniskillen, Holywood and Lurgan. Mr. Roy Faithful, a ringer from Southampton, also attended.

The chair was taken by Mr. F. E. Dukes, Dublin, in the absence of the branch president.

A message of good wishes was read from the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, president of the Irish Association.

Apologies were received from the Rev. — Deane, Rector of St. Thomas', Messrs. V. C. Patterson, Ballymena, and J. B. Tough, Bray, and from the Rostrevor band.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Branch president, the Rev. W. Gransden, M.A., Rector of Lurgan; branch vice-president, Mr. C. W. Neill, Lurgan; Branch Ringing Master, Mr. John Irwin; branch secretary, Mr. W. Pratt, Galston, Belfast Road, Holywood, Co. Down; branch treasurer and assistant secretary, Mr. Ian Gilmour, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim.

Lurgan was selected as the place of the next meeting, to be held next May.

It was decided that all ringers in the Allied Forces stationed in Northern Ireland may be elected members of the Northern Branch free of subscription and to encourage them to ring peals for the association. The secretaries and Ringing Master will be pleased to hear of any, and arrangements will be made for practice ringing at various towers and, if possible, peal ringing.

It is hoped to arrange inter-change of ringers so that every ringable tower will have its bells rung regularly.

The annual subscription was raised to 2s.

The Chairman stated that the authorities of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, had agreed to the erection of a memorial tablet to Gabriel Lindoff in the body of the Cathedral, but had not yet decided on the most suitable position. A grant was voted to the fund.

A discussion took place on the ringing of church bells on Victory Sundays and Christmas Day, when the carillon of Armagh Cathedral was chimed as representing the bells of Northern Ireland. The meeting felt hurt that the ringers had been overlooked on these occasions and suggested that representation should be sent to the B.B.C. and a record made of some ringing for future occasions. The bells of some churches had been broadcast on previous occasions. It was decided not to take any action until the committee had completed their plans for practice and inter-change ringing, to see what conditions existed at the various towers before making any recommendation.

Mr. Webb, on behalf of St. Thomas' Society, welcomed the association to Belfast, to which Mr. Pratt replied.

After the meeting some touches of Grandsire were rung silent on the bells of St. Thomas' Parish Church.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DERBY.

At a meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Derby Cathedral on October 23rd, members were present from Sheffield, Nuneaton, Leicester, Ashby, Burton district, Rotherham, Sawley, Ilkerton and Duffield, and all the local towers were represented.

Unfortunately new ropes which were on order failed to arrive in time and before long two ropes broke, the interval being used for handbell ringing. At a short service at 4 p.m. the Provost, the Rev. P. A. Micklem, welcomed the ringers and stressed the importance of their art. He said it was appreciated by both clergy and public after the enforced ban.

Forty-six members sat down to tea in the Diocesan House, and at the business meeting which followed the Provost presided.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Peter's, Derby, on November 13th. One new member, Mr. Walter S. Keen, was elected. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. W. Lancaster and seconded by Mr. J. Cotton.

A course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. J. Pagett, J. Bailey, W. Buxton, W. Parsons and F. Gobey.

The methods rung included Cambridge Surprise Major, Double Norwich, Spiced Treble Bob, Duffield, Grandsire Caters and Triples, and Stedman, with rounds and 'Queens' for the learners.

A collection for the bellrope fund amounted to £2 4s. 4d.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd. Business meeting afterwards. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, Nov. 7th, 10.15 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Swineshead, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.45 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting arranged for Christ Church, Swindon, on November 6th, is cancelled owing to tenor being temporarily out of order.—W. B. Kynaston.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by November 10th.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at numerous cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Long Eaton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Tea (3s. each) and business 5 p.m. Names to Mr. C. Geary, 194, Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Notts, by Wednesday, November 10th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at East Grinstead, November 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. till black-out. Tea and handbells after. Postcard to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lower Beeding, November 13th, 3 p.m.; blacked out. Names for tea by November 9th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must inform Mr. J. Hobbs, 84, High Street, Redbourn, St. Albans, by November 10th. Buses from Dunstable, St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Meeting at Towcester, Saturday, November 13th. Service 3.30. Names for tea by Tuesday, November 9th, to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring own refreshments.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, November 13th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Tempsford, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Cawthorne, Saturday, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by November 10th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby, St. Peter's, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall, 5 p.m. Names to Mr. A. Sherwood, 27, Upper Boundary Road, Derby, by Thursday the 11th.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL RURAL.—Meeting at Bitton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., The Bungalow, Stanshawes Avenue, Yate.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kirkby-in-Ashfield on Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Tea for those who notify me by Wednesday previous.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec., 49, The Common, South Normanton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

NUNEATON PARISH CHURCH.—Winter arrangements: Sunday service ringing, 10 to 10.45, 2.45 to 3.30; practices, Saturdays, 3.30 to 5.—D. E. Beamish.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER, IPSWICH.—Service ringing Sunday mornings 10.30 to 11. Members of H.M. Forces welcomed.—G. E. Symonds, Hon. Sec., 57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

By far the most important item at the luncheon gathering of the College Youths last Saturday was the statement Mr. Edwin H. Lewis made concerning this journal and its future. By a deed of assignment, dated October 20th, the ownership of the paper passed from the executors of the late John S. Goldsmith to the three men who form the sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Central Council which was appointed to negotiate with the former owners.

The completion of their task is a great cause for congratulation and thankfulness. For more than sixty years the Exercise has never lacked the services of a weekly paper, its organisation and activities are largely dependent on some such journal, and it is difficult to see how they could have survived in anything like their present form if 'The Ringing World' had had to cease publication.

That such a thing might happen was much more than a possible contingency when Mr. Goldsmith died. He had founded the paper, and until shortly before his death its life and welfare were dependent almost entirely on his exertions. Then when the war came, in addition to his failing health, the increased cost of production and the fall in the circulation raised financial problems which well might have proved insoluble.

It was fortunate that there were at the late Editor's funeral sufficient members of the Standing Committee of the Central Council to take action in the name of the Council and for the Exercise. It is fortunate that they were then able to come into contact with the managing director of the company which prints the paper, and with Mr. Goldsmith's executors. They acted promptly, and by guaranteeing the paper against loss, until the general situation could be reviewed, they averted the danger of an immediate cessation of issue. There followed a long and minute investigation of the books and accounts, made by Mr. G. W. Fletcher, with the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Fletcher, which furnished the basis on which the present settlement is formed. The terms of that settlement have been circulated to the members of the Council and to the affiliated societies. They may be taken to be fair and just, and from them all parties to the agreement will alike benefit. How great is, and will be, the benefit accruing to the Exercise generally will never be known; for no one can tell what would have happened if at this particular time ringers had been left without a journal. Perhaps those critics who have been complaining of the inaction of the Coun-

(Continued on page 490.)

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cil and its officers now wish they had waited until they knew just a little more.

The future of 'The Ringing World' and its success is assured, but only if ringers do their share. This paper, like every other paper, can only exist if the circulation is large enough to make it financially sound. The Exercise is quite large enough to support a journal, and if the associations use their powers and their influence, as they can, there is no reason why an adequate circulation should not be reached. On the other hand, the paper must justify itself, and prove its worth.

For some time now, even from before the lifting of the ban on ringing, the circulation has been increasing; though there is still a long leeway to make up before the slump caused by the outbreak of war and the total cessation of ringing is overcome. Paper shortage badly hampers all publications, and no real solution of our difficulties can be looked for until something like normal times return. But, if ringers generally, and the associations in particular, respond to the appeals and requests made by the officers of the Central Council we may face the future with confidence.

Meanwhile, in its management and general style the paper will continue as it has been during these last two years. The aim has been not only to supply current news of general interest, but to give readers something worth reading week by week, and not least to afford ringers a full opportunity of expressing their opinions on any and every subject which relates to bells, bellringing and bellringers.

SIX BELL PEALS.

ACTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Six 120's Plain Bob, six 120's April Day and thirty 120's of Grandsire.
Tenor 14 cwt.

STANLEY SUTTON... .. Treble	FRANK OLLIER 4
FRANK BARNARD 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
JOHN E. BROUGH... .. 3	*WILLIAM J. FAULKNER ... Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal First peal of Doubles in three methods by all the band

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One extent each of Double Court and Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob, each called differently.
Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb.

BERNARD H. DALTON ... Treble	LEONARD P. WILSON... .. 4
*PERCY MARKHAM 2	†GEORGE R. DAWSON... .. 5
ALBERT H. BENNETT ... 3	SPP. CYRIL WANDER, R.E. Tenor

Conducted by C. WANDER.

* First peal in four methods. † First peal.

SUNNINGWELL, BERKS.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt.

*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) ... Treble	*MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 4
†BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 2	†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5
†JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal of Minor. † First tower-bell peal of Minor. ‡ First peal on tower bells. An 86th birthday compliment to Canon G. F. Coleridge.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEANOR, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

RALPH NARBOROUGH... .. 1	Treble	JOHN E. HOBBS 5
*ARTHUR ELLIOTT 2		FRANK BRADLEY 6
ALEX HUTCHISON 3		THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7
WALTER NICHOLS 4		REV. R. ST. J. SMITH, C.F. Tenor

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAM (C.C.C. No. 26).

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. JOHN SMITH, C.F.

* First peal of Major.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BATHOLOMEW.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Day's Six-Part.

JAMES W. KAY 1	Treble	CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT 5
THOMAS W. SMITH 2		*SGT. E. BUGDEN, R.E.M.E. 6
ALBERT GREENHALGH 3		PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
EVEREST FORD 4		WILLIAM SMALLEY Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal in the method. Rung to welcome home a member of the local band, Harry D. Shackleton, who has recently been repatriated.

DUFFIELD, DERBY.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(DERBY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALMUND.

A PEAL OF KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ILKESTON VARIATION.

VICTOR E. TAYLOR 1	Treble	CYRIL J. JENNINGS 5
WILLIAM LAMCASTER 2		WILFRED H. BUXTON 6
ALEX HUTCHISON 3		WILLIAM A. PARSONS 7
JACK W. GLEW 4		E. FRED GOBEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. FRED GOBEY.

Rung after meeting short for Royal. First peal in the method for ringers of treble, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, October 31, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
IN THE VICAR'S ROOM, 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		FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS

Rung to mark the appointment of the Rev. Preb. Norman R. Boyd, M.A., Vicar of Hendon, to be Vicar of Bournemouth.

CORFE MULLEN, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HUBERT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*JOHN V. DAVIS 1	Treble	WILLIAM E. CHEATER 4
CYRIL F. TURNER 2		WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3		ARTHUR V. DAVIS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal on tower bells and first attempt. Rung to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the six bells.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation)

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRID F. MORETON 1-2		ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4		FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Saturday, October 10th, at All Saints' Church two 720's Plain Bob Minor were rung: H. W. Pratt, 1 B. Norman 2, A. W. T. Ginn 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, L. Fisher 5, G. E. Crisp 6.

HINCKLEY.—On October 10th, 1,248 Bob Major: C. Ison 1, J. Ison 2, E. Vallance 3, H. Knights 4, G. Thompson 5, D. Aldham 6, F. Trotman 7, W. P. Whitehead (conductor) 8. Rung for harvest festival.—On October 24th, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. P. Whitehead (conductor) 1, J. Ison 2, G. Thompson 3, C. Ison 4, E. Vallance 5, B. Ridgway 6, F. Trotman 7, F. Cotton 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, October 31st, at All Saints', 720 Bob Minor with 6-8 covering: D. Chamberlain (first 720 away from a cover bell) 1, F. Bishop 2, G. Dodds 3, A. Thirst 4, S. Croft 5, H. Brooks 6, H. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, October 24th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Woodall 1, V. Warr 2, L. Clissett 3, W. H. Webb 4, H. Shilcock 5, T. Greenhall 6, J. H. Cox (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8. Rung to celebrate the completion of 45 years' service in the belfry by the Ringing Master, Mr. W. H. Webb.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS, NOTTS.—On Sunday, October 24th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: L.-Cpl. S. G. Vessey 1, Mrs. L. W. Mayer 2, K. T. Vessey 3, J. C. Vessey 4, J. L. Millhouse (conductor) 5, R. W. Mayer 6.

WARWICK.—At the Church of St. Mary, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Male, jun (first quarter-peal) 1, E. H. Adams (conductor) 2, T. Male 3, J. F. Simpson (first quarter-peal on 10 bells) 4, E. D. Brown 5, W. Collett 6, H. Huxley 7, J. Price 8, C. Wildsmith 9, E. Bosworth 10.

EWELL, SURREY.—On October 12th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: *Miss E. Harrington 1, C. Lord 2, J. E. Beams 3, W. Sparrow 4, A. Hadley (conductor) 5, H. W. Barrett 6. *First 720 of Bob Minor. Arranged for Mr. Lord, who last rang in a 720 of Minor over 43 years ago.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Sunday, October 10th, for Confirmation service, 1,320 Grandsire Cinques in 64 minutes: G. Preston 1, Miss Sparshott 2, *F. M. Turner 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, Martin Stewart 6, E. T. Griffin 7, E. Waters 8, L. Stone 9, F. Sparshott 10, G. Scragg 11, H. Gillard 12. *First quarter-peal of Cinques. On Friday, October 15th, on the occasion of a visit of the High Commissioner of New Zealand, an attempt for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Cinques was lost after 50 minutes' ringing. The band was as above, with the exception of Mrs. Marshallsay and A. V. Davis standing in place of F. M. Turner and L. Stone.

MONKS ELEGH.—On Sunday, October 17th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: B. Cornell (Little Walsingham) 1, D. Elliott (Groton) (conductor) 2, W. Jarvis (Lavenham) 3, M. T. Symonds (Lavenham) 4, R. Chambers (Preston) 5, A. Haynes (Sudbury) 6.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, October 17th, at St. Peter's Church, 720 Bob Minor: G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, G. Rashbrook 3, Flight-Sgt. R. Cadamy 4, W. Chalk 5, E. P. Duffield (conductor) 6.—For evening service, 1,008 Bob Major: G. B. Andrews 1, G. Boyden 2, H. T. Pye 3, G. Rashbrook 4, R. Cadamy 5, W. Chalk 6, H. J. Millott 7, E. P. Duffield (conductor) 8.

HILLINGDON.—At St. Andrew's, on Tuesday, October 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: P. E. Jones 1, F. W. Goodfellow 2, J. Barber (first quarter-peal) 3, T. Collins 4, F. Corke (conductor) 5, W. Honer 6, T. Bannister 7, S. Humphreys 8.—On November 2nd, 1,280 Bob Major: J. Barber (first quarter of Major) 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, T. Collins 3, W. Gutteridge 4, P. E. Jones 5, F. W. Goodfellow 6, F. Corke 7, T. Bannister (conductor) 8.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKS.—On Sunday, October 31st, for evening service, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Barnes 1, C. Urch 2, S. Harrison 3, M. C. Fowler 4, J. E. Cawser (conductor) 5, E. C. Stacey 6, H. Wagstaff 7, E. Dalington 8. Longest length in the method by ringers of 1, 2 and 6.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's on October 31st for morning service, 840 Stedman Triples: H. Street 1, C. T. Coles (conductor) 2, R. Maynard 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Smith 5, H. Rumens 6, F. C. Maynard 7, F. C. Taylor 8.

MEPPERSHALL, BEDS.—On Sunday, October 31st, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Lawrence 1, A. Sinfield 2, R. Sharpe 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters (conductor) 5.

BINFIELD.—On Sunday, November 1st, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: Mrs. A. J. W. Rance 1, C. W. Bailey 2, B. C. Castle 3, T. E. Davis R.A.F. 4, A. J. Rance (conductor) 5, A. J. W. Rance 6. Rung on the eve of the patronal festival.

OXFORD.—At New College, on Sunday, November 7th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters: H. Miles 1, Miss B. Spice 2, Mrs. A. E. Locke 3, *Miss M. L. Tutt 4, J. E. Spice 5, F. A. H. Wilkins 6, W. F. Judge (conductor) 7, V. J. F. Bennett 8, J. H. R. Freeborn 9, G. Caudwell 10. *First quarter-peal of Caters.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.—At All Saints', on Sunday, November 7th, for Armistice service, a quarter-peal of Minor in 45 minutes: *W. Thompson 1, A. Sheppard 2, Miss M. D. Hawley (conductor) 3, Mrs. E. M. Bradley 4, Mrs. J. Render 5, E. M. Bradley 6. *First quarter-peal and first attempt. First quarter-peal as conductor.

THE BELLS OF LAMBETH.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century there were at Lambeth three bells, one of which was dedicated to St. Thomas. In 1514 the parish paid three shillings for tightening the bells on their stocks and for putting a stay to the tenor. The charge for nailing the stay was one shilling. What this means we cannot say. It was not like a modern stay of course, for such things were unknown and would have been useless, since the bells were not rung up to a set pull. Perhaps it was a strut to strengthen the frame.

In 1515 a bell clapper cost three shillings. This probably was for the saunce bell or the treble, as the cost of repairing the clapper of St. Thomas' bells was three shillings and fourpence. Philip, the smith, of King's Street, put his mark on that as a token of his promise to guarantee his work for seven years, 'and if it break within that time, he to make it at his proper cost and charge.'

Seven years is a long time for a man to guarantee his work, the old custom being to undertake to put right any defect which appeared within a year and a day. Perhaps Philip Smith's work did not stand so long as he thought it would, for in 1520 two pence was paid 'for bearing the bell clapper to Whitechapel parish.' Why did the churchwardens depart from the usual custom of employing the local tradesman? Whitechapel was a long way from Lambeth, and all London lay between. It may be that someone was already beginning to be known as a clever man with anything connected with bells and the foundations of the famous Whitechapel foundry were already laid.

In King Edward's reign the Commissioners reported that they had left in the church 'remaining to the king's use fyve bells and a saunce bell.' When at the accession of Mary it was evident that the fear of church bells being looted had passed, the parish had the second recast, and the reaction against the late violent changes in church doctrine and ritual is shown by the payment for ringing on Corpus Christi day.

The bellfounder, who came in 1579 to give his advice about mending the clappers and was regaled with wine and beer, was certainly Robert Mot, and a new clapper was made at Whitechapel for the great bell at a cost of twenty-five shillings and ninepence.

In 1584 four bells were recast, by whom it is not stated. The actual casting cost £18, and there were several other, incidental, expenses—an oaken pole to winch up the bells, a new staple to hoist up the bells, a link to give light while the work was being done, mending and trimming all the bell clappers, 'and for our dinner, churchwardens, bellfounder, and other honest men of the parish at the payment of the money and receiving of his bond.' There was also a new wheel made for the third bell at a cost of six shillings and eightpence.

In 1598 the tenor was broken. It weighed 14 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs. It was recast at a cost of £14 11s. 8d., and then weighed 15 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lbs. Robert Mot was the founder, and whether the bell was not a good one, or whether it was cracked by bad usage, in less than five years' time he had to cast it again, and ten years later it was once more remade — this time by William Carter, Mot's successor. Carter also recast the third.

In 1638 the saunce bell was recast by John Clifton. He does not seem to be otherwise known as a bell-founder.

One entry, which is repeated more than once, is of interest. It is for a 'matt for the safeguard of the bell ropes.' These are the earliest and, I believe, the only early instances of mats being provided for the ropes to fall on.

There was the usual amount of paid ringing, and in later years the vestry, like the vestries of other parishes, resolved to restrict it.

In 1518 the 'yeoman amvner' fined the parish two shillings and fourpence for not ringing at the king's coming. In 1572 all the bells of London were rung when the news came of the battle of Lepanto. There were no English ships or men at that fight, but Christendom was still a very real thing, and England had a great interest in the overthrow of the Turk.

In 1723 Richard Phelps recast the bells and made them into a ring of eight. 'The cost near 230 pounds was defrayed by the gifts of the many gentlemen and other inhabitants' of the parish. Three years later the College Youths rang the first recorded peal in the tower. It was 6,832 changes of Bob Major, conducted by Benjamin Annable, who rang the tenor. Francis Geary was at the third, Peter Merrygarts at the sixth, and William Laughton at the seventh. At the time it was the longest length in any method, but in the following April the Norwich Scholars beat it by ringing 10,080 Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Michael's Coslany.

The Union Scholars rang Bob Major at St. Mary's in 1739, and the College Youths Oxford Treble Bob in 1757 and Double Bob in 1759. In 1777 the ancient Society of College Youths rang Grandsire Triples. In the same year and in 1778 the London Youths rang Oxford Treble Bob; and in 1782 the College Youths rang Bob Major.

In 1806 the men who called themselves the Westminster Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Triples conducted by John Hints. Some of these men were members of either the College Youths or the Cumberlands. Westminster Youths was little more than a name under which peals could be rung, and the same people shortly afterwards started the St. James' Society. Hints, in the following month, called another peal of Grandsire at Lambeth for the College Youths. The peal board claims that it was composed by him 'with 103 bobs and 2 singles,' but it is pretty obvious that it was half of Holt's Ten-Part, and half of Reeves' Variation.

In 1828 a 'Friendly Society' rang Grandsire Triples, and in 1848 another in the same method was rung by the St. James' Society with George Stockham as conductor.

A board in the belfry recorded that in 1860 the Southwark Youths Society rang a muffled peal for Richard Mills, 'a late member of the Cumberlands Society,' who died at the age of 84. Mills, who was a tobacconist by trade, had been largely instrumental in saving the Society of College Youths at the period of its greatest decline.

In recent years Lambeth bells have been recast by Messrs. Taylors, of Loughborough.

A KINDLY WISH.

Ye ringers who in deafening bands
No pity have for age or sex,
Would that the ropes pulled by your hands
Were fastened round your cursed necks!

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.**MR. CARTMEL'S RECOLLECTIONS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Like my friend, Mr. W. H. Lawrence, I was also interested in your article, 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' having known the Squire and his band for over 54 years. I was present at the meeting at Baldock on Saturday, June 21st, 1890, and, being assistant secretary to the Hertford County Association at that time, I entered up the minutes and can confirm what the 'Squire' said about the ringing, 'touches of Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire-Triples being successfully accomplished,' according to my minute.

It was the general custom of the Benington band to ring as a band at our quarterly meetings, and then retire for a smoke or a refresher. But this did not stop the ringing at the Baldock meeting, for there were plenty of other capable men to keep the bells going. Many statements have been made that the Benington men were unable to read or write, and that they learnt their methods with the aid of chalk and stones. I have recently been in conversation with a younger and former member of the band, who is 78 years of age, and he emphatically disproves the statement. He informs me that Squire Proctor was a Cambridge University man, and learnt change ringing whilst at the university. On his becoming Squire of Benington he gathered the employes on his estate and taught them change ringing from the books then in use. He was an enthusiastic ringer, and as Mr. Lawrence states in his letter, he took his men on ringing excursions regularly every year.

Amongst the older ringers who first rang the Surprise methods were Messrs. Charles Hollingsworth, John Aylott, Luke Carter and Ben Lott. I append the names of the famous band as I knew them, with their occupation and age at death: Squire Proctor, Lord of the Manor, 86 years; Charles Hollingsworth, groom, 86 years; Thomas Page, gardener, 70 years; Samuel Page (son of above), gardener, 79 years; John Kitchener, builder, 75 years; Leonard Chapman, gamekeeper, 92 years; Joseph Kitchener, carpenter, 86 years; Charles Shambrook, groom, 92 years; Nathan Warner, haybinder, 71 years. Among the 'younger' men were Messrs. Herbert Warner, Jabez Warner, Walter Hobbs and Walter Smith, some of whom, I believe, have 'passed on,' but Herbert Warner is still with us, residing at St. Albans. The total number of years for the nine men totals 757 years, a good advertisement for the healthy exercise of ringing.

Duffield, St. Albans.

G. W. CARTMEL.

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.**QUICK PEALS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Mr. W. Shepherd's letter is partly answered by that of Mr. Groombridge, but while the two peals at Crayford in 2 hours 14 minutes and 2 hours 17 minutes were, of course, extreme examples, there have been innumerable others, both Triples and Major, in well under the time of 2 hours 48 minutes, which he quotes as an average time for Triples on bells of their weight. Some which I can remember are these: November or December, 1932, Stedman Triples, 2 hours 33 minutes; December 20th, 1929, Grandsire Triples, 2-36; March, 1930, Erith Little Bob, 2-38; January 5th, 1934, Cambridge Surprise, 2-38; May, 1930, Grandsire Triples, 2-39.

There is nothing really remarkable in this. The bells are in ball bearings, go excellently, can be heard plainly and there is a short draught of rope, so that conditions for quick ringing are ideal. Nevertheless, in more recent years the tendency has been towards slower ringing, largely, I think, because peal bands have generally contained a greater percentage of less experienced ringers than was the case between 1928 and mid-1934, during which period all the above mentioned peals were rung.

E. A. BARNETT.

DEATH OF MR. H. N. IMESON.

The death is announced of Mr. H. N. Imeson, who passed away on October 30th, after an operation in hospital, at the age of 58. For 35 years he had been a member of the York Minster band and was a safe and enthusiastic ringer. He started his ringing career on the six bells at Bishophill, and at one time served on the committee of the Yorkshire Association.

The funeral was at Fuford Cemetery on November 4th. Members of the Minster band acted as bearers and afterwards rang a course of Grandsire Triples over the grave. The band was S. Steel 1-2, E. Rickett 3-4, L. F. Earnshaw 5-6, H. Walker 7-8. Other Minster ringers present were H. Forden and W. Ayre, J. Douglas from New Earswick, and T. W. Robbins and J. Reader from Escrick.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT THORNE.**

At a meeting of the Doncaster and District Association held at Thorne on October 30th, members were present from Arksey, Doncaster, Barnby Don and Sutton-in-Ashfield, as well as Pte. Clark, of Chelsea. A letter from the Central Council was referred to the committee.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Many happy returns to Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, whose birthday is to-day.

Congratulations to Mr. George Cross, whose birthday was last Tuesday, and to Mr. Harry Chapman, who is 80 years old to-day.

Congratulations to Flight-Sergt. Leslie G. Holland, of St. Mary's, Nottingham, who has been awarded the D.F.M.

All the band who rang in the peal of Minor at Sunningwell on Saturday are resident junior members of Oxford University. It was the first university tower-bell peal in which ladies have taken part. Three of the band, the Misses Tutt, Houldsworth and Lloyd, had not rung open tower bells before the lifting of the ban.

Mr. C. E. Borrett points out that Mr. C. T. Coles was in error when he said that the Oxford Diocesan Association was the first ringing association which definitely connected itself by name with the Church. It was founded in 1880. The Norwich Diocesan Association was born in 1877.

On Sunday, October 24th, the Mayor of Liskeard, Mr. W. H. H. Huddy, visited the belfry of the Parish Church and rang for morning service. Mr. Huddy was at one time a very active member of the local band and rang regularly every Sunday, but previous to his visit of the 24th had not rung for several years.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,

Onslow Street,

Guildford, Surrey.

RINGER REPATRIATED.

Mr. Harry D. Shackleton, who is a member of the band at St. Bartholomew's, Westhoughton, was recently repatriated from Germany, and a peal arranged to welcome him home. It was followed by a tea provided by the Vicar and his wife.

Unfortunately, Mr. Shackleton was not well enough to leave the hospital. Mr. Peter Crook expressed the feeling of the party, who sent Mr. Shackleton best wishes for a speedy recovery and a return to the belfry.

RUSSIAN BELLS IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Evening News' of September 17th, Russian bells in England were mentioned in the 'Talk of the Day' column. Mr. Dore, whose father owned Pinner Hill House about 25 years ago, told Mr. David Preston (for some years British Vice-Consul at Sebastopol) that there were bells there which he believed were Russian. A letter of inquiry to Sir Ernest Jelf, of Pinner, was passed on to me.

The property is now owned by the Pinner Hill Golf Club, and the secretary gave me permission to examine them.

There was a clock and five bells which had not been in use for years, and an inscription plate which stated, 'These five bells of the respective weights of 28½, 159, 66½, 37 and 17 lb. were made by Demetrius Samgin, bell founder, Moscow, and purchased at the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park by A. W. Tooke, who placed them here A.D. MDCCCLXIX.'

After several visits I have succeeded in getting the clock (nearly 100 years old) to go and have put the chiming and striking apparatus in order. It chimes the quarters on four bells and strikes on the big bell. They are very melodious and Mr. Preston hopes to have a record made of them which may be broadcast to Moscow.

Do you know of any other Russian bells in England or how they came to be sent so far?

E. M. WARE.

16, The Close, Pinner Green.

[There is a Russian bell hung in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle, which was brought from Sebastopol as a war trophy after the Crimean War, and presented to Queen Victoria. It was tolled at her funeral and those of King Edward and King George.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

AN UNUSUAL CHIME.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ware tells me the old bells on Pinner Hill are a most unusual chime, but very melodious. He has put in quite a lot of work during the last few weeks, as all the works were rusted up, and he had to use hammer and chisel to get them apart, but with a lot of patience and a good drop of oil he has got it to go quite well.

TOM COLLINS.

Bayhurst, 165, Linden Avenue, Ruislip.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY MR. E. H. LEWIS.

Last Saturday, at the College Youths' luncheon, Mr. E. H. Lewis, the President of the Central Council, replying to the toast of the Press, made a statement which will be read by all ringers with relief and thankfulness. He said:—

I never expected, as a newspaper proprietor, to respond to the toast of the Press. How I came to be one I will tell you later.

First, I want, as a ringer, to express to the proprietors and editors of the larger and more widely read newspapers our appreciation of the way they dealt with the ban and the revival of ringing after El Alamein. The officers (or, perhaps, to satisfy certain purists, I should say the acting officers) of the Central Council had a very busy day or two answering telephone calls from Fleet Street; and we tried to emphasise the benefit to ringers if the demand for the total removal of the ban came from the general public rather than from the ringers themselves. In that, I think, we succeeded, and we appreciate the way the newspapers responded to our suggestions.

You, no doubt, are thinking mainly of our own paper, and about 'The Ringing World' I want to speak to you. You all know that Mr. Goldsmith's deep interest in life was the production of his paper, largely as a labour of love and for the good of the Exercise. What great good he did do has been told on many other occasions. For some years many of us had been very anxious as to what would happen if anything occurred to prevent him carrying on. Immediately after his funeral, twelve members of the Central Council who were present met the executors and the printer, and by exercise of good will on all sides, came to an arrangement for continuing publication while negotiations for some permanent transfer went on.

These negotiations were unfortunately rather protracted. The Council, with their slender resources, could not afford to buy a pig in a poke, and the examination of the contents of the poke were necessarily, as it turned out, lengthy and complicated. Ultimately, however, agreement has been reached, and within the last two days Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Hughes and myself have become proprietors of the paper, as trustees for the Central Council.

War time conditions make this temporary arrangement necessary, for it would be impossible to float a company,

as may be done later. That will be a matter for the Council to decide when the war is over. The main thing is that the paper has not missed a single issue, and I do not believe for a moment that result could have been achieved if it had not been for the prompt action of the Standing Committee in the first place.

Before I go on I must say how much we owe to Mr. Fletcher and his hon. secretary for the enormous amount of work they did in arriving at a valuation as a basis for negotiation. And we owe something to the forbearance of the executors, who were anxious for a settlement, and, perhaps, did not quite realise the complexity of the problem of arriving at the necessary figures.

Now as to the future. The new proprietors were extraordinarily fortunate in the transition period in obtaining the services of the present Editor. His knowledge of ringing is widespread, and on the historical side I think we can say he knows more about ringing than anyone else has ever known. Having appointed him we intend to back him up to our utmost, and I trust that the Exercise will support him and the paper in the most practical way by increasing the circulation. There is evidence that they are already doing so, which shows that the paper in its present form suits the majority of the readers. We have a hope of an increased supply of paper for increase of circulation only (not to enlarge the paper) and we shall need it.

The readers are the people for whom the paper is compiled; for their pleasure and edification, not for the pleasure of the contributors. No doubt the Editor is, and will be pleased to receive contributions, but don't forget that he must use his discretion as to what is published in accordance with the general policy and rules he lays down for himself. Please don't forget either that the war has imposed restrictions on paper, restrictions on the percentage of the paper which may be taken up with notices and advertisements and so on. If some notices were not cut down by the Editor others would never appear at all. Think of the Editor's difficulties and help him as much as you can, and I am sure the health of the paper will be assured.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that in order to obtain the necessary amount of working capital for the present transitional period, the associations had been asked to lend money. The response had been gratifying, especially from the smaller associations.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EDMONTON.

The joint meeting held at Edmonton on Saturday, October 16th, between the North and East District of the Middlesex Association and the London District of the Ladies' Guild was attended by well over fifty ringers.

A number of methods were rung on the tower bells and opportunity was given to everyone present to share in the ringing. At the service, which was fully choral, the Rector gave an address of welcome, in which he expressed pleasure at seeing so many people devoting their energies to this particular branch of church work.

Tea was in an adjoining hall and all costs were defrayed by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, the former a past vice-president of the association.

There was no business meeting, but some current news of interest to ringers in general was given. Thanks were expressed by Mrs. R. F. Deal to the Rector and other local people who shared in the arrangements and the successful outcome of the occasion.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the comments on Real Double Norwich and would like to point out that a peal of Real was rung at Moorside, Oldham, on Saturday, April 7th, 1934, the first and, I believe, the only one for the Lancashire Association. The composition was by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by Christopher Gudgeon. The calls were double throughout the peal.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

THE SOUND OF THE BELLS.

To those who have an ear for music the sound of bells has a cheerfully soothing effect, sometimes diverting thoughts from needless cares and anxieties to calm and tender moods and pleasant remembrances: memories and scenes of the past are brought back fresh and new almost as in days gone by.—Dr. George Gregory, 1876.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON.

The 306th anniversary luncheon of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held at Slater's Restaurant on November 6th and was attended by 110 members. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided, the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. Albert A. Hughes, and among those present were Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. Edwin H. Lewis (president of the Central Council), Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Council), Messrs. C. T. Coles, E. P. Duffield, E. A. Young, G. Steere, G. Strickland, Capt. A. R. Poyntz, Messrs. F. Haynes, A. Walker, C. W. Roberts, E. C. S. Turner, J. A. Trollope, F. Rogers, J. W. Jones, T. B. Worsley, F. Sharp, R. Newton, W. H. Passmore, G. Fearn, T. Hibbert, W. Hibbert, G. N. Price, T. Groombridge, sen., H. Hodgetts, E. Jennings, C. H. Kippin, F. Collins, D. Cooper, R. W. Stannard, H. Hoskins, J. E. Davis, W. Williams, H. Miles, A. B. Wifen, R. Deal, J. E. L. Cocker, E. Hartley, J. Thomas, J. Chalk, the Rev. Kenneth C. Davis and others.

During lunch the Master took wine with the oldest member present, Canon Coleridge, with the members of over fifty years' standing, the past members, members of H.M. Forces and all present.

The Master gave the toast of the King.

THE TOAST OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood proposed the toast of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' He said he remembered the very able manner in which this toast had been proposed in past years by Canon G. F. Coleridge, whom they were delighted to see present that day. He supposed that the two most important happenings during the past twelve months were the lifting of the ban on ringing and the tremendous wave of favourable public reaction towards bells and ringing. He wanted to see this reaction exploited to the full by ringers and their organisations, and suggested that the public should be made more welcome in the belfry and shown how ringing was done. He felt that ringers should become much more active on local church councils and also take their proper place in diocesan and advisory committees.

With regard to the Society of College Youths, they had during the past four years, gone through the most difficult period in their history. Throughout all the recent trials the society had stood like a rock, standing for all that is best in ringing tradition. He thought there was no accident about this, but that it was due to the very careful and discriminating way the officers were chosen. They were thankful to have such an efficient Master, who conducted the business of the society in a dignified, yet courteous, way.

Mr. Smallwood said that he would like, on behalf of all who attended the meetings of the society, to pay a special tribute to Mr. A. A. Hughes, the treasurer, who, when the society was homeless, put a roof over their heads, and worked a fortnightly miracle in feeding those present. It was to Mr. Alfred B. Peck, their secretary, that the most difficult task of all had fallen, namely, to follow such a great secretary as the late W. T. Cockerill. He felt that Mr. Peck was following worthily in his footsteps, and that as long as they were served by officers such as they now possessed, the future of the Ancient Society of College Youths was safe.

Mr. A. B. Peck said it was most gratifying to the officers of the society that their efforts met with approval. They had done their best and tried to carry on. They were satisfied if members approved. The society could not do much ringing because they had lost most of their bells, but members and friends were always welcome at the meetings. During the last year 93 in all had attended. The officers, the Master, the treasurer and the secretary had each put in the maximum number of attendances.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Mr. Charles W. Roberts proposed the toast of 'The Kindred Ringing Societies.' He said that during the very difficult period through which the art of ringing had been passing the kindred societies had done a great work in 'keeping the flag flying' up and down the country. One had only to read the reports of meetings in 'The Ringing World' to realise the great work which they have done, much of it quiet and unobtrusive, but none the less useful. Their own College Youth meetings during past years had been attended by many members of kindred societies, and they were always pleased to welcome them. This war had done much to bring together men of various views and ideas, and it was equally true of ringers as of those engaged in other pursuits. They had carried on in a true spirit of brotherhood and kinship. When peace returns there will be much for all to do to get the art of ringing firmly re-established and if they approach the tasks in the spirit of brotherhood which has manifested itself during the hard times through which they had passed, had no fears for the future of the Exercise. When he looked round and saw many officials and members of kindred societies he would have liked to say something nice of every one of them, but time did not permit.

Mr. Roberts coupled with the toast the name of Mr. F. E. Haynes, of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild. Among the famous men that the society has produced was the late Henry Johnson, who in

the realm of composition, especially of Treble Bob, Stedman Caters and Cinques, was one of the greatest exponents of his generation, perhaps of all time.

Mr. Roberts also included in the toast the name of Mr. G. W. Steere, hon. secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths. Between the College Youths and the Cumberlands there had been much rivalry in the past, but the only rivalry which now existed was friendly rivalry. Nowadays College Youths are always welcome at meetings of the Cumberland Society, and they always welcomed members of the Cumberland Society to their meetings, and were pleased to see them.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, in returning thanks, said for some years past there had been growing the feeling that the ties between the College Youths and the provincial societies were getting closer. Throughout the war the admiration they always felt for the Ancient Society had greatly increased because of the efforts that had been made in London to keep things going. They had done the same in Birmingham. As a result of their efforts things were in some respects more favourable than before the war. There was a great opportunity for ringers. The attitude of many of the public had changed. Those who used to grumble found they missed something when the bells were stopped, and now do not grumble. It was an opportunity which should be taken advantage of. The results of the ban were serious and the losses were severe, but there was the opportunity, and if all did their best, as the College Youths were doing, and as they in Birmingham were doing, and others as well, the Exercise would survive, and they would be able to look back on these days not with regret but with thankfulness.

Mr. G. W. Steere also spoke. He said that thanks were due to Mr. Hughes for the hospitality always shown at the College Youths' meetings at the foundry. The Cumberlands, too, were always pleased to see visitors at their meetings. If it were not for the College Youths ringing would be in a far poorer state than it is to-day.

THE PRESS.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed the toast of 'The Press' and 'The Ringing World.' He said everyone must be gratified with the good news coming from all war fronts, a most auspicious sign of sure and final victory, and congratulated the Press on the marvellous way the daily papers had regularly appeared, especially during the raids on London and other parts of the country. Ringers also had the hearty support of the Press during and especially since the removal of the ban on bellringing. Great prominence was given to last November Victory Day ringing, and when the ban was lifted last April special articles appeared in all the leading papers welcoming back the sound of bells and saying how much they had been missed by all sections of the community.

Referring to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Walker said that for more than 60 years ringers had had a weekly paper of their own, and for the past 32 years 'The Ringing World' had appeared regularly each week, this in spite of the late Editor's illness and lamented death. Here Mr. Walker paid tribute to Mr. J. A. Trollope for his work during that period and subsequently since he had been appointed Editor to succeed Mr. Goldsmith, and he felt sure Mr. Trollope would receive the wholehearted support of all the associations and their members. Mr. Walker congratulated Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. G. W. Fletcher and Mr. A. A. Hughes on their work in taking over on behalf of the Central Council 'The Ringing World' in a satisfactory manner, which would be a lasting benefit to all.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council, replied to the toast. A full report of his speech will be found on page 495.

Mr. E. A. Young proposed the toast of 'The Fragrant Memory of the Masters of 300, 200 and 100 years ago.'

At the end of the luncheon a short business meeting was held, at which all the officers were re-elected for another year's term of service as follows: Master, Mr. Ernest G. Fenn; hon. secretary, Mr. Alfred B. Peck; hon. treasurer, Mr. Albert A. Hughes; senior steward, Mr. Jack A. Waugh; junior steward, Mr. George W. Cecil; trustees, Messrs. H. R. Newton and H. G. Miles.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORWICH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Norwich on October 23rd, was attended by between 40 and 50 ringers from Beccles, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Diss, Gillingham, Mulbarton, Norwich, Garboldisham, Leicester, Ranworth, Long Stratton, Scottow, Stradbroke, Wroxham and Wymondham.

Ringings took place on the eight at St. Miles', which have been silent since the ban, and where the new Rector is anxious to get the local band increased in numbers. Later the 12 at Mancroft were rung.

Ringings included usual methods up to Stedman Caters and Cambridge Major. The bells at both towers were half-muffled in memory of Bishop Pollock, for long patron of the association, and Bishop of Norwich from 1910 to 1942, who died during the week. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, general secretary, and the Rev. A. R. Freeman. Mrs. Rose's tea in the Parish Hall almost rivalled Mrs. Ford's tea at the Ranworth meeting.

It was arranged to have the next meetings at New Buckenham on November 20th and St. Giles', Norwich, on December 4th if possible.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.
THE BELLS AND RINGERS.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 473.)

To ensure the bells being rung on Sundays, a list of members responsible for this task was prepared at the beginning of each year. This band apparently shared between them such payment as was made by the churchwardens for the ringing of the bells. It was known as the 'Scrufe,' which term appears to have originated with the College Youths in London, it being used to this day at such places as St. Paul's Cathedral, where there is a definitely chosen company of ringers receiving some monetary reward. Nowadays at St. Mary's there is no need of a 'Scrufe,' and the comparatively small sum of money received for ringing is devoted to covering the cost of the annual outing.

Of the members belonging to the society in these early days, two still remain as members; one of them is the present hon. secretary of the society, John Hugh Wilkins, son of the John Wilkins who was the first secretary. Mr. Wilkins attends ringing twice every Sunday, except when away from home, and is still fit, at the age of 74, to ring in a peal if occasion arises.

Robert J. Maynard, who is 78 years of age, is also still a member. Every Sunday, without regard to weather conditions, finds Mr. Maynard in the belfry, and he seldom misses a practice. He is always ready to ring in a peal, and is equally at home, whether ringing the tenor as a covering bell, 'banging the drum,' or one of the smaller bells. Some of the best struck peals of Triples and Caters rung at St. Mary's have been rung with Mr. Maynard on the tenor, and as recently as February last year he rang this bell through a peal. He holds the record of having rung at St. Mary's on Christmas morning each year for 62 years, with the exception of two or three war-time years, when ringing was impossible. During the 62 years, he has rung on 47 occasions at St. Mary's, and on 15 at St. Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road, to welcome in the New Year. He is a brother of the late Thomas Maynard, and has three sons who have been members of the company, two of them still remaining in the society. His home from 1865 to 1913 was in the Vestry House, Walthamstow, now the Walthamstow Museum.

It would be impossible to mention all the members of these early days who have gone, but one of them must not be forgotten. I refer to William B. Manning, who died in June, 1934. He became ringing Master on the death of Thomas Maynard, and continued so until moving to Royston, Herts, just before the last war. He returned to Walthamstow in 1926, and rejoined the society. It would be impossible to convey any idea of his beautiful nature and fine character by words that I could write, and I will content myself by referring to him as a true British gentleman.

In later years other men joined the society, amongst them being Frederick Rumens and Robert K. Knights, who became hon. members in 1892. Mr. Rumens held a post in a Government office, and as a man of good education soon became prominent in the society. He was assistant hon. secretary for many years until his death in

1916. Mr. Knights was employed in H.M. Customs. He did not do a great deal of ringing, but at Gloucester, where he originally came from, and at Walthamstow, he joined the ringers mainly from love of hearing bells. He has done no ringing at all for about 20 years, having been confined to his bed for the greater part of this time with an incurable leg trouble. At the age of 90 he is still able to follow all the doings of the ringing world, and nothing gives him greater pleasure than to receive a visit from an old ringing colleague.

William H. Freeman and Abraham G. Freeman, members for several years, were uncle and father respectively to the famous Tich Freeman, the Kent and England cricketer, and of another cricketer who has played for Essex. William died about five years ago, and I believe that his brother, too, is dead.

Throughout its existence there have been members of the society who have had some influence on ringing matters elsewhere. William D. Smith, who was a member of the society between 1910 and 1920, at one time held the office of Master of the College Youths, considered by many to be the highest ringing office in the country. Mr. Albert A. Hughes, a member during the same period, was also Master of the College Youths, his term of office coming during his membership of the Walthamstow Society. A minute passed by the members congratulates him on attaining such high office and bringing honour to the society. These two gentlemen are still alive. Mr. Smith, on retirement from service in the Post Office, went to Eastbourne to live, whilst Mr. Hughes, who is a son-in-law of Mr. Smith, is now the head of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Mr. Hughes' father, the late Arthur Hughes, who died in 1916, was a member of the St. Mary's Society for a year or two before his death, and he also was for one term Master of the College Youths, and for many years treasurer of that society. (Mr. W. D. Smith has since died.)

Another member of 20 years' standing, Henry Rumens, was at one time hon. secretary of the S.W. Division of the Essex Association, from September, 1911, to April, 1916, when he resigned to join H.M. Forces. Mr. Rumens is at present Deputy Master of the St. Mary's Society.

Another member, the reader of this paper, has for 24 years been hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, and has represented that Guild on the Central Council for the last 14 years. He has been a member of St. Mary's Society since 1909.

The present society is composed of some 15 members, all of whom reside in Walthamstow or nearby. There are some useful ringers amongst them, and in ringing ability the society compares favourably with any band for some miles round. The present Ringing Master is Fred Maynard, son of Robert J. Maynard, the Deputy Master is Henry Rumens, and the hon. secretary is John H. Wilkins, both of whom have already been referred to. The steeplekeeper, whose duty it is to look after the bells, to keep them oiled and in order, is James C. Adams. It has been said that if all steeplekeepers were as painstaking and efficient as Mr. Adams, bell hangers would soon become bankrupt.

(Since Mr. Coles' lecture, Mr. Maynard has died. He passed away last August. R. K. Knights died soon after Mr. Coles spoke, and W. D. Smith somewhat later.)

(To be continued.)

DIARY OF AN EMBRYO RINGER.

(Dates approximate only.)

1940-1941-1942. I spend periodically an enjoyable evening at the Vicarage. Vicar occasionally introduces subject of ringing, with obvious nostalgia. Can well understand. Feel the same about Television. Vicar shows me Ringer's Handbook. Am impressed. Retaliate with book on Television. Vicar very kind about book. Neither make any effort to read each other's books in full, but sound basis for mutual respect undoubtedly established.

One such evening Vicar suggests 'lapping.' Never heard of it, but willing to try anything once. Vicar, Mrs. V., my wife and self take up semi-dignified positions on floor with handbells, owing to absence of usual table. Final instructions. Lapping starts. Ceases in confusion. More instructions. We are apparently doing a 'plain course.' Lapping stops again in confusion. Ribaldry from my wife (as usual). Vicar explains in much detail what we did wrong. This subject appears hideously technical. Start again. Forget which is my right hand and which is my left, also cannot distinguish up from down, but we do a set of 'originals.' Original what? Vicar says, 'Now for some dodging.' (My knees very sore, toes bent double.) What is dodging? Have sneaking desire to glance at Ringer's Handbook. We lap again. We dodge. I try to collect three bells and find I can only ring two at once. Leave Vicarage late, exhausted but interested.

APRIL, 1943. Ban taken off. Vicar wildly excited. Will I take it up? Gives me Ringer's Handbook to take home. Never pictured myself as a church bellringer. Look at book. Yes, there is undoubtedly something there. (Feel that last entry not entirely complimentary to author.) Read book from cover to cover. Feel there is a hell of a lot there. Give Vicar affirmative reply. We begin next Wednesday.

MAY 5th. Proceed to tower. Groome lashes the clappers. Vicar puts No. 4 up. Learn that this means 'turn it upside down.' Consider this a somewhat bold policy, but it appears to be part of the game. Vicar invites me to 'pull off at backstroke.' Feel very apprehensive, but try. Cause Vicar fifty fits by nearly pulling the tower off the church. Have I broken anything? Nearly, but not quite. Return home, thinking deeply.

MAY 19th. Promoted to handstroke. Full of fears, but I manage it. Return home, thinking more deeply.

JUNE 2nd. Try 'hand and back.' This is fine! Oh, but is it? Rope suddenly becomes possessed. Fear instant death. Rope tries to amputate my left hand and then tears round the belfry with me after it. Other learners huddled in corner. Life is lived dangerously these days. But stay, the Vicar approaches. He puts out his hand. Miraculously all is quiet, and the rope perfectly docile. What a man! Look meditatively at the spot on the ceiling where I think my brains (have I any?) would have been spilled. Resume gingerly. Vicar is soothing. It does not happen again. I am not convinced that it won't.

JUNE 9th. Decide that I like heavy bells and dislike light bells.

JUNE 16th. Decide that I like light bells and dislike heavy bells.

JUNE 26th. At last Vicar says we will have bells open. My first rounds! What a thrill! Can't keep time for toffee, but this is the goods.

JULY 2nd. I ring No. 5. I bump badly. Mrs. V. swallows hard. (Useless to hope she wouldn't notice.) Vicar rings No. 5. Vicar in a sinister manner stops ringing No. 5 and ascends to the bell chamber. Awful truth emerges: I have cracked the stay. Feel dreadful. Can't imagine what Groome is thinking. Vicar very kind.

JULY 5th. All is well. Stay mended. Give Vicar 6s. and feel I ought to give £10 to the Belfry Repair Fund.

JULY 12th. Improving my rounds. Furiously studying book. Frequent visits to Vicarage for handbells. Subject bristles with difficulties.

JULY 16th. Promoted to Sunday ringing. Learn that ringers should attend divine service. Goodbye to the dissolute habits of my youth. Vicar adjures me to study Bob Minor. Dutifully B.M. eschewing Grandsire.

JULY 28th. Vicar desires me to ring Grandsire. This shakes my former belief that double-crossing is not done in church circles. Furiously study Grandsire, Stedman and Kent in case of similar emergency.

AUGUST 4th. Blood and tears, toil and sweat.

AUGUST 11th. More of above.

AUGUST 18th. Great excitement. Rang 30 changes of Grandsire on No. 2. Vicar beams. Mrs. V. beams. Plaster them with questions.

AUGUST 25th. Better and better. Sixty of Grandsire on the treble. Join Ringers' Guild on the strength of it.

AUGUST 28th. Branch meeting at our own tower. Ring 120 of Grandsire on treble in presence of Hon. Sec. Hon. Sec. takes it as a matter of course. He little knows! Vicar and Mrs. V. very pleased. I am somewhat dazed. Wish Hon. Sec. was not so hardboiled.

SEPTEMBER 1st. Do 120 of Bob Minor on handbells. Very elated. Buy another ringing book. This tactlessly tells of some supermen who rang 19,738 changes at one sitting. Not so elated, thought better of the book than that.

SEPTEMBER 8th. Blood, etc. Can't manage inside work in the tower.

SEPTEMBER 11th. Meeting at Little Ringham. Ring treble. Strange? Must have mistaken it for the tenor. Pull harder. Bell comes down lower. Am hunting up beautifully, but this is supposed to be rounds. Mercifully the conductor calls 'Stand.' Proverb about bad workman who blames his tools appears written in letters of fire on opposite wall, but determine to lodge official complaint about installation. Do so to Mrs. V. She stands to bell. Await decision with great interest. Is it the bell, or was it me? They start rounds. Treble moves smartly to 4th place. Mrs. V. assumes look of determination and endeavours to climb rope. Treble now in 5th's place. I have sudden vision of the tenor at Exeter. Mrs. V. calls up reserves and treble goes to 6th's place. Mrs. V. issues decision that bell is not in order. My idea exactly. Feel immense relief. Look Hon. Sec. squarely in the eye. Later much enjoy pint with Groome.

SEPTEMBER 29th. Do 360 of Bob Minor on handbells. Feel grand, but still depressed about tower. Can't remember a lot of figures. Begin to suspect I must count as on handbells. I ask Maud how she rings. Maud remembers multitudes of figures. Incredible woman! Ask Haynes. He counts. Ah! Buy complete library of ringing books. They have, to my relief, strong sympathy for the counter, especially Trollope. Will Vicar mind if I count? Decide to count and make voluble explanation afterwards.

OCTOBER 13th. Boldly volunteer to ring inside in Grandsire. Do so, counting like billy-ho. Hurray! It works! Great accession of confidence. Bye-bye to the treble. Must do 720 of Bob Minor by Christmas if possible. Make voluble explanation to Mrs. V. Make 2nd ditto to Vicar. Both received with habitual interest. Can hardly wait for next practice.

OCTOBER 20th. At last. Stand to No. 2 for plain course of Bob Minor. Off we go. Lead, smoothly up behind, nicely back towards lead. Neat dodge in 4-3. Hope the Vicar is noticing. Dodge 6-5 less perfectly. Oh, dear, am hopelessly lost. Chaos is developing. Will Vicar be able to rescue the course? He is battling gamely. Must back him up. Was that the 5-6 or the 3-4 dodge? Good, we win through to rounds. What is this? Oh, yes, I am at end stroke when everyone else is at hand. Must have struck an extra blow for good measure. Maud inordinately amused. Vicar's expression somewhat critical. Retrieve reputation a little by ringing tenor down in peal more or less blithely.

D. C. B.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHISLEHURST.

The annual meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association was held on October 23rd at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, and about fifty members attended from Bexley, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Eltham, Lewisham, Woolwich and the two local bands.

Tea in 'Mary's Parlour' was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar, the Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves, presided. Mr. T. Groombridge was congratulated on his presence and improvement after his recent illness. Eleven new members were elected.

Mr. J. E. Bailey, district representative, submitted a report of proceedings at the committee meeting held at Maidstone on August Monday. The report was adopted with thanks.

Messrs. J. E. Bailey and E. Barnett were re-elected district representatives, and A. G. Hill and T. Groombridge, sen., were reappointed as district secretary and Ringing Master respectively.

St. John's Erith was chosen as the place for the January meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that premiums for insurance of church fittings, including bells and organs, against war damage had recently been very substantially reduced and suggested that ringers should press for the attention of parochial church councils to the new scale of charges, as it was likely that in a good many cases the expense could now reasonably be met where it was prohibitive before.

A letter from Mr. Pat Murphy, now a prisoner of war in Italy, was read and its addressee was asked to convey to him the meeting's good wishes.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar concluded the meeting.

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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at East Grinstead, November 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. till black-out. Tea and handbells after.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lower Beeding, November 13th, 3 p.m.; blacked out.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Buses from Dunstable, St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, November 13th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Cawthorne, Saturday, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by November 10th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby, St. Peter's, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall, 5 p.m.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Kibworth, Nov. 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Village Hall 5 p.m. Names must be sent by Nov. 10th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

ILANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Caerphilly, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Meeting to follow.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden on Nov. 20th. Bells from 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea. Numbers by Nov. 17th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual general meeting Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m., but those for tea notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Nov. 17th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at West Haddon on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Bring own food. Cup of tea provided.—C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at New Buckenham, 2 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.15. Tea (bring own food) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.15 and 2.20; leave New Buckenham 5.22 and 6.17.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, Close, Norwich.

IPSWICH.—St. Mary-le-Tower.—Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 20th, 2.15-6 p.m., for 8, 10 and 12 bell ringing.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Nailsea, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Marlborough, Saturday, Nov. 20th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names by Nov. 16th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, near Marlborough, Wilts.

ST. NEOTS, HUNTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 2.30 p.m.—A. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Nov. 21st, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Notifications for tea to Mr. L. Reece, 6, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. J. Nichols, 20, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Thursday, Nov. 25th.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m., only for those who notify Mr. Frank Taylor, Deeping St. Nicholas, before Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names to Mr. E. Gardner, Ivy House, The Sands, near Farnham, by Wednesday, 24th.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1943.

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A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Last Monday was the first anniversary of a day which will long be remembered by the Exercise, and may quite well go down in history as the turning point in the great struggle with Germany. It was the day on which we rang the bells for the victory of El Alamein.

For us ringers the occasion could not be other than important, for it was the first break in the long silence which had been imposed on our belfries, and, apart from any national considerations, it gave us an opportunity once more of practising our art and of meeting our friends in the old familiar conditions and surroundings.

But, of course, it was much more than that, and the wonderful way in which the public responded to the sound of the bells was perhaps a sure sign that they felt, rather than realised, that the crisis of the war had been reached and passed. The people of England were like a man who has long been toiling painfully and dangerously up a steep and rugged path. Pitfalls and precipices surround him and mist covers his way. Suddenly he reaches a point where the ground seems more level, a momentary gust of wind clears the fog for an instant, and he sees in a flash before him, not indeed the end of his journey, nor the end of his toil, but that the path in front, though still hard and painful, is on the whole downwards, while in the far distance there is a brightness in the sky which is the assurance of his journey's end. The mists close in again and the vision is hidden almost as soon as it is revealed, but the effect remains.

Until the day the bells rang, England never doubted that victory would be won. Faith and hope were never dimmed. When the bells rang, knowledge and assurance were added, and they have grown increasingly during the months which have followed.

It was no spirit of boastfulness that prompted the ringing, and it is well to remember the message which was issued from Downing Street, asking that 'church bells should be rung throughout the land in celebrating the success granted to the Forces of the Empire and our allies in the Battle of Egypt, and as a call to thanksgiving and renewed prayer. Although the future of war is always full of hazards and uncertainties, nevertheless there are occasions when thanksgiving for mercies received may be offered in all humility.'

It was our great privilege as ringers to be the ministers and representatives of the nation on that occasion. We are entitled to feel restrained pride that we did not fail in our duty, and we are now reaping our reward, full measure, pressed down and overflowing. Never before,

(Continued on page 502.)

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certainly never before in recent times, have ringers and their art been so highly esteemed as they are to-day. We have great cause for thankfulness, but we must not forget that it gives us a great opportunity and lays on us great responsibilities. There are stern and difficult days yet ahead, and we shall not be able to get full enjoyment out of change ringing until those days are past, but now there is a general call for the bells to be rung, and it is our duty to do what we can to satisfy it. The very best ringing any band is capable of is needed, and the best ringing is not that in the most complex methods, but that which sounds the best and gives the most pleasure, not only to the general public but to any competent ringer who may be listening critically outside.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, November 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 7
*MISS VALHALLA V. H. HILL 2	†FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS 8
*MISS BETTY SPICE 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 9
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 4	J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN 10
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT 5	RICHARD WHITE 11
*WILLIAM C. PORTER 6	GORDON CAUDWELL Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE
* First attempt for a peal on twelve bells. † First peal of Grandsire Cinques.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SUPERLATIVE, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE AND LONDON
SURPRISE MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 2	EDWIN JENNINGS 6
PHILIP A. CORBY 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
FRANCIS KIRK 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.
This composition contained 1,440 Superlative, 1,280 Bristol, 1,216 Cambridge and 1,088 London, with 107 changes of method.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*MISS E. HARRINGTON Treble	ALFRED H. WINCH 5
WILLIAM NEWBERRY 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH 6
JOHN HOLLIS 3	ALBERT HARMAN 7
GEORGE MARRINER 4	DANIEL D. COOPER Tenor

Composed by I. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. HARMAN.
* First peal. Rung after meeting short for Treble Bob.

STONE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLY'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt

*LESLIE BUCKLEY Treble	JOHN H. HEAD 5
WILLIS BUCKLEY 2	ARTHUR ROWLEY 6
ANDREW THOMPSON 3	CHARLES H. PAGE 7
CLAUDE TEMPLETON 4	*HAROLD PRITCHARD Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WOOLTON,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

*THOMAS LEE Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON 5
GEORGE H. HESKETH 2	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 6
THOMAS W. HAMMOND 3	PERCIVAL W. CAVE 7
THOMAS W. HESKETH 4	FRANK VARTY Tenor

(Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE,

* First peal of Stedman. Rung with the bells half-muffled and as a memorial peal for the late Archdeacon Howson, who was for many years Rector of this church and warden of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, November 7, 1943, in Two Hours and twenty-seven Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Major in hand. First peal of Major in hand as conductor.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

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

MRS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and thirty-five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRED F. MORETON 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	CYRIL F. TURNER 7-8

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At least one peal of Superlative with twin bobs throughout has been rung of recent years, i.e., within six or seven, and another of Real Double Norwich not mentioned by Mr. E. Barnett in his letter in your current issue. The compositions of these peals found their way into the pages of 'The Ringing World,' and the peal of Double Norwich was the first to be rung, if memory serves me right, with any pretensions to musical qualities. Since both these peals were rung in a rather remote part of the Empire, it is easily understandable that they have passed unnoticed.

Hearty congratulations to 'Nil Desperandum' and his accomplices. May Stapleton third justify the courage of these worthies.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

BELGRAVE.—On November 11th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: O. Castleman 1, G. Tilson 2, L. H. Whitehead 3, J. W. Udale 4, A. Debenham 5, K. Elliott 6, A. Skinner (conductor) 7, B. Barrow 8. Rang half-muffled for Armistice Day.

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

A FOOTNOTE TO ENGLISH HISTORY.

In the 'Historical Account of the Rise and Progress of the Ancient Society of College Youths,' included in the rule book published in 1894, we are told that 'the society has on its time-honoured roll of members many names of eminence,' and a list of some of them is given. We rather suspect that the plan adopted was to go through the name book and pick out those with titles, of which there is a fair number. Who these people really were, and in what respect and degree they were eminent, we fancy the writer did not know. Actually some of them (and not only those with titles) were persons who in their own circles were of some importance, though none is entitled to be called eminent. Only one of the lot earned a small place in the general history of England, and he was anything but eminent. Francis Geary did command for a while the main battle fleet in war time, but it was not his fortune to be engaged in any great naval victory.

Francis Withens was born at Eltham about the year 1634. He was educated at Oxford, at St. John's College, where he matriculated in 1650, and where most likely he first learned to ring. He joined the Society of College Youths in 1655, and was called to the bar from the Middle Temple in 1660. By 1680 he was on the high road to prosperity. He became Bencher of his Inn, gained the favour of the King, was knighted, and was chosen to represent Westminster in Parliament.

Those were times when events were taking place which had a vast influence on the destinies of England. Throughout the seventeenth century a continual struggle was waged between the Crown and Parliament for the right to impose taxes and to make or dispense with laws. The struggle went through several phases. Charles the First appealed to force and drew the sword, with the result that both Church and throne went down for a time in the common ruin. Charles the Second was a far astuter man than his father. He carefully avoided any armed conflict with his people, and the letter and forms of law were not violated; but he was as much set on creating a despotism as was any of the Stuarts. The constitutional struggle was just as fierce in his reign as in his father's, but it was fought in other ways, and the men who fell perished on the scaffold and not on the battlefield.

The political question was complicated by a religious question—in fact, the two were one. For years English people had looked on Popery with fear and dread, and now they began to believe in a deep and widespread plot to overthrow the religion and the liberties of the country and to substitute Roman Catholicism. There was some reason for this belief. Charles was secretly a Papist; he had made a secret agreement with the French king by which he bound himself, in return for money, to establish the Roman Church in England; his brother and heir-presumptive was an avowed Roman; and more than one of

(Continued on next page.)

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MR. JUSTICE WITHENS

(Continued from previous page.)

the Crown ministers were only waiting for a favourable opportunity to declare themselves Papists. And then it began to be noised abroad that a deep-laid and widespread plot had been discovered to kill Charles, put his brother on the throne, and hand over the Church and people of England to the Jesuits. The Papists were to burn London as (so it was believed) they had burnt it a few years before, and Protestants were to be massacred.

A man named Titus Oates went and swore this information before a Justice of the Peace, and when a few days later the body of the magistrate was discovered in a lonely field, foully done to death, the whole country went mad with anger and excitement. Oates was an infamous wretch who had been a Baptist minister, a Church of England priest, and a Roman convert; and had been ejected from every position he had held on account of his scandalous character. In ordinary times no one would have believed his tale for a minute; but these were not ordinary times. There were unscrupulous men in high places, who professed to believe him in order to gain their own ends. Many Roman Catholics were put to death by the forms of law, and in Parliament a determined attempt was made to exclude James from the succession to the Crown.

The King dissolved Parliament, carried on the government by means of French subsidies, and waited until the excitement should die down before summoning another Parliament. That was not what the opposition, or country party as they were called, wanted, and they promoted petitions from all over the country, praying that the two Houses of Parliament might speedily be called together. To petition the King was an old, jealously guarded, and much-used right, and could not be forbidden though a proclamation against petitions was issued in 1679. The Court party thought of a more astute move, and began on their side to organise addresses to the King in which disagreement was expressed with the petitioners. The cities of London and Westminster were the two most important in the country, and it was from them that the first two addresses were presented.

This it was which first brought Francis Withens into notice. He was then Chief Steward of the Franchise Court of Westminster, an office in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of the Abbey. He was selected to present the address from that city, while the one from London was presented by George Jeffreys, the Recorder, who afterwards earned the most infamous name in the history of English judicature. The addresses declared 'that way of petitioning to be the Method of Forty-one and intended to bring his Majesty to the block as his Father was brought, all of which doings they abhorred.'

Similar addresses were presented from many other places, and the country was divided into 'petitioners' and 'abhorers,' names which shortly afterwards gave

way to those of 'whig' and 'tory,' the titles by which the two political parties of England were long known.

As a reward for his action, Francis Withens received the honour of knighthood, and when at last Parliament was summoned to meet, he was chosen member for Westminster. And then the storm broke.

The opposition party had a large majority in the new House of Commons. They were in an ugly temper; they determined to assert the right of the people to petition for a Parliament, and to punish those who had promoted the addresses of abhorrence. Withens as the presenter of the first address was one of those selected to be made an example of. There were some cunning persons who made up their minds that he should not only be punished, but brought into contempt and his party with him. They knew the man. He was weak and timid, self indulgent, and, like many another lawyer at the time, a slave of the bottle. They told him that the Commons were resolved to punish most severely all those who had promoted the addresses, and he would be lucky if he escaped being hanged as the ringleader of all the business. His only chance was to submit himself without question, he must by no means justify what he had done; no, that would be but to irritate, and the House would make their examples of those who disputed upon the right which they were resolved to vindicate to the last degree. They had no dislike to his person, and if he would do the cause right, though a ringleader, he might come off. Else—

Withens was a lawyer and he knew quite well that in presenting an address to the King he had broken no law, and he had as much right to petition the throne in favour of his views as his opponents had in favour of theirs. But he knew also quite well the real value of such a plea in the political trials of the time. The lives of men were being sworn away by perjured witnesses, and Parliament had always the power to put a person to death by an Act of Attainder, a power which they were quite ready to use if they thought it necessary.

Withens' real safety lay in his comparative insignificance, for he was no Stafford or Laud, and what his enemies desired was his disgrace, not his death. So, when Parliament met and the Commons proceeded to take his case into consideration, after 'a few wimpers and a wipe,' he admitted that he did promote and carry up that abhorrence, and he knew at the time he was doing wrong; but he did it to please the King; and so, owning the thing was against the law, begged pardon.

All the members were not of the country party. There were many gallant gentlemen who had come prepared to back him up and make a fight of it, but this sneaking come-off so disgusted even his friends that they joined with the country party, and with one consent kicked him out of the House as not fit for gentlemen's company.

His sentence was that he should, on his knees, be reprimanded by the Speaker, and be expelled the House.

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'You, being a lawyer,' said Williams the Speaker, 'have offended against your own profession, you have offended against yourself, your own right, your own liberty as an Englishman. That is not only a crime against the living, but a crime against the unborn. You are dismembered from this body.'

Withens' fortunes were not seriously affected by his disgrace. He was employed in several Crown cases, and showed himself, if not a great lawyer, a competent one. One of his cases was a murder trial which made a great stir at the time. A man named Thomas Thynne, a wealthy rake, had married Lady Ogle, a girl of fifteen and heiress of the Percys, Earls of Northumberland. She quickly repented of her bargain, and 'before they were bedded' left him and fled to Holland, where she met a Count Coningsmark, one of a noble Brandenburg family. The Count shortly afterwards came to London and was followed by three of his dependants. About eight o'clock in the evening of one Sunday in February, 1682, when Thynne was driving in his coach in Pall Mall, the three rode alongside and shot him with a blunderbuss, whereof he died next day.

All four men were arrested and charged with murder, Coningsmark as an accessory before the fact. The trial was before the Lord Chief Justice and two other Judges. Withens led for the Crown, and one of the counsel with him was Williams, the same Williams who, as Speaker, a few years before, had pronounced the sentence on him. As there were no politics involved, the trial was a perfectly fair one. The three servants were found guilty and hanged, but the Count managed to escape. To-day you may see in Westminster Abbey sculptured on Thynne's tomb a picture of the murder scene.

(To be continued.)

LEONARD PROCTOR.

Leonard Proctor, whose name has been mentioned several times lately in our columns, was born in January, 1816, at Benington, where his family had been seated for about three hundred years. He took an interest in bells from a very early time, and while he was at school at Eton he rang the bell for the death of King George the Fourth.

He went to Cambridge in 1834 and graduated from Trinity College. It was during his university days that he learnt change ringing, and when he returned to live as squire at Benington, he added two trebles to the ring of six there and got together what at the time was the best method ringing band in the country. They were the first to accomplish peals in all three standard Surprise methods, and they rang some five-thousands made up of touches in several methods. Nearly all the ringers were employed on his estate. He died in 1902 at the age of 86.

A STORY FROM HODDESDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to read what my old friend, William Lawrence, had to say about the Benington ringers. In my boyhood days they were looked upon as the par excellence among the ringing bands in the country.

I remember two of the younger members of the band, who came to work in Hoddesdon, where I resided at that time. Of course, they made their way to the belfry on practice nights, and to our surprise they could not ring Stedman or Grandsire Triples, only London or Superlative Major, but after a time we managed a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major. They used to tell us a lot about the old band. They were conveyed about in farm waggons to various places to ring. I should like to see an account by someone local, who has some knowledge of the old band. It would be interesting reading to the younger generation of ringers.

JESSE PUPLETT.

23, Victoria Park Road, Buxton.

CHURCHILL.—On Wednesday, November 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: *T. T. Roynon 1, O. Reason 2, E. J. Avery (conductor) 3, *E. E. Fisher 4, H. W. Knight 5, G. Gilling 6. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mrs. E. Roynon, who was buried the same day. *First 720.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, November 14th, for morning service, 1,263 Stedman Caters: H. Street, J. H. Wilkins, H. Rumens, C. T. Coles (conductor), R. Maynard, J. C. Adams, H. Smith (first quarter-peal on ten bells), E. E. Holman, F. C. Maynard F. C. Taylor. Rung on the occasion of the official attendance at church of the Mayor and Corporation of Walthamstow.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who to-day reaches the age of eighty.

On November 27th, Mr. James George will reach his 90th birthday. He writes that he is feeling fairly well and comfortable. His many friends will send him every good wish.

The peal of Grandsire Cinques at Christ Church, Oxford, was rung as a compliment to Councillor Harry Ingle, the president of the Oxford Society, who has been elected Mayor of the City of Oxford.

Last Wednesday was the 109th anniversary of the first peal of London Surprise Major, and last Tuesday was the 95th anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich in which bobs were made behind as well as in front.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

To-day Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall, and Mrs. Spice celebrate their golden wedding. Mr. Spice, who is in his 83rd year, has been a ringer for more than fifty years. He learnt his first ringing at Charing and afterwards he lived at Penshurst, where for four years he was leader of the band. Since then he has lived at Tunstall.

Mr. Spice is one of the best known of the Kent ringers. He is a regular Sunday service ringer and has taken part in about 350 peals ranging from six to twelve bells. His three sons and his two grandchildren are prominent ringers.

We offer Mr. and Mrs. Spice our congratulations.

DEATH OF THE REV. R. L. C. NEWHOUSE.

The death is announced of the Rev. R. L. C. Newhouse, of Bournemouth, following injuries received from a fall from his bicycle on Sunday, November 14th.

He was for many years Vicar of Buckland in the Diocese of Oxford and had lived in Bournemouth for some ten years for health reasons.

He had been a member of the Oxford University Society during his varsity days, and often took a rope at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, though he could do little more than hunt the treble. He was very keen in the activities of the local branches of the neighbouring diocesan guilds.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT SEEND.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Seend on November 6th and 36 members were present from Seend, Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster, Keevil, North Bradley, Longbridge Deverell, Erchfont, Bishop's Cannings, Holt, Calne, Devizes (St. John's and Mary's) and Southbroom.

Ringing began at half-past two and the bells were kept going in Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Minor and a few call changes for the learners, who handled their bells very well.

The Guild Office, which was choral, was conducted by the Rev. E. B. Brooks (priest in charge of St. Mary's, Devizes), himself a ringer. Tea was at the Vicarage.

Mr. E. F. White presided at the business meeting, and several new members were elected, after which ringing was indulged in on the set of handbells belonging to the late Mr. S. Hillier, and presented to the branch by Mrs. Hillier in memory of her husband. Another touch on the tower bells concluded the meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DERBY.

Before the meeting of the Derby Branch of the Midland Counties Association at St. Peter's, Derby, on November 13th, the local band rang for the wedding of one of their fellow ringers, Reginald Wallis, of the R.A.F.

During the meeting methods rung reached a high standard. Cambridge Surprise being rung several times, in addition to Double Norwich, Stedman, Duffield, Little Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire, Plain Bob, with rounds and Queens for the learners.

Tea was served in the Parochial Hall by Miss Wickman and her lady helpers, when ringers from Ashley, Hilton, Ilkeston and the local towers were entertained. One new member was elected, Ronald Weston, of Ripley. It was decided to hold the next monthly meeting on Dec. 11th at St. Luke's, Derby, where there is a splendid peal by Taylors, tenor 30 cwt.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

From Mr. J. H. Goldsmith.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was happy to see in last week's issue the president's announcement of the Council's proprietorship of 'The Ringing World.'

I am sure that all ringers will share with Mr. Lewis his feeling of relief and thankfulness that 'The Ringing World' has survived the death of the late Editor, my father, whose singlemindedness alone ensured the life and vitality of this journal. The Council, the associations and guilds, and all readers have my sincere good wishes for the vigorous future of 'The Ringing World' and the Exercise.

'The Ringing World' has been preserved by negotiations which have demanded great sacrifices of time, of energy, and of patience by all the people concerned, to whom the president and the Editor referred last week. May I add my recognition of the kindly services of Mr. A. A. Hughes, who has helped in so many ways, and of my sister, Mrs. Renshaw, who for fifteen months accommodated 'The Ringing World' Office, addressed wrappers and kept accounts. I trust that all ringers will give to 'The Ringing World' the increasing support which these efforts so well deserve, and to you, Mr. Editor, the support which your devotion to 'The Ringing World' has already earned.

Again my good wishes.

J. H. GOLDSMITH.

5, Cobnar Gardens,
Sheffield, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BLAYDON.

The first meeting of the Western District of the Durham and Newcastle Association since the lifting of the ban was held at Blaydon on November 6th. Learners were in the majority and some good work was done teaching them.

Ringers were present from Chester-le-Street, Blackhill, Whickham, Benfieldside, Newcastle (Cathedral), Tanfield, Gateshead and the local tower.

Four new members were elected from St. Mary's, Whickham.

Tea was provided in a nearby room by lady friends of the Blaydon ringers, at which the Rector (the Rev. H. O. Duncan) welcomed the visitors. A vote of thanks to the Rector and churchwardens and to the ladies was proposed by Mr. D. A. Bayles. The Rector and the ladies replied.

It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Whickham on Saturday, January 22nd, 1944.

JOINT MEETING AT PORT SUNLIGHT.

A joint meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild and the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Port Sunlight on October 30th, was attended by about 50 ringers, most of whom were enabled to have a pull in rounds or in methods which included Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. There were many young ringers and many visitors from outside Merseyside.

The Rev. H. Storer, minister of the church, in his address, welcomed the ringers. He was assisted in the service by the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. E. L. A. Thomas, Vicar of Bidston.

At the tea Mr. Roberts proposed a vote of thanks to the church authorities, to Mr. S. Bailey and to the ladies who prepared the tea.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED ROWLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Rowley, of Tipton, which occurred on October 25th at the age of 75 years.

Mr. Rowley held the position of tower ringing master at St. Martin's Church, Tipton, since 1920 until recently, when illness overtook him. During his ringing career he took part in 147 peals, many of which he conducted. His favourite method was Stedman, and some of his associates met at St. Martin's on Saturday, November 13th, to ring a peal of Stedman Triples half-muffled, but the attempt did not mature, and instead a quarter-peal was successfully completed: J. Goodman treble, H. Knight (conductor) 2, H. Griffiths 3, H. J. Shuck 4, C. Skidmore 5, A. D. Collins 6, G. Hughes 7, J. Freeman tenor.

SOME DEBATABLE POINTS.

NEED FOR DISCUSSION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The ringer in a strange belfry often finds himself subconsciously making a comparison between the bells or the ringing or the usages of the belfry he is in with those of his own tower and district. Who is to judge what is correct or best? Very often no one is in a position to judge, for it may be purely a matter of taste or what one is familiar with.

On a large number of points, however, where customs differ—judgment of what is generally best could be assessed after open discussion by competent correspondents in the columns of 'The Ringing World' on topics where there is at present divergence, but where uniformity on the lines of best practice would appear to bring improvement.

I suggest that more extensive discussion on the technique and practical aspects of ringing might help to speed progress in the right direction and thus bring about an increase in the public's appreciation of ringing. Nor would the space taken up by such matters in your columns be wasted, but would be a valuable addition to the excellent advice and guidance already appearing from time to time in the editorial columns of 'The Ringing World.'

As an example of topics which might suitably come under the foregoing remarks, I note below one or two points which have come to mind, as a result of being removed from my own district. Some of these points may have been raised before, but further discussion would do no harm, and the views of more experienced and competent ringers than myself would be interesting and helpful, particularly to those who are newcomers to ringing.

(1) SIX-BELL RINGING.

Two customs are prevalent as regards leads, viz., 'open leads' and 'closed leads.' It is argued that the former sound best, but that the latter lead to more perfect beat and striking. Another argument in favour of open leads is that since they are accepted as proper on higher numbers, closed leads on six bells tend to spoil the ringer's ability to lead well on higher numbers, where he must ring 'open leads.' Yet many capable ringers favour closed leads on six. Which should be practised on six? 'Open leads' or 'closed leads.'

(2) HALF-MUFFLED RINGING.

When half-muffled ringing is done, some towers muffle the handstroke, others the backstroke. Probably most muffle the handstroke so that the more musical changes are produced 'loud.' On the other hand, if handstroke is open and 'open leads' are rung, the muffled backstroke following straight after the loud handstroke sounds more like an echo, and to a certain extent has a pleasing effect. Which is the correct method?

(3) DURATION OF RINGING FOR SUNDAY SERVICE AND FOR PRACTICE.

Sunday service ringing varies from a nominal half-hour to one hour, and though this may be governed by local conditions, it would appear that in order to maintain a good standard of ringing an hour would be advisable wherever possible.

In many districts it is customary never to ring after 9 p.m. at night unless in very exceptional circumstances; on the other hand, other companies ring on until well after 9.30 p.m. Is this justified even if ringers do find it difficult to make an early start?

(4) BEGINNERS.

On the whole, where the job of teaching new ringers is in hand, it seems to be being well tackled, but there seems to be different opinions as to the stage at which a beginner should be allowed to ring 'open.' No doubt there are arguments for not letting the new recruit ring open until the maximum amount of bell control that can be obtained with clapper tied is achieved. On the other hand others might argue that the recruit is encouraged by taking an early hand in the game. Another point on which there is divergence is as to which hand the backstroke end should be held in, left, right, or either. Lastly, there is the question of how the ringer stands. Jasper Snowden laid down that this is important. It is evident that sometimes even learners in most capable hands apparently receive no instruction on this point. How far is this an aid to good striking?

(5) THE QUESTION OF RAISING AND FALLING IN PEAL.

This is an old timer. Some regard this as part of the ringing, others do not. Can a ringer who is not adept at rising or falling in peal regard himself as an accomplished ringer?

When bells cannot be raised in peal, is it satisfactory to raise two that harmonise together, e.g., 6th and tenor, 5th and 7th? When raising and falling in peal, what is the best method of achieving success from a listener's point of view, having due regard to the weight of the bells?

(6) MINIMUM NUMBER OF BELLS WORTH RINGING FOR SERVICE.

In some towers, notably those possessing more than six bells, the company are very reluctant or sometimes refuse to ring less than six bells. Others don't mind ringing five (which can sound quite pleasant sometimes) or even less when the band meets short for service ringing. It would be interesting to know the general opinion on this matter. If it is in favour of ringing a small number of bells (say five) in these circumstances, bands who do not favour ringing five out of eight or ten when unavoidable might be encouraged to do so. Weight and breath of the bells are, of course, limiting factors in some cases.

'FORUM.'

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 496.)

We have dealt with the history of the bells up to the formation of the St. Mary's Society in 1874, and with the personnel of the society up to date. We now turn to the general record of the society, first dealing with its social life and its attitude towards local matters, and following this by a survey of the connection of the St. Mary's Society with the larger ringing organisations in the neighbourhood.

Following the example of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. Mary's Society held its annual dinner from the year of its formation, as well as an annual outing. In later years the dinner has not been held, but the annual outing continues. The dinners were used to foster good relations with Church authorities and local celebrities. It was reported in 'The Walthamstow Guardian' in January, 1886, that on the 13th of that month the annual dinner of the ringers was held at the Tower Hotel, some 40 people being present. The chairman was Dr. Wellington Lake, and it would appear that the majority of the company was visitors and not members of the society.

In 1894 the dinner was held at the Boys' National School, and the Rev. W. H. Langhorne took the chair. On this occasion other friends were invited to attend. The 1899 dinner appears to have been a much more pretentious affair. It was held at the Lord Brooke Hotel, Shern Hall Street, and the Rev. W. H. Langhorne presided.

The annual outing was also a regular function, usually by brake or train to a town where could be found a church with a good peal of bells, say Hertford, Chelmsford, or Bishop's Stortford. Usually some ringing friends were invited to accompany the party, as well as the verger and one or two other church workers. In later years these outings have taken a different form. Travelling facilities being much better, a visit to the seaside becomes possible. Ringing is forgotten for the day, and wives and lady friends accompany the men.

The attitude towards neighbouring bodies has usually been very friendly. For instance, it has for many years been the practice of the ringers to ring the bells at the annual service of the Friendly Societies, and as recently as December 22nd, 1934, the bells were rung on the occasion of a service of rededication of some ancient brasses, restored by the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society.

Nor have the bells been neglected by the ringers. Two years after the formation of the society it was found necessary to provide the bells with new wheels and fittings. The ringers collected the necessary £30 from prominent parishioners, making a substantial donation to the funds themselves. When, in 1896, the restoration and augmentation took place, the ringers voted £4 4s. towards the cost, with a further £4 4s. from Mr. T. Mavnard, the ringing master.

Careful, too, for their reputation in the locality, we find that in 1898 the unseemly conduct of a member was considered, with the object of striking his name off the books if thought necessary, and not allowing him to use the bells again. The minute recording this adds, 'this being a "notty" point, and as we were informed he was

going to leave the neighbourhood for good, the matter was dropped.' The line of least resistance was, perhaps, under the circumstances, justified.

In 1898 it was proposed to start a Ringers' Benevolent Fund, the subscription not to be less than one penny per week. This was definitely started in the following year, and subscriptions were evidently paid into the fund for a year or two, as entries appear in the minutes showing small balances existing. After two or three years, however, the Benevolent Fund apparently ceased to exist, for we find no further trace of it in the records. Occasionally, however, cash payments have been made to members in straitened circumstances, which, although small, have shown that the spirit which started the Benevolent Fund has continued to influence the conduct of the society towards its members.

At times, of course, there are complaints about the ringing, usually from disgruntled individuals who find fault with most things, but if such complaints are justified, say in the case of illness adjacent to the church, the society has always shown the utmost consideration. During the early days of the society a spiteful attack was made on the bells and the ringers in the columns of 'The Walthamstow Guardian,' by a correspondent signing himself (or herself) 'An Anti-Campanologist.' This brought forth a vigorous defence by 'One Fond of Bells' and 'One of the St. Mary's Society of Ringers.' The former says, quoting 'Anti-Campanologist,' 'In times gone by one of the bells was cracked,' and makes the pungent retort that 'unfortunately bells have not a monopoly in this respect.' He goes on to say that 'the ringing at the Parish Church is performed to the general satisfaction of the whole parish, and in a manner not excelled in the county of Essex, and equalled by no Ringing Society in the neighbourhood. The steeple and its appointments are kept in good condition, and order reigns supreme. The company of ringers, by the way a most respectable body, have at a great expense incurred wholly by themselves become proficient ringers. They ring three times every Sunday throughout the year, for which they receive not one farthing remuneration, and the magnificent sum of £5 5s. per annum is allowed them to ring on special occasions connected with the Church, and days of note connected with royalty.' There is a great deal more in similar strain, but whether 'Anti-Campanologist' replied to this vigorous defence I am not in a position to say.

We have heard how, when the society was formed, it was as a branch of the Ancient Society of College Youths. This did not, however, prevent membership of other societies, so that when the Essex Association was formed in 1879 the St. Mary's ringers were amongst the first to join up. Some years later a dispute arose between the then general secretary of the County Association and the Walthamstow Parish Church ringers, which caused them to lapse membership. This dispute has, however, long been forgotten, and at the present time all the St. Mary's ringers are members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers.

(To be continued.)

It was my chance lately abroad to be,
In place where I bell-musick sweet did heare.
Still I did stand, minding those strains so high,
Which at ye first strange to me did appeare.
Such sublime Sallies in ye same I found
That I was forced awhile to stand my ground.

—Edmund Allen, 17th century.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 485.)

Of all the exterior beauties of Gloucester Cathedral, the most striking is its most beautiful and graceful central tower. Placed where it is, almost in the centre of the long line of the nave, continued in the choir and Lady Chapel, at a point where the transept line intersects it, it is the chief feature of the massive pile. All else seems to be grouped with a view to the enhancing of the effect of the central position of the tower. No matter from whence one looks at it, the charm is still there. The tower is 225ft. high to the top of the pinnacles, and the effect of it is extremely fine. From the main cornice upwards, the whole of the stonework is open, and composed of what at a distance appears to be delicate tracery and mullions and crocketed pinnacles.

It is, in all probability, the third tower that has been built since Aldred's time. There are piers still remaining of the Norman tower erected by Serlo in the years that elapsed between 1089 and 1100 and, as we are told in the 'Saxon Chronicle' that in 1122 a fire which originated in the upper part of the steeple burnt the whole monastery, it must be inferred that the superstructure was of wood. A hundred years later it is known that a great eastern tower was built with the help of Helias of Hereford. This tower was in great part taken down by the monk, Tully, and rebuilt in the Perpendicular style in the time of Abbot Seabroke (1450-7).

The ascent to the belfry is somewhat curious, and is made by passing through the pilgrims' door on the south side of the cathedral. Immediately to the left when inside are the steps which lead to the belfry. It is a wide and well-lit stairway of some 130 steps. At the top you pass through a small doorway, up four wooden steps to a wood platform built over the roof of the transept. At the other end of this platform you ascend four steps, and through a narrow doorway on to a parapet outside the tower. This parapet is about ten feet in length by two feet, fenced by iron railings some five feet in height. At the end of the parapet you turn left through a doorway and ascend to the upper part of the tower. About 30 steps bring you to the ringing chamber.

On entering, the first thing that catches your eye is Great Peter, a 3 ton 5 cwt. bell hung in an oak frame. This bell was originally hung for ringing; it had a large half-wheel. This is now removed and now stands in the belfry together with the original stock. The bell is now stationary, and is used in connection with the clock and chimes, and strikes the hour. The ring of eight bells is hung in a corner of the big square tower, and the ringers stand just under the open louvres—not too cosy a position during the winter months.

From an antiquarian point of view these bells are as interesting as those of any cathedral in England. The treble was cast by 'Robarte Nevcome, of Leicester,' in 1598; second with a black-letter invocation, 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis'; third and fourth by John Rudhall, 1810; fifth, sixth and seventh inscriptions are also in black letter character thus: 5th, 'May the bell of John sound for many years'; 6th, 'I being struck, am called Mary, Rose of the World'; 7th, 'I have the name of Gabriel, who was sent down from heaven.' The tenor is by A. Rudhall, and dated 1736.

A tablet in the tower records that on September 22nd, 1820, 'was rung in this tower a peal of Grandsire Tripples, containing 5,040 changes, brought round in three hours and sixteen minutes by the following band of College Youths.' Then follows the names of the ringers who must not be confused with the College Youths of London, this term being used by the cathedral men, and that of the 'Crypt Youths' by those of St. Mary-de-Crypt, Gloucester, already noticed.

The See of Swansea and Brecon was formed in 1923, the cathedral being the ancient Priory Church of St. John-the-Evangelist, Brecon. This is only a small cathedral, the total length of nave and chancel being 205ft. It has a central tower 34½ft. square, and containing five bells. The first three are by Abel Rudhall, 1745, the fourth by T. Rudhall, 1763, and tenor, which is approximately 17 cwt., by I. Rudhall, 1795. There were obviously six bells at one time, as they hang in a mediæval frame of oak for five largest bells, with a pit added for treble. All the bells swing in one direction, and the frame is cut to allow the former tenor to pass. The space measured 51in., thus this bell was probably about 49in. diameter. In 1933 the fourth and tenor were cracked, and the others are unringable.

Like many of the central towers I am describing, the approach to the ringing chamber here is very quaint. As you enter the cathedral down the nave, you turn right to the south transept, and the door is in the right-hand corner. Ascending a short flight of steps, you proceed to the south wall of the tower, inside of which you walk, then up a few steps, thence along to the next corner, and so on, walking right round the inside of the tower walls. You finish by climbing another twelve or more steps to enter the large ringing room.

Colyton, St. Andrew's Church is said to have the heaviest ring of six in Devon. It is unique in having a central square embattled tower with pinnacles dominated by an octagonal lantern of late Decorated period. The church contains many ancient and interesting monuments, principally to the Yonge and Pole families, while in the chancel there is a canopied tomb of Perpendicular work with effigy traditionally to Margaret, Countess of Devon (d. 1449), daughter of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, and granddaughter of John of Gaunt. On October 2nd, 1933, a very disastrous fire did many thousands of pounds worth of damage to the nave, south aisle and transept. During the restoration it was considered necessary to strengthen the tower, when part of a Celtic cross dating back to about 800 A.D. was found embedded in the west face. Another part—the base—was discovered in use as a corbel between the belfry and bell chamber, and a third portion came to light elsewhere.

The bells were not hurt by the fire, but it was deemed advisable to have them overhauled. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston did the work of strengthening the frame, recasting the second, tuning the others and supplying new fittings. The tenor of 1711, recast in 1837, weighs 24 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb.

To get to the ringing chamber one ascends a stone spiral in a corner of the church, then proceed along a gallery at the end of the south aisle, turn right along another gallery and into the ringing room door. These galleries are inside the church. Here, too, the ropes are not a circle.

(To be continued.)

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT B. B. CATERS.

BY MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Plain Lead	Bob Lead
123456789	123456789
214365879	B 214365879
241638597	241638597
426135879	426135879
462318597	246318597
643281579	423681579
463825197	243825197
648352917	428356917
46385271	243859671
64839521	428395761
684937512	482937516
869473152	849273156
684971325	482971365
869417235	849217635
689142753	489126753
861924735	841962735
816297453	814697253
182694735	186492735
128967453	168947253

To quote 'The Ringing World,' this is the most musical of Cater methods, and deserves to be more widely practised. The duty of each bell is the same as in Major, both from the front and from behind, viz.: First work, Treble bob work, Last work, Near places, Full work, Far places.

An easy way to memorise this is to learn the jingle: 'First, Treble, Last, Near, Full, Far, First.'

It is just as important, as in other methods, to work to your course bell and to learn where you work with or pass her. This may best be done by pricking-out the Plain Course. In the lead given below, 8 courses 6 and 7 courses 9, and so on.

The difference between Major and Caters is that, while in Major there is only one bell in the Hunt, which admits of places being made in 3.4 and 5.6, in Caters there are two bells in the Hunt, and places are made in thirds and fifths and in fifths and sevenths, in order to allow the extra Hunt bell to pass through. The intermediate dodging, both for place-making bells and the treble bob-bell, is in 3.4, as in Major, and in 6.7 as in Triples.

The Bob is called as the Treble leaves the lead, and is made, as in Grandsire, by one bell leaving the Hunt, another going into the Hunt, and a third 'making' the Bob. The bell leaving the Hunt is leading when the Bob is called, and does a three-pull dodge on the Front and becomes the Treble Bob bell. The bell which has come down from Near places makes Thirds (when the Treble is in 4.5) and becomes the Hunt bell, while the bell which has just done Far Places makes the bob by doing a three-pull dodge on the Front (with the bell which has left the Hunt), leads and does a double-dodge, i.e., Full work. A Single causes the bells in 1-2-3 to lie still for a whole-pull.

Additional aids in ringing the method are that, if you leave the Front (or behind) with a dodge, you begin your Place-making with a dodge—and the same is true of the Treble Bob bell—and that, if you leave the Front (or behind) without a dodge, you begin your Place-making with the Places and dodge afterwards. Ring not only by the Course-method, but by the Treble also.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—After 24 years in this country without any means of keeping in practice with our noble art, I have at last managed to contact a couple of ringers in the Gwelo area, one of whom has managed to procure a set of handbells from Johannesburg.

Notices have been inserted in 'Daily Routine Orders' of various stations near, requesting all interested to contact us, and up to the moment have had five fellows answer the call, and practices are being arranged twice or three times weekly. It is our ambition to ring a handbell peal in this country before we leave, and perhaps in time to introduce a great number of newcomers to the art and thus endeavour to swell the bands at home after the war.

My home tower is St. Mary's, Ashford, Kent, where, before the war, most of my happiest hours have been spent, and if it be possible I should like to be remembered to the local band, and to the numerous ringers with whom I have been associated in Kent.

As far as I am aware, there are only two towers in South Africa with bells hung for ringing. These are at Johannesburg and Durban. I hope to visit each of them very soon.

Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

W. H. PRIOR.

SURPRISE ON ALL NUMBERS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Re a discussion I heard recently, also on previous occasions, I should be glad to know if anyone rang Surprise on all numbers, any methods, previous to April, 1922.

M. F. R. HIBBERT.

36, Herne Road, Bushey, Herts.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

448	448
W M R	W M R
23456	23456
64235 — — —	42635 — —
52436 — — —	62534 — —
35426 — — —	45236 — — —
23456 — — —	23456 — — —
464	464
W B M R	W B M
23456	23456
35264 — 1 — —	23564 — 1 —
42356 — — — —	52436 — — —
34256 — — — —	35426 — — —
23456 — — — —	23456 — — —
480	496
W B M R	W B M R
23456	23456
23564 — 1 — —	23645 — 2 —
45236 — — — —	42356 — 1 —
45362 — 1 — —	34256 — — —
23456 — — — —	23456 — — —

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
52364 2 — 2 2	43526 1 — 1
34625 2 — 2 2	45236 — 1 2
23456 2 — 2 2	25346 2 1
	23456 1 2
1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
54326 1 — 2	54632 2 — 2
34256 — 2 1	35426 — — 2
52436 — 2 2	45236 — 2 1
23456 1 — —	23456 1 1
1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
63254 — 1 —	26354 2 — 1
43652 — 1 —	62453 — 1 2
35426 — — —	32654 — 1 —
52436 1 — —	23456 2 — 2
23456 1 — —	

A BAND'S PROGRESS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—A short account of the Sunday ringing for the month of October at Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, may be of interest to your readers.

A few months ago Doubles was the limit and training of recruits continues, and it is hoped that it will not be long before Triples and Major can be achieved.

During the month of October we rang a 720 of Bob Minor on each Sunday, and on the third and fifth Sundays scored two 720's. Some were rung with covering bells and others without. All were called differently, including one with 42 singles. Those taking part were Misses E. Bertie and M. A. P. Bertie and Messrs. D. A. Bayles, J. Brewster, J. A. Brown, J. Cowey, H. Jarrett, W. Robson and F. Sheraton. The seven 720's were conducted by J. A. Brown (2) and D. A. Bayles (5).

In addition to our own ringing, on two Sunday afternoons, the 10th and 24th, four of the Chester-le-Street ringers joined forces with four from Houghton-le-Spring to attempt a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at the latter church. In neither case was the quarter-peal achieved, but on each occasion a touch of 630 changes was brought round successfully under the conducting of the writer. Those taking part were Miss M. A. P. Bertie, Messrs. D. A. Bayles, J. Brewster, J. A. Brown, of Chester, and Messrs. W. Robinson, J. Masters, W. Sheraton and W. F. Sheraton, of Houghton.

I have been interested in the efforts of other bands as recorded in 'The Ringing World' recently, and should be grateful if you could find some space for a short account of our activities.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Fatfield, Co. Durham.

GREAT BADDOW.—On Sunday, November 7th for Armistice Day service, 896 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. C. Thrift 1. A. H. Everett 2. E. Runter 3. H. Allen 4. H. Bradley 5. H. Devonish 6. L. A. Simmonds 7. P. Green (conductor) 8.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, November 14th, for morning service, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: D. Wright 1. S. Wade 2. W. J. Bowden 3. J. Armstrong (conductor) 4. N. A. Tomlinson 5. H. Miller 6. J. Miller 7. J. G. Nash 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.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual general meeting Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at New Buckenham, 2 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.15. Tea (bring own food) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 12.15 and 2.20; leave New Buckenham 5.22 and 6.17.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, Close, Norwich.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Nov. 21st, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Notifications for tea to Mr. L. Reece, 6, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. J. Nichols, 20, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Thursday, Nov. 25th.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m., only for those who notify Mr. Frank Taylor, Deeping St. Nicholas, before Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names to Mr. E. Gardner, Ivy House, The Sands, near Farnham, by Wednesday, 24th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting at Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 2.30. Service 5. Tea 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by 24th.—H. G. Cashmore, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Binfield (6 bells) on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 6 to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at East Brent, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 6.30.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Turvey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. John Hilson, High Street, Turvey, Beds.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at St. Giles', Northampton, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) at 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring own food.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Nov. 23rd.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Reddish, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring own food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting Bradford Cathedral, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea may be obtained near the Cathedral. Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food). Names for tea by Nov. 28th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by November 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. for only those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know by Dec. 2nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 by kind invitation. Names by Dec. 1st.—Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

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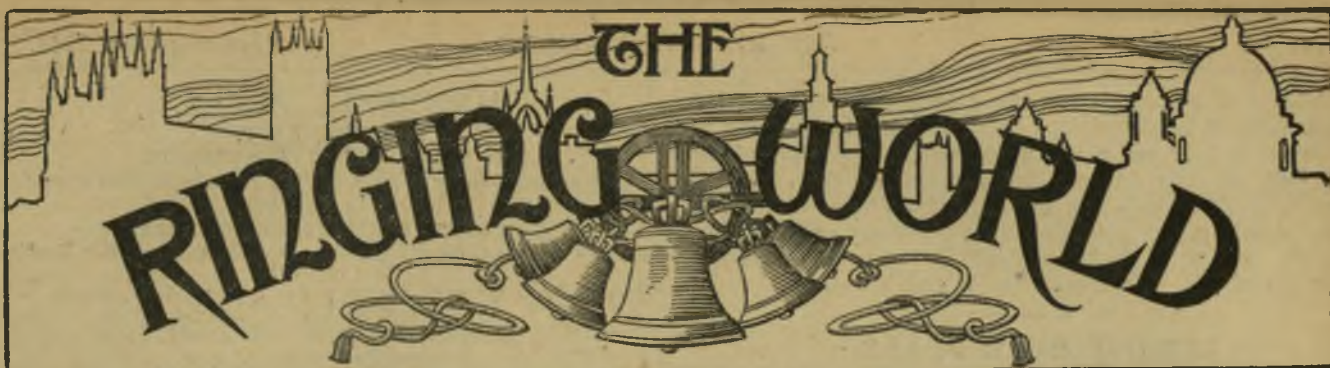
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THE RINGING WORLD



No. 1,705. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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JOHN TAYLOR & Co. LOUGHBOROUGH

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.

'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'

Last week we published a letter from a correspondent who called attention to the variety of opinions and customs in different belfries, and suggested the desirability of a full discussion so that uniformity on the best lines may bring improvement. Our friend is a member of His Majesty's Forces, and no doubt, like many another soldier and airman, has had very varied experiences among the belfries of the country.

Whether or not we consider uniformity of custom and opinion a good thing, we have not the slightest doubt that full and free discussion of debatable points is essential to the life of the Exercise. If ringers were to get into the habit of accepting opinions and following customs just because other people have done so, the result would be stagnation. Life and progress in such a thing as the art of change ringing depend to a large extent on testing and challenging the ideas and usages which have come down from the past. It by no means follows that those ideas and usages need to be altered. In fact, in the majority of cases they will stand the test and be all the more valuable because ringers understand what they mean.

It might seem that, after two or three centuries of experience, the Exercise has tested every vital principle connected with the art and practice of change ringing, and that there is nothing more to be said about them. Even if it were so, discussion about the reasons for this or that thing would do good, but it actually is not so. There is still abundant scope for variety of opinion on most things connected with our art, and we should be thankful it is so.

For that reason the columns of 'The Ringing World' are always open to anyone who wishes to express any opinion about anything in any way connected with bells or bellringing. It does not greatly matter whether such opinions turn out to be really sound or not. If they create opposition, and so stimulate thought, they will do good.

Anything like a dead uniformity of usage and custom is not desirable. Where local customs have come down from the past they should, unless they are in themselves objectionable, be retained, even though ringers in other belfries act differently. Like, for instance, the custom at Norwich and the Eastern Counties of concluding a muffled peal by setting the bells one by one beginning with the treble until the tenor alone is left. It is a custom which is followed nowhere else, and there is no great reason why it should be, though it is quite effective in its way.

(Continued on page 514.)

Where in recent times usages have been adopted but have not yet hardened into custom, it might be good to consider if they are really worth while. In some places the bells are rung half muffled on Armistice Day. Is that well? Muffled bells are for regret and for sorrow, but why should regret and sorrow be expressed on Armistice Day? Surely it is an occasion for restrained triumph and joyfulness, and especially for thankfulness.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours and 1 thirteen Minutes,
At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHEROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 22 cwt.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	LEONARD TREVOR ... 5
EDGAR H. VALLANCE ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 6
JOHN GIBBONS ... 3	*FRANK TROTMAN ... 7
JAMES DRAYCOTT ... 4	BERT RIDGEWAY ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal. The ringers of 3rd, 4th and 7th were elected members of the association before starting.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, November 18, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Martin and All Saints,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 8 cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	† WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 2	BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... 6
* BETTY SPICE ... 3	† JOHN E. SPICE ... 7
* MARGARET L. TUTT ... 4	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method on tower bells. * † First peal of Stedman Triples.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

GEORGE H. SPICE ... Treble	STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 5
JOHN W. UNWIN ... 2	WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 6
GEORGE KENWARD ... 3	LOUIS HEAD ... 7
GEORGE EASTMAN ... 4	FRANK BOORMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by LOUIS HEAD.

Rung to celebrate the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. Spice, of Tunstall.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

JAMES MARSH ... Treble	NORMAN HEAPS ... 5
JAMES TAYLOR ... 2	ARTHUR MAUDSLEY ... 6
* THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... 3	* WILLIAM STOPFORTH ... 7
* JOHN LUNHAM ... 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. RIDYARD.

* First peal of Kent Major. Rung to celebrate the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Horridge.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Thursday, November 11th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: K. Wilton 1, H. Lawrence 2, A. Dilley 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters (conductor) 5, P. Tompkins 6. Rung half-muffled for Armistice Day and as a token of respect for Major George Lenox Boyd, who was interred that day.

EWELL, SURREY.—On Sunday, October 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Harrington 1, W. Sparrow 2, G. Goodman 3, H. E. Good 4, W. H. Corbett 5, A. Harman (conductor) 6, H. W. Barrett 7, A. Hadley 8.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 1, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At 6, GLEBE ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, 26 of Grandsire (10 callings), 16 of Bob Doubles (four callings).

* MISS HILDA OAKSHETT ... 1-2 | SIG. GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4

* PERCY J. SPICE ... 5-6

Conducted by SIG. G. R. H. SMITH.

Umpire—Frederick E. Pitman.

* First peal on handbells at first attempt. Rung to celebrate the homecoming of Pte. C. G. Spice, Royal Sussex Regt. (son of Mr. P. J. Spice), recently repatriated from Germany.

OXFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At New College,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

* JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 3-4 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

* First peal in the method. † 50th handbell peal together.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 19, 1943, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Reserve and Double Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE (Somerville) ... 1-2

* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 3-4

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First handbell peal of Minor, first peal on an inside pair, and first in more than one method. The conductor's 100th handbell peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

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

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4 | * VICTOR R. WOODARDS ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal, aged 16 and 14.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 1-2

* BETTY SPICE (Somerville) ... 3-4

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... 5-6

* MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... 7-8

JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... 9-10

Composed by F. DEXTER. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for Treble Ten. † First peal of Treble Bob on an inside pair. First peal of Treble Ten as conductor, and the first for the society.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

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

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4 | * DENNIS H. L. LANGDON ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal, both 15 years of age.

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

(Continued from page 505.)

The excitement over the Popish Plot died down, and as soon as the tide turned King Charles and his adherents set themselves to have their revenge on their opponents. There followed a number of trials for treason which are a blot on the history of the English judicature. There was no intention and, little pretence at impartiality. Judges and juries were met, not to acquit, but to condemn. But the forms of justice had to be observed, and to do that both the bench and the jury had to be packed. There was little trouble in getting Judges who would do what the Government told them, for they were appointed by the King and could be dismissed at a minute's notice. In the country, where the Crown appointed the sheriffs and the sheriffs nominated the juries, there was not much trouble in getting any verdict that was wanted. But in London the sheriffs were elected, and the City had been a stronghold of the Whigs. Partly as a punishment and partly to secure the nomination of the sheriffs the Government served the City with a writ, *quo warranto*, calling on its officers to show cause why the charter should not be annulled on account of alleged illegalities. It was a legal question to be settled by the Judges. One of them, Dolben, was 'not well affected,' so he was dismissed, and the man selected to take his place was Francis Withens. He, at any rate, could be depended upon to do what he was told.

Withens was one of the Judges in almost all the political trials of the next few years, including the famous trials of Lord William Russell and Algernon Sidney, but he does not appear to have taken any very active part in them. In the year 1683, Sir George Jeffreys was made Lord Chief Justice, and when he presided at a trial for treason there was little left for the prosecuting counsel, or for the other Judges to do. Withens is said not to have shown the harshness and violence of language which marked the usual demeanour of Judges, but he had not enough courage to differ from his colleagues, and especially the bullying and overbearing Lord Chief Justice.

Bishop Burnet, in his History, says that when Algernon Sidney was brought into Court to receive sentence, he went over the objections to the evidence against him, when Judge Withens, interrupting him, by a strange indecency gave him the lie in open Court. But Burnet did not like Withens.

As one of the junior judges, Withens pronounced the sentence in most of these celebrated trials, a fact which brought him a good deal of popular odium. It was he who pronounced the savage sentence on Titus Oates when that wretch had been brought to book for his manifold wickednesses. It was the intention of the judges that he should be whipped to death; but, though he suffered horribly, he lived to see something like revenge in the end.

Like the redoubtable Lord Chief Justice, whose career was in some ways parallel to his own and in many

others divergent, Withens was no debtor to the bottle. John Evelyn, the diarist, records how he was at a wedding, where were the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff, several Aldermen, and persons of quality. 'Above all, Sir George Jeffreys and Mr. Justice Wythens danced with the bride and were exceedingly merry. These great men spent the rest of the afternoon till eleven at night drinking healths, taking tobacco, and talking much beneath the gravity of judges.'

Charles the Second died in the year 1685, and a few months later an insurrection broke out in the West with the object of dethroning James his successor and making the Duke of Monmouth, Charles' illegitimate son, King in his stead. The rebels were defeated on Sedgemoor in the last battle ever fought on English soil, and having now, as he thought, his enemies at his mercy, James and his advisers determined on such a revenge as should strike terror into the hearts of people, and teach such a lesson that rebellion should not dare to raise its head again, at least, not for a long time. Many of the rebels were put to death by martial law after the battle, but something more was needed. The forms of law had to be observed, and a special commission was sent down to the West headed by Lord Jeffreys.

Four judges were joined with him—Chief Baron Montague, Mr. Justice Levintz, Mr. Justice Withens and Mr. Justice Wright. The first two are said to have been men of reputation and respected by the public and the profession; the other two were mere time servers and boon companions of the Lord Chief Justice. But whatever they were made little difference, for Jeffreys and the King had settled beforehand what they called their plan of campaign, and did not intend to have any interference with their designs.

The Assize which followed is known in history as the Bloody Assize, a name which sufficiently indicates its character. The guilt of the proceedings must be shared by Jeffreys and the King; but Withens and the other judges who sat on the bench and, so far as the reports go, said nothing, cannot escape some responsibility.

(To be continued.)

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—From a listener's point of view, I think there can be no doubt that the most effective way to ring muffled would be to muffle the back-stroke and ring whole pull changes. You would then get the change, and a sort of echo of it. I know that I am not the only one that thinks so, but I am told that whole pull changes are very difficult to ring, though I cannot understand why. I have certainly never heard of them being rung.

Of course, under the existing definition of a peal it would not be possible to ring a muffled peal this way. J. B. M. RIDOUT.

Westwood, 54, King's Road, Swanage.

DEATH OF LIEUT. W. F. TROKE.

News has been received that Lieut. Walter Edmund Troke, R.N.V.R., has been posted missing, presumed killed. Lieut. Troke, who was an architect by profession, before the war was one of the band of ringers at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. He was the architect who supervised the work at Leytonstone when the extra bells were added as a memorial to William Pye, and was a member of the committee of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. F. W. Richardson informs us that among the books and papers left by the late W. J. Jeffries are copies of ringing papers, presumably 'The Bell News' and 'The Ringing World.' These will have to go for salvage, but Mr. Richardson has asked the family to hold them up for a time in case any ringer would like to secure them. If there is anyone, will he write to Mr. Richardson at 16, Harefield Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4? Mr. Richardson began his ringing career forty years ago last Friday.

Intending visitors to the Guildford Guild meeting at Seale to-morrow should note that the time of service is 4 o'clock, not 4.30 as advertised.

All the band who took part in the handbell peal of Minor at Oxford are reading chemistry, and the performance was arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to Dr. H. M. N. H. Irving, University lecturer and demonstrator in chemistry.

The first peal on the twelve bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung on November 23rd, 1775.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on November 24th, 1816.

On November 25th, 1737, the Eastern Scholars rang, single handed, 15,120 Bob Major at West Ham.

The London Scholars rang 6,204 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on November 27th, 1729.

Next Sunday is the 50th anniversary of the first local peal of Stedman Caters by the All Saints' Society, Fulham. It was conducted by J. W. Driver. Of the band, Messrs. W. T. Elson, W. S. Smith and E. H. Adams are still alive and active.

The tower bell peals at Tunstall and All Saints', Oxford, and the handbell peals of Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Royal at Oxford were rung in honour of the diamond wedding of Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall. Last week it was referred to in error as his golden wedding.

Mr. Spice himself conducted 720 Bob Minor and 504 Stedman Triples at Tunstall.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

MR. CYRIL F. JOHNSTON.

MASTER OF THE CLOCKMAKERS' COMPANY.

At the election court of the Clockmakers' Company, held on September 27th, Mr. Cyril F. Johnston was elected Master for the year 1944.

During his year of office the famous firm of bell founders with which he is associated will celebrate its 100th birthday, for Gillett and Johnston were established in 1844.

Mr. Johnston served as apprentice both in the clock making and bell founding branches of the business, and at an early age went into partnership with his father, the late A. A. Johnston, who was a Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company.

Mr. Johnston has made a very close study of bell tuning and carillon making, and ringers are familiar with the many fine ringing peals erected by his firm in all parts of the country. Some had the opportunity of inspecting the great carillons supplied to New York, Toronto and Wellington. The clocks in church towers and public buildings are as numerous as the rings of bells.

In 1925, the late King George V. and Queen Mary honoured the Croydon factory with a visit and many Royalities and prominent people have been received there during the last few years. Popular imagination was much taken by the carillon erected in Hyde Park before being shipped to Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr. Johnston was made a Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company in 1920, and elected to the Court of Assistants in 1931. He was chairman of the Horological Institute from 1921-1924, and has travelled extensively in U.S.A. and abroad.

In the last war he served as a subaltern in the Grenadier Guards. He holds a commission in the Home Guard as a captain, and when that force was formed, organised a unit composed of the firm's employees. He married in 1930 Miss Mary Evelyn O'Leary, a direct descendant of the diarist, Sir John Evelyn, and has a son and daughter.

STAVERTON, DAVENTRY.—On Saturday, November 20th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Mrs. Powell 1, Miss Maud Clarke (first quarter-peal) 2, G. Hancock 3, F. Hancock 4, Rev. E. S. Powell (conductor) 5, F. Browning 6. Also 240 St. Clement's Bob Minor, and 240 Bob Minor with D. C. Birkinshaw.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

NINETIETH BIRTHDAY.

To-morrow Mr. James George will reach his ninetyeth birthday, and ringers all over the country will join in congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. George was born at Pinner on November 27th, 1853, the second son of James George, who was for many years the leader of the local band of ringers. The son as a boy frequently rang the service bell, but did not take up ringing until much later in life. In 1869 he entered the service of the then London and North-Western Railway, and in 1881 he went to live at Rugby.

It was not until 1889, when he was in his 35th year, that he rang his first peal. It was Holt's Original at St. George's, Camberwell, for the St. James' Society. By 1894 he had completed 100 peals, and he went on to join the select number of those who have each over one thousand peals to his credit and one on every date in the year.

Mr. George has been especially fond of heavy bell ringing, and among the tenors he has rung to peals are St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, St. Michael Cornhill, St. Peter's, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Waltham Abbey, St. Martin's Birmingham, and St. Giles' Cripplegate. He rang the tenor at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1911 to the record length of 12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and the tenor at Painswick to the 17,687 Grandsire Cinques, which turned out to be false in the composition.

In 1932, Mr. George took part in a peal at St. Olave's, Hart Street, when the aggregate age of the band was 594 years, and shortly afterwards in another at the same church when the aggregate age was 612 years, an average of more than 76 years for each man. Both peals were called by Challis F. Winney.

For some time Mr. George was Ringing Master of the Warwickshire Guild, vice-president of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild, and honorary member of the Central Council.

Some years ago he had an accident which resulted in the loss of one of his legs, but he reported the other day that he was in good health and comfortable.

SQUIRE PROCTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is a small matter, but two inaccuracies occur in recent correspondence under this heading. Mr. Cartmel gave the Squire's age as 86, and on page 505 of your current issue it states he died in 1902. The Squire's obituary notice is to be found in 'Church Bells' for March 22nd, 1895, and he was in his 80th year.

The last paragraph of the notice in 'Church Bells' is rather pathetic, and you may think it worth quoting: 'The Squire and his men grew old together. After he discontinued ringing, little was done in that way by them. The band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants. Benington was Mr. Proctor's world. He had few pursuits outside and left it very seldom. Latterly he lived almost entirely alone; he became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life, and was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.'

May I add 'The Ringing World' of August, 1941, contained references to the old Squire, and on August 29th of that year you published a letter of mine giving this same information.

Cannot Mr. Cartmel get some personal recollections from Mr. Herbert Warner and send them for publication? They would be of great interest, I am sure.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been a ringer for quite a long time, have rung in a number of different towers under different ringing masters, and have found some good and some very bad. But I have never been able to find out what the real duties of a ringing master should be. Perhaps some of the more experienced members of the Exercise would kindly oblige by giving an explanation of what the real duties of a good ringing master should be.

'ORPHEUS.'

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WEBB.

After many months of suffering, Mr. George Webb, one of the band at Tunstall, Kent, has passed away.

The funeral was at Tunstall on November 15th, and among the many wreaths were one from the Kent County Association and one from the local ringers. The bells were rung half-muffled after the interment.

DUBLIN.—At St. George's Church on November 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Arthur Worrell 1, Mrs. F. E. Dukes 2, Miss A. C. Dukes 3, Thomas McMorran 4, *Miss Iris Rowe 5, Fred E. Dukes (conductor) 6, George McGregor 7, Arthur Darlington 8. *First quarter. Rung with 7.5.8 covering.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 509.)

The fine lantern tower of the Abbey Church of Pershore, Worcestershire, the architect of which is unknown but is generally believed to be the same that built Salisbury Cathedral, is richly panelled and traceried. Sir Gilbert Scott says of it, 'Not only is it a remarkably noble specimen of architecture of the 14th century, but internally so much beauty is displayed that I scarcely know of one so rich and beautiful as that of Pershore, and it stands, so far as I know, quite alone in its design.' It was commenced in 1330, and reaches a height of 125ft. to the top of the four pinnacles. It is 42ft. square externally and 29ft. 2in. internally. Daylight is admirably arranged by means of eight windows, 4ft. 4in. wide.

The ringing room is very singular and locally known as 'the bird cage.' There is an octave of bells, of which Mrs. H. B. Walters says, 'These bells are generally considered one of the finest rings of eight in England, but the difficulties of ringing them are well known to local ringers. The cage ringing chamber, due to the exigencies of the tower opening out as a lantern, is probably unique.'

This 'ringing room,' which is a curiosity, stands upon a stout oaken beam, projecting from the centre of each wall, joined together in the middle, and upon this is supported a wrought-iron cage, 11½ft. square inside, and placed with its corners to the four beams, thus giving it a diamond appearance with regard to the tower, from the fact that its four corners are opposite the centre of each wall. The floor of the church, which can be seen on all sides by looking through the iron bars, is 72ft. 2in. below, and the bells are on the next floor, only 15ft. 9in. above, but nevertheless pleasant and distinct.

This interesting place is approached from an openwork gallery in the thickness of the wall only 16in. in width, and 4ft. 9in. in height, up through a circular skeleton iron staircase overhanging the church, and only 21in. in width, and one of the beams alluded to forms a sort of a bridge carefully railed up each side. In addition to the iron bars which constitute the ringing chamber, the upper portion is augmented by very stout iron netting, to keep the ropes from flying through, very much resembling on a larger scale the kind of cage used for keeping parrots and cockatoos. Pershore is well known for its chimes, and tunes were played regularly on its carillon machine which was erected by Gillett and Johnston in 1879. It had a fortnightly cycle of tunes.

As early as 1552 there were 'in the steeple v bells which of late time was bought of the King's majestie that dead.' The octave was cast by A. Rudhall in 1729, with a tenor of 26 cwt, the treble being recast in 1814 by T. Mears, and the 4th by Barwell, of Birmingham in 1897. There was formerly a priest's bell by Rudhall, but this was stolen during restoration of the church on the night of Easter Monday, 1863.

The central tower of Sherborne Abbey (St. Mary's), Dorset, contains the heaviest ring of eight bells in England. There is also a fire bell and an ancient Sanctus bell. Before recasting in 1933, the tenor weighed 45 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb., and was at that time by J. Warner, 1865, but after recasting by Mears and Stainbank she weighs 46 cwt. 5 lb. At this time all the other bells were retuned and rehung in new bearings and fittings.

The tenor was originally the gift of Cardinal Wolsey, and was brought from Tournai with other bells. It became cracked and was recast by Thomas Purdue, of Closworth, on October 20th, 1670. It became cracked again and was recast in 1867 by J. Warner and Sons. The original 3rd and 7th were cast by Robert Austin, of Sherborne, in 1652. The new tenor's inscription runs thus:—
'By Wolsey's gift I measure time for all,

To mirth, to grieffe, to church, I serve to call.

Recast 1670, by Thomas Purdow, of Closworth, Somerset; Joseph Barker, Vicar; Gustavus Horne, Walter Pride, churchwardens. Again recast 1865 by John Warner and Sons, of London; Edward Harston, Vicar; James Hoddinott, Francis Stokes, churchwardens. Again recast 1933 by Mears and Stainbank, of London. Wilfred Marcus Askwith, Vicar; Clement Horace Adams, James Florance, churchwardens.'

The cost of recasting the tenor was defrayed by contributions from Old Boys of Sherborne Grammar School, through an appeal made by Major J. H. B. Hesse. The fire bell (diam. 32½in.) says:—

'*Lord qvncch the fvriovs flame

aris, rvn, help pvt ovt the same. I.W., I.G.

*1654. R.A.'

The ancient Sanctus (diam. 19in.) has an invocation to St. Mary.

The first mention of bells at All Hallows'—i.e., the old Parish Church of Sherborne, which was built on to the west end of the Abbey, and continued to be used as the Parish Church until the town bought the Abbey Church at the dissolution in 1539—is in 1514-15, when some repairs were done. In 1515-16 further repairs are noted to the clapper of the great bell, some bell ropes, and to trussing the 'Big Bell.'

This Big Bell is probably Wolsey's bell, which was given to the town, not to the monastery. When the parish bought the Abbey Church in 1539-40, the bells were transferred from the Parish Church to the Abbey Church, and were then six in number. Various payments for repairs occur regularly, and in 1556 the 5th and 6th were recast, and a great collection was made, amounting to £61 19s. 9d., besides gifts of cows, parchment, skins, bell wheels, etc.

Like so many central towers, Sherborne Abbey has a curious entrance to the ringing chamber. This is on a level with the vaulting of the church roof, and to reach it it is necessary to ascend a spiral staircase at the angle of the south transept (from the inside), and to traverse the leads on the roof of the same along the east, south and west sides, either going round and under the clock dial, or to take a short cut on the inside of the clock dial under the roof of the Digby Chapel, then enter the belfry door. Go down two or three steps and along a very narrow passage, and then up a few steps to the ringing floor. To do this you have to go under an iron tierod in a bent head position. There are no windows in the ringing chamber, so it is necessary to have artificial light even in daytime.

(To be continued.)

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On Saturday, November 6th, at St. Leonard's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Miles 1, J. Gardner 2, C. Calcutt (conductor) 3, C. Bennett 4, T. W. Bond 5, H. Caves 6. Rung for the patronal festival.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On Friday, November 19th, 380 Cambridge Surprise Minor and 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. W. Gregory 1, B. Ailsop 2, G. H. Paulson 3, H. E. Taylor 4, A. C. Wright 5, V. Bottomley 6.

PRIZE RINGING IN THE OLD DAYS.

BY W. R. GREEN.

The following article appeared in 'The Rugby Advertiser' of November 12th:—

The name of Sabin has been connected with bellringing at Long Buckby, Northants, for the past 125 years, and the remaining branch of that tree, Mr. George Sabin, of Mill Hill, Long Buckby, who has personal experiences of campanology going back three-quarters of a century, is puzzled. His puzzlement arises from an article in last week's 'Rugby Advertiser' quoting a reminiscence from 'The Ringing World' in which a man named Bishop, one of a team from Sapcote, while engaged in prize ringing at Long Buckby, had difficulty in controlling the tenor bell, and felt someone was in the belfry, interfering with it. During revelry in a local inn afterwards, the article states, Bishop again broached the subject of his difficulty and a Long Buckby ringer retorted, 'You don't suppose we are fools big enough to allow your ringers to come here and take away the prize, do you?' seeming to indicate that tampering with bells was quite prevalent in these matches.

There was a spirit of craftsmanship in bellringing of old, and Mr. Sabin looks upon the anecdote as a slur upon ringers of that day. He has a right to do so, for at the early age of 12, in the year 1872, he went to Dodford (Northants) to ring with his father. A Mr. Furness, mistaking him for a Dodford boy, boxed his ears to drive him from the steeple until Mr. Sabin, sen., explained his son had come to ring. Thereupon young George wiped the tears from his eyes and took his rope with such good effect that Mr. Furness afterwards apologised over and over again for striking 'one of the best little ringers I have ever heard' and insisted upon buying some 'pop' for the boy.

Mr. Sabin thinks the alleged tampering with bells could not be possible, for a variety of reasons. To move across to a tenor bell during ringing would necessitate crossing between the other swinging bells, an impossible feat, for a man would be crushed in the attempt. Apart from this, rules binding such competitions were very severe and ringers had to wait in church during the whole contest. Another guard was on duty in the steeple to see that no man climbed to the belfry. The only way in which a man could conceivably tamper with a bell was to conceal himself in one of the narrow orifices in the belfry wall throughout the whole contest, an impossible feat as the noise at such proximity would blast eardrums, apart from the physical endurance necessary to stay for any length of time in such a cramped position. Each set of ringers at competitions of that kind would ring Grand Sire, Gog Magog and Antelope, taking about 20 minutes for the three peals. If the contest had been sponsored by the Long Buckby ringers, there was another rule to the effect that those sponsoring should not enter their own team in the contest.

The seriousness with which bellringing was held in Mr. Sabin's day is demonstrated by the fact that when a dispute arose many years ago between the bellringers and a new priest, resulting in the bellringers getting the 'sack,' all sections of the community marched round the streets on Guy Fawkes night bearing an effigy of the parson, complete with book which was burned at the stake with all honours due to such an occasion.

Neither at his father's or his grandfather's knees does Mr. Sabin recall having heard of any visit of the Sapcote ringers, and he has no recollection of this Leicestershire team ever visiting Long Buckby. He would like to know from Mr. H. Bird, of Broughton Astley, the writer of the article in 'The Ringing World,' in what year it was that the man named Bishop came to Long Buckby.

Frankly, he doesn't believe that Long Buckby ringers would be guilty of such a scurvy trick, even if it were possible.

DEATH OF MR. J W STEDDY.

The death is announced of Mr. John Whibley Steddy, of Edenbridge, who passed away at his home on November 16th, and was buried last Saturday.

Mr. Steddy was a member of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex, London and Middlesex County Associations and of the Ancient Society of College Youths, had rung over 130 peals. His first was at Tonbridge on April 19th, 1895, and on Boxing Day, 1896, he rang a peal of Treble Bob Major at St. Stephen's, Westminster, and another of the same method at Woolwich. On December 27th, 1898, he rang three peals with Messrs. Keith Hart, who conducted all three, William Steed, Alfred J. Turner and John S. Goldsmith. Starting at Southover, Lewes, with a peal of Grandsire Triples, they went to Ringmer for Bob Major, then to Buxted for another of Bob Major. On the day before they had rung Treble Bob at Warnham.

After the funeral the local band, with Mr. L. Tidy, of Limpsfield, and Mr. Batten, representing the Kent County Association, rang the bells half-muffled.

Mr. Steddy leaves a widow, and three sons, all of whom are serving in H.M. Forces.

PULBOROUGH.—On Sunday, November 14th, for Confirmation service, 1200 Bob Minor, with 6-8 covering: C. S. Greenfield 1. A. C. Greenfield 2. R. Wood, sen. (Billingshurst) 3. A. E. Holden 4. C. Longhurst (West Grinstead) 5. H. J. Doick 6. L. Stilwell (conductor) 7. F. J. Killick 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.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District. —Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea and meeting to follow.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting at Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 2.30. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, Dis. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Reddish, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring own food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15; ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, Sunday, Dec. 5th, 10.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Hinckley on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 3.30 to 7.30. Tea at local cafes. 9.42 p.m. train all stations to Leicester, 10.5 p.m. train to Nuneaton.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.—Meeting, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Ringing from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m.—Robert C. Heazel.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Henfield, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 (by invitation) to those who notify by Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Div. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. For tea, notify Mr. C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before Nov. 30th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, 1s. 9d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 1st.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Annual meeting at Wraxall on Saturday, December 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in the Old Rectory 5.15.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food). Names for tea by Nov. 28th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by November 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. for only those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know by Dec. 2nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 by kind invitation. Names by Dec. 1st.—Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—J. Kay, Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea before Tuesday, Dec. 7th.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting on Dec. 11th at Exeter. Service at St. Edmund's Church, 4 p.m. Tea at Western's Cafe, Bridge Street, 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Names by Dec. 6th. All city towers open.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Radcliffe-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 5, followed by tea, 1s. 9d. per head, with use of Church Room for handbells, etc. Names for tea to reach me by Wednesday, Dec. 8th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

Two sound brass handbells, 'C' (sharp), 2nd 'D', diameter 3 1/8 and 3in. respectively, for sale privately. Reasonable price. Very suitable for anyone with peal of eight.—Write (enclosing stamp), L. Ware, 20, Elspeth Road, London, S.W.11.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on Nov. 13th, and was attended by members from Hartfield, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Uckfield and the local band. Capt. S. G. Richards, C.F. and S. T. Russell of the R.A.S.C., were also present. The curate, the Rev. N. J. Kelly, welcomed the ringers.

Ringers ranged from rounds to Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and tea was served by Miss K. Shepherd at her house. Meetings were arranged for Tunbridge Wells on December 4th, and Coleman's Hatch on January 15th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, October 31st, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, W. Lee 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, J. Harrison 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, November 6th, for Remembrance Day service, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, rung half-muffled: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, W. Lee 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, R. Buckland 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, November 21st, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (from 'Clavis'): *Miss B. J. Frost 1, *Miss A. E. Holden 2, A. G. Hall 3, *D. L. Hall 4, H. A. Holden 5, A. Williams 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, V. J. Benning 8. *First quarter-peal. Arranged for the ringer of the 6th, home on leave from H.M. Forces.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.—On Sunday, November 7th, at the Church of St. Giles, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Redfern 1, A/F.L. F. Sharples, F.A.A. 2, A. Vaughan 3, A. W. Lloyd 4, F. A. Forster 5, A. Thompson 6, R. S. Anderson (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, G. W. Biddulph 8.

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MUFFLED RINGING

One of the debatable subjects which from time to time crop up in the Exercise and about which very divergent opinions are expressed is muffled ringing. Which is the best way to do it? some people ask, and others put the question in the rather different form: Which is the correct way to do it? It will be remembered that the matter was brought before the Central Council, arising mainly out of the ringing at the death of King George the Fifth, and was referred to the officers of the Council who, but for the outbreak of war, would have issued a considered and authoritative opinion. Last week it was raised again in our columns.

We have no intention of trying to settle this matter, or even of trying to advise ringers on what they should do, but it may be well to state one or two conclusions based on the general experience of the Exercise.

In the first place, whether one usage is more correct than another cannot and does not arise. No rules have ever been laid down by any competent authority, and it is doubtful if there is any authority competent to lay down any rules. Nor is the custom of muffling bells old enough for it to be subject to that uniformity of usage which in some points of Church ritual amounts to law. Muffled ringing is intended to create a solemn impression on the minds of those who hear it, and the method which best achieves that end is the best method of performance. It is a question of taste and aesthetics, and therefore not subject to any definite and stringent rules.

Different people at different times have advocated different methods, but in practice usage is confined to two ways—fully muffled with the tenor open at back-stroke, and half-muffled with the handstrokes open. These are the two methods with which the Exercise is familiar, and of which most ringers have enough experience to judge between them. Opinion is certainly not unanimous, but it is safe to say that the great majority prefer the half-muffled to the fully muffled. Indeed, we may wonder why the latter has had such an extensive vogue. The explanation lies in the conservatism of ringers and their unwillingness to change a habit once acquired. When muffling was first thought of, rather more than two hundred years ago, the only way which occurred to men was to tie cloth or felt round the ball of the clappers, and that did not admit of half-muffling. It was not till considerably later that someone (apparently a member of the bell-founding family of Bagley) invented the muffler which would leave one side of the clapper free to strike an open blow. By that time in most

(Continued on page 522.)

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places fully muffled ringing had become the customary usage and was not easily changed. Half-muffling, however, was gradually more and more adopted, and it is significant that, though bands adopted half-muffling in place of fully muffling, none seems to have changed the other way.

We may, then, reasonably assume that the Exercise has found half-muffled ringing artistically superior to fully-muffled ringing, but there are still differences of opinion as to how the former should be done. The usual custom is to muffle the backstrokes, but some men advocate leaving open the backstrokes where, they say, all the best and most musical changes come.

The best test of this opinion is to try both ways one immediately after the other. We do not think that many men would be very anxious to alter the present style.

Another plan which has had many advocates is to ring in whole pulls so that the muffled change may be an exact echo of the open. It seems excellent in theory, but very few bands would be able to ring accurately even the simplest method in whole pulls, not because it is, in itself, difficult, but because it is unfamiliar. And it is doubtful if the artistic gain would be great.

A further question is what sort of method is best to be rung—odd-bell or even? Here there is legitimate room for wide differences of opinion. If we were asked our personal opinion we should say, Tittum Grandsire Caters for ten bells, Plain Bob Major for eight bells. But other people may think differently.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 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	JOSHUA MORRIS 11-12

Composed by F. H. DEXTER

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Specially rung to mark the 90th birthday of Mr. James George, of Birmingham. Mr. George rang his last peal (on handbells) in this church on his 86th birthday.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 28, 1943, in Two Hours,

AT 6, GLEBE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor size 10 in A.

*MISS HILDA OAKSBETT 1-2	GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4
*PERCY J. SPICE 5-6	

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal of Plain Bob on handbells and first attempt.

BELLS AND NATIONAL EVENTS.

We have received from Mr. C. V. Ebberson the following cutting from a Lynn newspaper quoting a paragraph of June 21st, 1890, an example of bell-ringing in celebration of events of national importance:

To celebrate the passing of the Load-line Bill, Mr. Plimsol expressed a wish that the bells of every port in the kingdom should be rung simultaneously, and this was done on Wednesday evening, when amongst the touches rung on St. Nicholas' bells at Lynn were five courses (560) of Bob Major by the following: 1 W. G. Cross, 2 J. W. Sedgley (conductor), 3 W. W. Brown 4 Stranger (Bungay), 5 W. Brooke, 6 R. Crome, 7 J. Dodman, 8 W. Curston.

The Load-line Act was the Act of Parliament which compelled every sea-going vessel to have a line painted on the hull to mark the limit to which it might be loaded. It is usually known as the Plimsol line. The intention was to stop the practice of sending to sea overloaded and heavily insured ships.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND
ST. CUTHBERT.**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 21 cwt.

*JAMES BREWSTER 1 Treble	WILLIAM SHERATON 5
ERNEST WALLACE 2	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 6
† WILLIAM F. SHERATON 3	FRANK AINSLEY 7
JOHN A. BROWN 4	DENIS A. BAYLES... .. 1 Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

ARKLOW.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 23, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HAROLD ANNESLEY 1 Treble	THOMAS NOZUM 5
WILLIAM T. SHAW 2	MISS MARGARET ALEXANDER 6
SAMUEL J. EVANS 3	JAMES FLIGHT 7
FREDERICK E. DUKES... .. 4	CAPT. JOHN KINCH 1 Tenor

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

Rung as a wedding compliment to the ringer of the 7th and as a birthday compliment to Mr. James George.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

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

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb.

*HARRY BARNES 1 Treble	T. COLIN RYDER 5
*CHARLES URCH 2	EDGAR C. STACEY 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 3	HAROLD WAGSTAFF 7
EDWARD DALINGWATER 4	PERCY GLEDSTONE 1 Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Fowler.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK A. COLEY 1 Treble	NORMAN CHADDCKE 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 6
FREDERICK G. BALDWIN 3	PHILIP A. CORBY... .. 7
*ROBERT WAKE 4	EDWIN BARNETT 1 Tenor

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. BARNETT.

* First peal of Major.

FIVE BELL PEAL.

BRAFIELD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 240 each of New Bob, Stedman Slow Course, Shipway's Place, St. Dunstan's, Chase and Union, and 360 each of Stedman, Antelope, London, New Grandsire, Grandsire, St. Simon, April Day, Old Doubles, Plain Bob and Canterbury Pleasure. Tenor 12 cwt. 7 lb.

*JOSEPH W. L. LINNETT 1 Treble	GEORGE CARE 3
Cecil WHITE 2	PHILIP JONES 4
RONNIE NOON 1 Tenor	

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal. First peal by all in 16 different methods. A birthday compliment for the conductor.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD'S COLLECTION.

(Continued from page 465.)

Two interesting manuscripts in Heywood's book refer to Stedman Triples. One is the copy of Brooks' Variation, on which Henry Johnson as umpire ticked off the course-ends of the silent peal rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886. On it Johnson wrote, 'This peal was rung at Burton-on-Trent, Saturday, November 20th, 1886, in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Fish and H. Johnson, senr., without a Bob or Single being called or expressed and rung in 3 hours 7 minutes, and the first peal of Stedman Triples so rang on church bells.'

The other MS. is endorsed 'Stedman Triples, 5,040, altered from Thurstans' peal by T. Brooks. This, I believe, is the original copy, 1852.' The writing seems to be Brooks' own, but it is not quite certain. Underneath in pencil is written, 'Given to J. R. Haworth by Mr. Frank Marshall, a friend of Mr. Brooks. J. R. Haworth.' The figures of the peal are signed 'T. Brooks, April 18th, 1852.'

Beneath two leaves cut from some book Heywood has written, 'Explain this who can,' and, indeed, it would be a formidable task. One gathers that it is a transcript and explanation of some manuscript from the Rawlinson Collection in the Bodleian Library. It is a most extraordinary jumble of English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, music and bellringing. There is a reference to 'an Epigramme to Bedford Ringers, especially to Mr. Robert Palmer principal in ye noble consort,' which consisted of sixty-four lines of verse in praise of the said Robert Palmer and his sons and other friends skilled in ringing changes. The date is about the middle of the seventeenth century.

One of the Palmers seems to have been, not only a ringer, but 'chiefe of ye Musical Society.' He adapted some psalm tunes to be rung on bells, and set them down not only in ordinary musical notation and in figures, but in Hebrew characters and with Latin words. He also set down the twenty-four changes of Plain Bob on four bells in Hebrew characters and, doing the job thoroughly, wrote them out, Hebrew fashion, from right to left instead of left to right. In one set of five-bell changes, we are told, Greek letters are used as well as Hebrew, and also some unknown alphabet.

A printed circular advertises 'Shaw's patent frictionless roller bearings' for the hanging of bells. By their means it is claimed 'the heaviest bells are made to swing as light and easy as very small bells under the old system of hanging.' Thus the physical part of bellringing will be so lightened as to make scientific change ringing more pleasurable and easy than has ever been the case before. Gentlemen constitutionally incapable of over-exertion will be able to ring the largest and heaviest bells with ease.' To this Heywood has a note: 'Tried on the 8th bell at Duffield and proved a useless plan of hanging.'

An illustration shows the bearing filled with steel rollers in a cast-iron box. If they were very carefully fitted, and so long as the rollers remained absolutely parallel with the gudgeons, they probably would be a success, but any movement of the frame and any inequality of alignment would at once cause trouble.

(To be continued.)

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

(Continued from page 515.)

When the Bloody Assize was ended, the five judges returned to London. On Saturday, October 3rd, 1685, King James received them publicly at St. James' Palace and they kissed his Majesty's hand and received his thanks. Jeffreys was rewarded with the Lord Chancellorship and went to a post where there was no more trying and hanging of prisoners to be done, but the others had more work before them. The Government, carrying on the policy of terrorism, determined to make an example of some Londoners who were supposed to have sympathised with the late rebellion, and they chose their victims so as to create, as they thought, the greatest impression.

In October, Sir Francis Withens charged the Grand Jury at Westminster. He said that there were 6,000 rebels with the Duke of Monmouth, and that not above 2,800 had been disposed of. The judges on their circuit had not found above two or three that had harboured them. They could not have escaped out of the country. What had become of them? Many, most like, were in London and Westminster, and it would be a proper thing for the constables to go about and inquire about lodgers, how long they had been in their lodging and what they had been doing at the time of the rebellion.

In two of the most notable trials which followed, Withens was on the Bench. One was of Henry Cornish, an alderman and a prominent member of the opposition party in the city. He was condemned on the evidence of a wretch named Goodenough and executed. The other was of Elizabeth Gaunt, a woman who belonged to the sect of the Baptists, and whose life had been spent in acts of charity and relieving distress. It was an act of mercy that was her undoing, for some years before she had befriended a man named James Burton, a conspirator in a plot against the late King, and had assisted him to escape to Holland. He had returned during the rebellion and after Sedgemoor had escaped to London where, to save his life, he betrayed the people who had helped him.

Withens did not sit still and say nothing during these trials; rather he tried to imitate the style of his master, Jeffreys; but he had neither the strength nor the badness to do so effectively. In these days, and for long after, a person on trial for his life for treason or murder was not allowed the assistance of counsel except when a point of law arose. The prisoner had to present his own defence, to call his own witnesses, and to cross-examine those brought against him, if, indeed, he was allowed to do so, which was not always. When, as usually happened in treason cases, the judges threw their whole weight into the scale to secure a conviction, the chances of acquittal were small. There was indeed a tradition of English justice that 'the Court ought to be counsel for the prisoner,' but that was clean forgotten in the State trials

at the end of the seventeenth century. King James had determined that Elizabeth Gaunt should be condemned, and condemned she was.

At the end of the trial, having remembered something, she wanted to call further evidence. The Recorder would have allowed it, but Withens at once said it could not be done, and the other judges were out of Court. Probably on a point of law Withens was right. Four days later Elizabeth Gaunt was burnt alive at Tyburn. She was not allowed even the poor mercy (then usual in such cases) of being strangled before the fire was lighted.

The night before she died she wrote that she forgave her enemies, 'but he that showed no mercy shall find none. I did but relieve a poor family and, lo, I must die for it. I desire to say, Lord, lay it not to their charge, but I fear and believe that when He comes to make inquisition for blood, mine will be found at the door of the furious judge who would not hear me, and though he granted some things of the same nature to another, yet he granted it not to me.'

There is so little recorded to the credit of Sir Francis Withens as a judge that it is pleasant to know that his last judicial act does him honour. A man had deserted from the Army, and the Government were anxious that he should suffer death for it. But the law of England knew nothing of standing armies and martial law in peace time; a soldier had the same rights as a civilian; and when Withens was required to condemn him he refused. For this he was dismissed from the Bench and returned to the bar and practised as a Serjeant-at-Law.

After the Revolution, which placed William and Mary on the throne, the Commons had 'the late disbanded judges' before them, who all declared the reasons why they had been turned out from being judges, and the House further considered some of the judgments which these judges had given in the political trials of the previous few years. Jeffreys died in the Tower and so escaped punishment; the other judges were treated leniently. Withens was called to the bar of the House to give an explanation of his conduct in the trial of Titus Oates, and some of his decisions were pronounced arbitrary and illegal. He was deprived of the recordership of Kingston-on-Thames, which he had held for several years, and with thirty other persons was excluded from the general Act of Indemnity. But no further punishment was inflicted on him.

In December, 1689, some of the citizens of London, to show their opinion, made effigies of Jeffreys, Withens and one or two men who had acted as foremen of grand juries. These effigies were carried in procession through the city, with a picture of Justice before them, to the Temple. At the Temple gate a gallows was erected, the images solemnly hung, and then cut down and burnt.

Sir Francis Withens married in Westminster Abbey Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Taylor. She was a clever, witty woman, but brought little comfort or happi-

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ness to her husband. She involved him in debts and law suits through her extravagances, and she had as her gallant Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Aylesford. There is a significant entry in Luttrell's diary for November 24th, 1696: 'Sir Francis Withens information against Sir Thomas Culpeper for assaulting him was tried on Saturday at Westminster and the defendant acquitted.'

Withens died in May, 1704, at Eltham, and was buried in the church there. His widow afterwards married Colepeper.

At the Church of St. Magnus, London Bridge, there is preserved a drinking cup which came from the famous Boar's Head Tavern, formerly in Eastcheap, and probably was used at the vestry meetings of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane. It bears an inscription saying it was the gift of Sir Francis Wythens, but whether it refers to the judge I cannot say. The date usually given does not agree.

We should like to know how far Sir Francis Withens was connected with the Society of College Youths, and to what extent he was a ringer. But that we do not know. As a young man he joined the society, and he may have been a regular attendant of the meetings for a long time. But we have no information. So far as ringing is concerned, he is a name and nothing more.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ADWICK-LE-STREET.

A meeting of the Doncaster and District Association was held at Adwick-le-Street on November 27th. The Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Taylor, presided and urged the members to think not only of their ringing, but also of the welfare of the Church they served. Four new members were elected and six members were chosen to assist the Vicar and his young band on December 11th.

A notice of motion was received for the annual meeting that the old rules of attendance for the Walker Cup should be revived.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—Before the induction of the new Vicar, the eight youngest girl members of the St. Peter's Society (average age 14½ years) rang the bells (tenor 16 cwt.) in rounds and Queens: Edna Hearn 1, Vida Simpson 2, Mary Pemberton 3, Valerie Crouch 4, Jean Broomfield 5, Freda Murkitt 6, Mildred Crouch 7, Joyce Hearn 8. After the service a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was attempted, but came to grief after 2,458 changes.

MOSSLEY, LANCASHIRE.—1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Ralph Tayler (conductor) 1, Harold Tayler 2, Harold Jackson 3, Frank Welham 4, John Radcliffe 5, Ralph Walker 6, Ernest Garside 7, Jack Clayton 8. Rung for the 70th birthday of the conductor, who has been a ringer at the church for 54 years.

BUXTON.—At St. Peter's, Fairfield, 720 Bob Minor: S. Boundy 1, I. O. Smith 2, J. Puplett 3, J. Smith 4, A. Richardson 5, E. Ellison (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. Headington.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On Wednesday, November 17th, 720 Bob Minor: *Freda Murkitt (age 14) 1, F. Hicks 2, E. D. Poole 3, C. A. Levett 4, G. Gilbert 5, N. V. Harding (first 720 as conductor) 6.—720 Bob Minor: *Joyce Hearn (age 14) 1, N. V. Harding 2, C. A. Levett 3, E. D. Poole 4, F. Hicks 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6.—720 Bob Minor: *Jean Broomfield (age 13) 1, C. A. Levett 2, F. Hicks 3, N. V. Harding 4, E. D. Poole 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6. *First 720.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On November 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. M. Squires 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, J. W. Wilkins (composer) 3, Edward Markham 4, George Hinton 5, Ralph Coles (conductor) 6, C. A. Smith 7, Harry Wingrove 8. A birthday compliment to Edward Markham and his brother, Harry Markham, aged 80, the oldest chorister in High Wycombe.

ARKSEY, YORKS.—On Saturday, November 20th, 1,344 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. J. Somerville 1, G. Clark 2, E. Clark 3, H. Arrand 4, Joseph McCluskey 5, E. Cooper (conductor) 6, T. Revill 7, B. Birkett 8. Rung for the wedding of Miss J. Eggleston to Lieut. F. Briggs.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, on Sunday, November 21st, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples from Holt's Original: R. Fosdike, F. W. Richardson, F. S. Bacon, W. H. Daynes, T. A. Easterby, A. F. Bennington, G. H. Daynes (conductor) and C. D. Letzer. Rung at the special request of the Vicar as a memorial to the late captain and secretary, W. J. Jeffries. It also marked the 40th anniversary of the formation of a new band at St. John's by the late captain, of which the ringers of the 2nd and tenor were members.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, November 28th, at All Saints', a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *Miss K. Brooks 1, *A. Thirst 2, *W. Gibbons 3, S. Croft 4, F. Bishop 5, H. Rogers (conductor) 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, who will reach his 79th birthday on Sunday next.

The peal of Double Norwich Major rung at Crayford last Saturday is believed to be the 509th for the Kent County Association.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles at Arklow is published as sent to us. Presumably it was rung with 7-6-8 as covers.

News has reached us that Mr. E. F. Behan, of Melbourne, Victoria, passed away on September 15th last.

The handbell peal at Linfield reported last week as being Holt's Ten-part should have been Holt's Original.

The peal of Bob Major at Chester-le-Street was arranged and rung to mark the 1,060th anniversary of the dedication of the first church and the 60th anniversary of the installation of the bells. Ten years ago a similar performance took place, and three men, Messrs. Brown, Patterson and W. Sheraton, stood in both peals. Two well-known North Country ringers, Messrs. W. Story and C. L. Routledge, who were present at the opening sixty years ago, are happily still alive. Mr. Routledge called the peal ten years since.

'BELLS OF THE ISLE.'

A NEW BOOK ON BELLS.

It is an excellent sign of the great interest taken by the general public at the moment in church bells and bellringing that a leading firm of publishers has found it worth their while to issue a book on bells, in spite of the severe restrictions imposed by paper shortage and other things due to the war.

The book by Mr. Reginald Harrison, who styles himself Bob Major, is primarily intended for the ordinary reader and necessarily deals with the subject on broad lines. As the author himself says, it would be utterly impossible in a book of the size to mention all the famous and curious bells of Britain, nor could full justice be done to the art of ringing within the limits of a chapter, however long. But he expresses the hope that he has said enough of the many aspects of bells and bellringing to stimulate interest in a fascinating subject.

He deserves to succeed in his object, and we believe he will have a large measure of success. He traces the story of bells through the ages, tells how they are made and tuned, gives an outline of change ringing, deals with chimes and carillons, mentions some curious and famous bells, and has something to say about bells in song and legend.

There are several illustrations and they are all good. One of them shows Great Paul on its way from Loughborough to St. Paul's Cathedral. Curiously enough, we lately received an original copy of this photograph from Mr. H. D. Harris, of Woburn, who sent it after reading our recent article on the bell. He tells us that after the traction engine and trailer had passed along Watling Street through Little Brickhill, the side wheels sank deeply into some soft ground on the edge of the road, where they stuck, and it was a considerable time before the trolley could be lifted to a firmer part of the highway. During its enforced stay the bell was a subject of great interest and curiosity among the people of the neighbourhood. The people shown in the photograph include Mr. Harris' wife's grandfather and aunts.

The one or two slips we have noticed in Mr. Harrison's book are of no importance, especially as some of them (like the statement that change ringing was practically the invention of Fabian Stedman) have been widely accepted as true in the Exercise. We join issue, however, when he tells us that at the close of the seventeenth century English bellfounding degenerated. For the purposes for which they were cast, eighteenth century bells as a whole were far superior to anything which preceded them and some of the best and most famous rings date from that time.

Mr. Harrison's book can be cordially recommended for anyone who is beginning to take an interest in bells and bellringing, and it would make a very suitable Christmas present to a person who has lately been attracted to the belfry, or is likely to be so.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER FARLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Farley, who passed away suddenly at Stourbridge on November 7th. The funeral at St. Thomas' Church was conducted by the Rev. Canon Newland, and the interment was at Stourbridge Cemetery. The Worcestershire and Districts Association was represented by Mr. B. C. Ashford, and the St. Thomas' band by Messrs. E. S. Bushell, A. Reynolds and A. D. Fellows. St. Thomas' bells were rung half-muffled by Messrs. W. Short, A. Walker, W. Potter, C. Skidmore, H. Shink, B. Ashford, P. Richards, W. Baughton, A. Skelding and F. L. Wright. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by W. Short, A. Walker, C. Skidmore and B. C. Ashford. Among the floral tributes was one from the St. Thomas' ringers and one from the ringers of neighbouring towers.

During the evening the bells of St. Thomas' were rung for an hour by his fellow-ringers as follows: R. Lee 1, A. L. Dunn 2, C. W. Cooper 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, J. W. Smith 6, A. Whatmore (conductor) 7, A. Fellows 8.

Mr. Farley, who had recently completed 50 years as a ringer, was a native of Wells, in Somerset. His first peal was at Twerton, near Bath, on May 16th, 1903, and his complete list contained 195 peals, which consisted of Grandsire Triples 79, Caters 24, Cinques 4, Stedman Triples 46, Caters 24, Cinques 4, Bob Major 6, and Minor 8. He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.

'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Ringers will welcome 'Forum's' debatable points, for this sort of discussion can only do good. Perhaps other ringers will contribute their 'points' and communicate their views upon published queries. I imagine that you will welcome such correspondence, provided it is not garrulous, and I, therefore, give my views on the questions published on November 19th as concisely as may be.

1. Open leads sound better than closed on any number and assist in maintaining a good beat.

2. The muffled backstroke does create an echo, which constitutes the solemn beauty of muffled ringing.

3. If ringers are really keen they will want to ring for an hour before service, and for an hour and a half on practice nights. But practice ringing should usually finish, at least in winter, by 9 p.m.

4. Learning to ring is a long and difficult business, and beginners are often allowed to ring in rounds too early in training, from the fear that interest will otherwise flag. This tendency has increased, for not only are ringers scarce, but the drudgery of learning any trade properly is, in these latter days, regarded with some impatience.

As to stance, the left foot may be slightly in advance of the right, with the feet a few inches apart.

5. No ringer should consider himself well equipped unless he can take part in rising and falling, which is a branch of the ringers' art worthy of close study. Nothing in ringing sounds better when well done: a good band falling 10, or even 12, is worth listening to.

6. Recently four Surprise ringers, all proficient on 8, 10 and 12, met for service ringing in an eight-bell tower. Rather than wait for late comers, it was not beneath them to raise the back four and ring Bob Singles for ten minutes. Singles and Doubles on the average eight-bell peal should be rung slowly. Doubles on a ten-bell peal are sometimes rung on 2.3.4.5.6.

J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Aith, Little Chalfont, Amersham.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR J. NEALE.

The death of Mr. A. J. Neale on November 12th has removed another well-known figure from ringing circles in London and Norfolk.

A native of Norfolk, Mr. Neale did his early ringing at Aylsham. He joined the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths on January 14th, 1895, and was a regular member of the band at St. Martin-in-the-Fields from the last war until the ban was imposed in June, 1940.

He took part in the first peals of Cambridge Maximus for the Cumberlands at Shoreditch and St. Martin's, as well as numerous other peals, both on tower and handbells, and he will be remembered as a safe ringer and a good striker. At the time of the blitz Mr. Neale and his family returned to Norfolk for a time, and only went back to London six weeks before he died.

He was in his 80th year and leaves a widow, son and daughter.

The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Wednesday, November 17th, and was attended by Messrs. G. Dawson, A. Hardy, F. C. Newman, A. Prior and G. W. Steere.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LONG EATON.**

About twenty members were present at the quarterly meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Counties Association, held at Long Eaton on November 13th, and good use was made of the bells.

Tea was provided at the Co-operative Cafe, and at the meeting which followed the succeeding meetings were decided for Beeston on January 8th, the annual at Bulwell on February 5th, and Ilkeston on March 4th.

Concern was expressed at the continued absence of Mr. F. A. Salter, the late district secretary, due to ill-health, and the secretary was instructed to write him conveying the best wishes of the meeting for a full recovery and complete restoration to his former ringing activities.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for use of the bells, to Messrs. Geary and Dawson for their help in arranging the tea and meeting, and to Mr. J. A. Barratt for presiding concluded the business.

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I give the view of muffled ringing as rung in the district where I have lived a good many years?

For the usual muffled ringing, they were muffled at backstroke and changes rung the usual way, but on some occasions the whole pull way, which, as Mr. Rideout says, seems the most effective, in which we agree, and having heard from listeners how it appealed to them.

For the whole pull way only the plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, which did not seem any more difficult, only required a little more patience. Where there were only six bells it was a course of Doubles, some suggested turning the tenor in, but most thought it would spoil the effect.

If they were muffled for a ringing member, the muffles were quickly removed and rung open with rounds, Queens and Tittums, then lowered in peal.

Henfield, Sussex.

C. TYLER.**DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The letter from 'Orpheus' regarding the above provides a very interesting subject for discussion. It would appear that he is a ringer of no little experience and it is difficult to know whether oneself should be included in the category of the 'more experienced ringers.' However, I submit the following suggestions and hope to profit by articles from other quarters:—

In the first place, I think that the director of ceremonies should not only be a ringing master, but also a leader, otherwise many of his duties become very difficult if not impossible.

The first and foremost duty, I would suggest, is that he should be a regular attender and good timekeeper.

He should see that a high standard of striking is reached and, so far as is possible, maintained, particularly with regard to Sunday service ringing. His watchword should be 'progress' and this should be applied, wherever possible, to every member of the band. He should arrange a weekly practice and give encouragement and sympathetic consideration to learners.

In many cases the ringing master is also the steeplekeeper, but if not it is his duty to see that the bells are properly cared for and kept in good condition for ringing.

He should be the liaison officer between the Church authorities and the ringers and should be ready to deal reasonably with any problems that may arise. For this purpose he should maintain close contact with the clergy.

It is very advisable that he should arrange social functions occasionally to which his ringers' wives, sweethearts and friends may be invited.

He has a very special responsibility with regard to visitors to the belfry. Every stranger should be made welcome and the method ringing adapted to his capabilities.

A peal may be looked upon as a crowning glory and a reward for the labours of learning, and, therefore, an occasional peal should be arranged for as many of the band who are desirous and capable of ringing in it.

Finally, it is his duty to be of pleasing countenance. Quick thinking and speaking are necessary to prevent a trip in the ringing from developing into something more serious, but he should be very careful to see that sharp words do not give way to 'feeling' when the ringing is over.

The success or failure of any ringing band depends very largely upon the qualifications of the Ringing Master, but it must never be forgotten that his success depends entirely upon the support he receives from those under his command.

HAROLD J. POOLE,
Leicester Cathedral Ringing Master.

150, Narborough Road South, Leicester.

DEATH OF MR. R. T. WOODLEY.

The death has occurred at Lowestoft on November 15th of Mr. R. T. Woodley, who in his younger days was well known as a ringer in London and as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was at one time hon. secretary of that society, being followed in the office by William T. Cockerill, and represented it on the Central Council, of which he was one of the original members. For the last 22 years he had been a regular member of the band at St. Margaret's, Lowestoft, and his keen interest in ringing affairs was shown by the letters from him we published from time to time. He had rung eleven peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association. At the time of his death he was 84 years old.

The funeral was on Saturday, November 20th, at St. Margaret's Church, and was attended by Mr. W. J. Lee, the chairman, and Mr. J. P. W. Harwood, the hon. secretary of the East Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and by Mr. A. E. Co'eman, Master of the St. Margaret's company. Unfortunately, no ringers were available to ring muffled.

DEATH OF MR. M. J. EXETER.

The death is announced of Mr. M. J. Exeter, of Minster, Sheppey, who passed away on November 19th. He was for many years captain of the Minster band until ill-health compelled him to resign last August. Before going to Minster, Mr. Exeter was well known at Seal Chart, Hadlow, Elmsted and Doddington and had taken part in several peals.

The bells at Minster were rung half-muffled on Sunday, November 21st, in his memory.

HORTON RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

On Thursday, November 11th, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Law, of Horton, Bucks, celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Law is well known to ringing circles in the district, for, as captain of the local band, he has always made visiting ringers welcome. He has been a ringer at Horton for 56 years.

On the following Saturday a peal of Minor was attempted, but failed in the second 720, and owing to the early black-out the band had to be content with touches.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 508.)

In 1897 a County Association was formed in Middlesex, which in 1903 became the London Diocesan Guild. The St. Mary's ringers were amongst the earliest members of this association and have consistently supported it. The first annual report of the Middlesex Association contains the names of some twelve St. Mary's ringers, possibly the whole of the effective membership. Nearly the whole of the present members of the St. Mary's Society are members of this association.

Several members, too, have been members of the St. James' Society, now the London County Association, a society which, under its earliest title, was founded over 100 years ago. It will therefore be seen that the St. Mary's ringers have, throughout the existence of the society, supported genuine efforts to uplift the status of ringers and ringing, and have not been merely content to let ringing matters drift along with the tide. Another instance of this is shown in their membership, in the 1880's, of the Wanstead Amalgamated Society, during that body's brief period of existence.

Mr. Maynard, in replying, of course expressed the pleasure of the ringers at having a peal of ten to ring on, and thanked the Vicar and churchwardens for what they had done. We are told that the proceedings were enlivened by songs by members of the choir and by selections by the Walthamstow String Band, and that a most pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

The third bell, which was the treble in the previous eight, was recast at this time, and the inscription on the original bell was reproduced. The tenor, however, which was recast in 1852, has no previous inscription shown.

With the restoration of the peal there came added enthusiasm for ringing, and many ringers from neighbouring towers were attracted by the ten bells. Consequently the St. Mary's ringers made great progress in the art. A great deal of ringing, other than for Sunday services, was done, and several peals, about which we shall hear more later, were recorded. As an encouragement, Thomas Maynard presented the society with a marble tablet, sufficiently lengthy to be placed on one wall of the belfry, on which has since been recorded several peals.

The practice night for many years was on Saturday. About 13 years ago it was altered to Tuesday, as all good husbands nowadays accompany their wives to High Street or some similar place on Saturday evenings. Besides ringing twice every Sunday, the bells are also rung every year on the King's birthday, on Empire Day, for early celebration on Easter Day and on Christmas Day, and on Easter Tuesday after the vestry meeting. Up to about ten years ago it was the practice to ring the bells after evensong on Sundays, but this ringing has been discontinued.

Another special occasion for ringing is on March 26th. By the will of the late Henry Turner, who died in 1907, a sum of money was left to the Vicar of this parish for the time being, to be held in trust, and 'to pay out of the income therefrom the cost of keeping in good repair the seven graves and tombs of my ancestors, and my own grave in the churchyard, and the expense of providing a supper for the bellringers for the time being of the Parish Church on the 26th day of March in every year, this being the anniversary of my death, and it is my wish, if the Vicar for the time being shall have no objection, that a peal of bells shall be rung on that day so that my memory may not be forgotten.' I need hardly add that the ringers do not forget to ring on this day.

During the later stages of the last war the bells were often not rung, as there were insufficient ringers left to carry on, but every endeavour was made by the older members to either ring some of them or to chime them. In January, 1916, a minute records that 'the police having issued instructions, through the Vicar, that the bells were not to be rung on New Year's Eve, they were, for the first time within the memory of the ringers, silent.' Since the war, the practice of ringing the old year out and the new year in has been continued without omission.

The members of the society lost one promising colleague during the last war, Benjamin J. Lock being killed in action in 1917, after nearly three years' service.

We must now turn to the ringing performances of the society, and in this connection it is true to say that there are few societies able to show such an interesting collection of peal records as those adorning the walls of the St. Mary's belfry. Some of these records show that the peals were rung by members of the society alone; others are of peals rung by members and visitors. In the belfry there are no less than 45 of these records; some take the form of marble tablets of different sizes; others are boards which take up considerable space; whilst others are much less pretentious, being illuminated cards, suitably framed. I need hardly say that only peals of some special interest, or peals that had been rung on the occasion of some event or anniversary of national interest, or of personal interest to the ringers themselves, are thus recorded; and there have been many more peals rung at St. Mary's Church than are recorded in the belfry.

The earliest peal of which a record finds a permanent place in the belfry is one of Grandsire Triples, consisting of the whole 5,040 changes possible on seven bells. Such a peal is quite a common event nowadays, but at that time it was no doubt considered well worth a peal board. The conductor was George Marriott, who was father-in-law of William D. Smith, one of the gentlemen previously mentioned as being at some time or other Master of the College Youths. The peal occupied the time of 2 hours and 57 minutes, and it was rung on May 18th, 1857. It is stated that this was the first peal on the bells for 27 years, and the name of the Rev. T. Parry, Vicar, appears at the foot of the board. George Marriott, the conductor, lived at Hackney.

(To be continued.)

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CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 517.)

Another glorious Dorset ring of eight bells in a central tower is that of Kingston St. James', near Swanage. This church is one of George Street's, and was finished in 1880. A ring of eight was cast in 1878, but in 1920 they were all recast by J. Taylor and Co. and rehung with new fittings in the old frame. The tenor now weighs 28½ cwt. To get to the ringing room you enter a spiral stairway by a door between the west wall of the north-east transept, and north wall of the nave. At the top you cross the top of the vaulting of the chancel, then enter the ringing chamber through a tiny door approached by some very curiously cut block steps. The tower is at the east end of the church, and the belfry is thus over the chancel (choir stalls), and there is an apsidal sanctuary to the east end of it.

It may be the right thing to say that everything one touches in Stratford-on-Avon must be in some way connected with Shakespeare. This does not seem to hold good, however, in regard to the bells in the central tower and spire of the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, for, whatever interests the great poet may have had beyond literature, we are not able to discover that he ever frequented the local belfry, and the information obtainable from the old vestry books is very scanty as to what bells hung in the tower in his day.

As early as 1502-3 it is recorded that John Bedill, alias Scatter, bequeathed 6s. 8d. to the reparation of the bells, and again in 1552 there is a note which runs as follows: 'Straatford-sup'-Avon. Itm there . . . ij belles Md. that the p'ishe have solde sithe' the Last Survey two broken bells to the maynten'nce of theire bridge the pavem'ts of the towne and the relief of the poore.'

Under the date October 24th, 1617, we read again, 'Item we were scited to Worcester because the church and Belles were out of order,' and on April 23rd, 1622—six years after the death of William Shakespeare—an order was given 'to cast two bells.' From this it may be inferred there were some bells, probably four or six, in the tower before 1683. In this year an entire ring of six was cast by Matthew Bagley, and probably the old bells were used to form part of this ring. Of these six bells the treble was recast in 1742 by Henry Bagley, and the third and sixth by Richard Sanders in 1733 and 1717 respectively.

Thus the ring appears to have remained until 1887, when two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The old third and fourth were recast at the same time, and all the eight rehung in a new iron frame. The tenor is 18 cwt. approximately.

The only entrance to the belfry and tower is by a door *inside* the church, in the south-west pier of the central tower, so that the ringers, after ringing for divine service, emerge in full view of the congregation in the nave. The door is a fine specimen of Perpendicular period.

So far as I know, only four complete peals of 5,000 changes have been rung here—one each of Stedman and Grandsire Triples by St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, one of Stedman Triples for the Midland Counties Association, and one of Kent Treble Bob Major by the Yorkshire Association.

St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington, is a 12th century cruciform building, with central tower and lofty spire of the 14th century. Here the approach to the belfry is by a spiral staircase at the south-west corner of the south transept, and the door is in the churchyard. After climbing this stairway it is necessary to proceed the full length of the transept on a wooden gangway, which brings you to a platform in the tower very similar to the ringers' gallery at Southwell Minster. From this platform or gallery a wooden spiral staircase ascends to the belfry. There are eight bells, with a tenor 16½ cwt. Two trebles are by J. Warner and Sons, 1866; third and sixth, 1755; and seventh 1761, by Lester and Pack; fourth 1865, by Mears and Stainbank; fifth and tenor 1864, by G. Mears and Co.

The Parish Church of Cottingham, dedicated to St. Mary-the-Virgin, is acknowledged to be one of the finest churches in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is a noble building of stone and consists of chancel, nave, transepts, aisles, with a lofty central tower containing eight bells and an excellent clock.

There is no doubt that a church existed at Cottingham and, it is believed, on the present site, several hundreds of years before the present structure was built. The first Rector can be traced to the year 1160. The transepts, tower and east part of the nave appear to have been built in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The chancel was added a century later. The tower has double buttresses at the angles, which terminate above the battlements in small pinnacles, but whether these are original is open to conjecture. There is, however, a record in the old Churchwardens' Book of £31 17s. 6d. having been paid in 1744 for 'eight pinnacles setting upon ye Church of Cottingham, and £1 10s. for vanes for ye said eight pinnacles.'

The north-east corner of the tower is flanked by a conspicuous staircase turret leading to the tower roof, and approached by a doorway in the churchward. Although designed to carry a ring of bells—which it does—this tower had no means of access to them, hence the above-mentioned external stairway being erected. The ringers have to ascend right up 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 about 12in. square. The sallies of the bell ropes pass over the bell wheels, and naturally the noise while ringing is very great.

Four new bells were added to four ancient bells in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and a new iron frame erected to carry them. The bells are dated thus: Treble, 1638, and bears the mark of G. Oldfield, of Nottingham; second, 1739, is by 'E. Sellar Ebor' (York); third, 1753, by G. Dalton, Ebor; fourth, 1795, by James Harrison, of Barton. The back four are by John Warner and Sons, of London.

(To be continued.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch was held at St. Giles', Northampton, on November 27th. Service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Augur, was followed by light refreshments in the Church Buildings. The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, and arrangements for the annual meeting in January were agreed to. The bells were rung from 3.30 p.m. and after the business meeting.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HESTON.**

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Heston on November 20th, when about 20 members and friends were present from Ealing (Christ Church and St. Mary's), Feltham, Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Ruislip, Streat-ham, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

Ringing was carried on at intervals from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in most of the standard methods, including a number of Surprise methods.

Tea and cakes, provided by the Vicar, the Rev. G. Craggs, were served in the Westbrook Memorial Hall.

At the business meeting an apology was made for the absence of the secretary, Mr. J. L. Cockey. Two new members were elected (Mrs. F. E. Collins, of Croydon, as a life member, and Mr. F. Digby, of Hammersmith), and votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar and to the local company, including Mr. H. C. Chandler.

'NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have only just read Mr. Bond's letter in your issue of October 15th, and I feel it incumbent upon me to answer it.

Mr. Bond speaks after paying a single visit to the tower, which to me seems insufficient basis to rush into print with some rather sweeping statements.

After nearly a year's association with the band in question, I feel sure they do appreciate that they have a good peal of bells, although in my own opinion they are by no means exceptional. They are certainly not a good going peal, and are very difficult to hear when ringing, which makes good striking very difficult even by an experienced band.

I do know that war-time commitments of work and duty make serious restrictions on the ability of the members to meet regularly even for Sunday ringing. Mr. Bond will admit that a band being able to meet regularly will reach a consistently higher standard of ringing, and it is not surprising that in these circumstances the standard of ringing at this church is variable. I have had some good touches there when paying just such chance visits as that of Mr. Bond.

I know that the senior members of the band (and some of them are very senior) are endeavouring against some local difficulties to get training and practice for some, if not all, of those 'many people in the town who would be only too glad to learn to ring in order to keep their glorious ring going.' I have never met this enthusiasm myself in the town—and has anybody in any town?

I do know that the band always generously give any beginner (visitor or member) a fair pull, which indicates to me not only the band's hospitable spirit, but their desire to foster the progress of the Exercise. I am wondering also if Mr. Bond would care to admit his share in the vain attempt for the plain course of Grandsire which he mentions.

It is easy to criticise others, and speak airily of reforms without suggesting what they may be, or how they may be effected, but I do know that this band is not likely to co-operate with Mr. Bond in any of his reforms, on the strength of his single visit with its ensuing display of his technical ability and courtesy.

I also am a ringer in the Services, and it is only fair to the ringers in 'Civvy Street,' and to this local band in particular, that I should defend them after receiving unstinted friendship from them on all occasions, which is a surer way of promoting the Exercise than by hasty and ill-mannered criticism.

HOWARD MACKMAN.

[In the letter published on October 15th there was no hint as to the identity of any band criticised. 'The Ringing World' did not know; but took it as intended to be a typical example. We publish Mr. Mackman's letter in fairness, but we deprecate any further reference to the matter—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

BARNSLFY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY**MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.**

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne on November 13th, at which the following towers were represented: Bushey, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Penistone, Sandal, Silkstone, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local belfry.

The business meeting was held in the Parish Room, with the Vicar, the Rev. F. B. Greenwood, in the chair. On the motion of Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for his welcome, and to the local company for the arrangements made. The Vicar assured all of a welcome to Cawthorne at any time they wished to visit it.

It was arranged to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the Doncaster Society and the Yorkshire Association at Doncaster on December 11th, and to hold a committee meeting at Barnsley on December 18th.

The methods rung ranged from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise, and touches of Bob Major were rung on handbells.

ENFIELD.—On Saturday, November 27th, on handbells at 45. Wallingham Road, 1.260 Stedman Triples: A. J. Wallman 1-2, Mrs. J. Thomas 3-4, J. Thomas 5-6, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher (conductor) 7-8. First touch of Stedman by ringer of 1-2, who is 15 years old.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**STEDMAN TRIPLES.**

The treble is the observation bell. The course end is when the treble is a quick bell P signifies a plain unbobbed Six at the course end.

60

2314567
3425167 1 out quick
3451267 1 make bob
4165372 2 first whole turn
5214736 3 last whole turn
2351467 2 make bob
2314567 1 in quick
144

4732651 3 6-7 up
P 7516432 3
6243517 4 6-7 down
P 2317654 2

Repeated.

The treble is always a quick bell.

180

2314567
3425167 1 out quick
3451267 1 make bob
4165372 2 first whole turn
5214736 3 last whole turn
2351467 2 make bob
P 2316574 1

Twice repeated.

180

2314567
3425167 1 out quick
4675312 3 6-7 down
P 6512437 2

Four times repeated.

The treble is always a quick bell

240

2314567
3461275 2 make bob
4132675 1 in slow
6271345 6 make bob
6213745 1 in quick
Three times repeated.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BITTON.**

A meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Bitton on November 18th, and about forty members and visitors attended from Bath, Batheaston, Hal-latrow, Keynsham, Redhill (Surrey), Birmingham, Abson, Henbury, Coalpit Heath, Mangotsfield, Warmley and the local tower.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. — Bell. At the business meeting votes of thanks were passed and some new members were elected. Mr. J. Jefferies spoke about 'The Ringing World' and said the paper was the only means ringers had to keep in touch with one another. It always contained some useful and interesting information.

The Chairman said his son, who was a ringer and in Italy, always asked for 'The Ringing World,' as it kept him in touch with the ringing activities at home. He (the chairman) hoped that all the members would get a weekly copy of the paper. He also welcomed the visitors.

The methods rung included Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

The next meeting will be the annual general meeting, to be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, January 29th.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CAERPHILLY.**

A good muster of ringers attended the meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, held at Caerphilly on November 20th. Among them being the young members of the local band, who have been taught by Mr. Percy Jones.

Service at four o'clock was conducted by the Rector, assisted by the curate, and tea was at the King's Arms Hotel.

At the business meeting many new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rumney. The bells were afterwards rung in various methods until late evening.

The meeting proved most successful, mainly through the efforts of the local ringers.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15; ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, Sunday, Dec. 5th, 10.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Henfield, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Div. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, 1s. 9d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in the Old Rectory 5.15.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food).—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall (6 bells) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Radcliffe-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea, 1/9 per head, with use of Church Room for handbells, etc. Tower open until 7.30 p.m. Names for tea to reach me by Wednesday, Dec. 8th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea before Tuesday, Dec. 7th.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Luke's, Derby, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Church Room 5 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Davenport Branch.—Meeting at Badby (6), Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bring food.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Davenport, Northants.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Melksham on Dec. 11th. Bells (8) at 3. Service 4.30. Light tea, with meeting to follow at 5 p.m. Send numbers for tea.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Nether Winchendon, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea by Dec. 7th.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Kings Langley on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Numbers for tea by the 8th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Barnet on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tower blacked out. It is hoped to arrange tea for those who notify me by December 7th.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

NORTH MUSKHAM, NEAR NEWARK.—Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. No tea arrangements.—H. Denman.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual district meeting at Baldock, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Tea 5 o'clock. Names for tea by Dec. 8th to Mr. A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting (with the Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster Societies) at Doncaster, Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Arrange own tea. Cafes near church. Business in Church Hall 5.45 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

—CAMPANOLOGY—

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RINGING MASTERS.

A fortnight ago a correspondent in our columns asked what are the real duties of a Ringing Master, and last week Mr. Harold Poole, of Leicester, gave us a fairly long list of the necessary qualifications of that official and of the things he ought to do. Mr. Poole speaks with authority as the Ringing Master in one of the more important belfries of the country, and what he says will be treated with respect. But perhaps in the minds of most ringers the official he is referring to is the captain or leader of a particular band, whereas by a Ringing Master is understood that officer of a guild or association who is in charge of the belfry at an open meeting. Obviously the functions of the two are not quite the same.

The captain of a band in his own belfry and among his fellows enjoys the authority and influence which close personal contact alone can give. The Ringing Master at an open meeting has to deal with ringers who ordinarily owe him no allegiance, and has usually to act in a belfry where he himself is a visitor. He cannot assume that his authority will be recognised and his orders obeyed to the same extent and in the same manner the other can.

Yet the one official is as necessary as the other. The extent to which an open association ringing meeting is a success and the amount of good it does depend very largely on the Ringing Master. Compared with the captain of a band, his duties are few, but they call for the highest qualities. He has to see that everyone gets his fair share of practice and that opportunities are given to all to improve their ringing. But he has also to see that a good standard of striking is maintained and that the eagerness of some people to do something better than they have done before does not result in spoiling the ringing of those who are proficient. For it should be recognised that the primary object of an open meeting is not teaching. It is to give an opportunity to the members of different bands of meeting together and of gaining that strength and encouragement which comes from co-operation and from the feeling that the Exercise is one body with a community of interests. Much of the ringing at an open meeting—most of it perhaps—should be done by men who are already thoroughly versed in the method attempted and so able to devote their attention to ringing it as it should be done.

This does not mean selfishness on the part of the more skilful or a loss to the beginners. The higher the standard laid down for the ringing at a meeting, the more will be the good which will accrue to the novice if he has the right spirit in him. It should be impressed on be-

(Continued on page 534.)

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ginner that they can learn very much if they will pay attention to ringing and take notice when a really proficient band is performing. It is no kindness to a man to encourage him to try to muddle through a course of Double Norwich or Superlative before he has learnt to ring and strike Grandsire and Plain Bob properly. It will only hinder him from becoming the good ringer he might otherwise be. And a man who can ring Grandsire well should get as much, or even more, enjoyment out of that method than from blundering attempts to ring something which is called a higher method.

How best to arrange the bands at a meeting and to select the methods they attempt? How to ensure that the highest possible standard is reached, whether it be in Surprise, or Grandsire, or rounds? How to make sure that everybody has his fair share of ringing and every reasonable opportunity of improving himself? These are the problems which confront the Ringing Master. They call for knowledge, tact, patience, good nature and firmness. Fortunately good Ringing Masters are not rare.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAYES, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 29, 1943, in Two Hours,

At 16, The Knoll,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 22 extents of Grandsire and 20 of Plain Bob. Tenor size 11 in G.
MISS HILDA OAKSHOTT ... 1-2 | GEORGE R. H. SMITH... ... 3-4

*FREDERICK E. PITMAN ... 5-6

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal on handbells at first attempt.

CHESHUNT, HERTS.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor size 11 in G.

*PETER N. BOND 1-2 | GEORGE R. H. SMITH... ... 3-4

VERNON J. BENNING 5-6

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

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352				416			
23456	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H
26435	—	—		35426	—		
25463	—	—		52436	—		
42356	—			63254	—	—	
23456				23456	—		—
416				416			
23456	I	F	H	23456	I	F	H
65324	—	—		42635	—		
25463	—	—		53246	—	—	
42356	—			42356	—		—
23456				23456	—		—
416				448			
23456	I	F	H	23456	I	F	O
63254	—			35426	—		
45362	—	—		52436	—		
25463	—			32654	—	—	
23456	—			23456	—		—

GAINSBOROUGH LINES.—On Sunday, November 14th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Batters (first 720) 1, F. S. W. Butler 2, H. Torr 3, J. Dixon 4, C. H. Baker 5, George L. A. Lunn (conductor) 6.

ST. MARY MATFELON, WHITECHAPEL

A FAMOUS EAST-LONDON BELFRY.

The wayfarer who, leaving the City of London by the broad highway which leads to Essex and the Eastern Counties, passes through Aldgate, cannot fail to notice before him a lofty stone spire on a red brick tower, and to-day, when he gets nearer he will find a burnt-out steeple standing above a ruined and roofless church, a pitiful relic of the great air raids of three years ago. Architecturally the building was no great loss, for it was built during the last century and could not be compared to some of the city churches, such as St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Andrew's, Holborn, which met a like fate at much the same time. But it was a building that counted for a lot in Church matters. It stood on a site which for centuries had been hallowed to the cause of religion, and we may reasonably hope it will once again be rebuilt and restored.

In the steeple there were eight bells, which, with their predecessors, had played no mean part in the story of the London Exercise. When the steeple was burnt they crashed to the ground and were broken, and after a short while, by one of those incredibly mean actions of which some people are capable, they were looted and, though some trace of them was discovered, they were melted down before the act could be brought home to the guilty persons.

Whitechapel Church, wrote Stow in Queen Elizabeth's reign, "is, as it were, a chapel of ease to the parish of Stebenhith, and the parson of Stebenhith hath the gift thereof, which, being first dedicated in the name of God and the Blessed Virgin, is now called St. Mary Matfelon," and he goes on to give an explanation of that rather curious name which is now, I believe, disallowed by antiquarian authorities.

The parish was separated from Stepney in the seventeenth century. The church was rebuilt several times. A building erected in 1675 stood until 1875, when it was replaced by a much larger church. This was burnt down in 1880, and the lately destroyed church was built and consecrated two years later.

The Edwardian inventory has not survived, and the first account we have of any bells in the tower was in January, 1734, when there was a ring of six and William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple and rang two 720's—Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. The bells, said Laughton, 'were flatter than G in pitch.' The front five were good bells, but he was very uncomplimentary in his remarks about the tenor. She was an 'iron-sided Bitch.'

The tower seems to have been in early days a meeting place of the London Youths, and on April 16th, 1737, three members of that society, with two Eastern Scholars and one College Youth, rang 'seven compleat Surprise Six-bell Peals.' It was one of the earliest peals of Minor on record, but all the methods would not now rank as Surprise.

In 1754 the bells were recast and augmented to eight at the Whitechapel Foundry. The first peal on the new ring was 5,040 changes of Bob Triples by the Eastern Scholars on March 15th, 1755. Three days later the London Youths scored 5,152 changes of Bob Major. It was, say the peal book, 'the first time the Society rang

the eight new bells, and the first peal completed there.' This rather looks like an assertion that the Eastern Scholars' peal was not a true one, but the statements in old peal books are often very ambiguous, and it may only mean that it was the first peal the London Youths rang on the bells. William Barrett composed and called it, and the composition probably was false.

During the next thirty years St. Mary's was one of the most popular belfries in London for peal ringing, especially with the London Youths and the Cumberland Youths. The latter in 1755 rang two peals in a method they called Cumberland Pleasure. Probably it was a variation of one of the standard methods, but the figures are lost and there is no means of knowing what was rung.

Two peals of London Court Bob were accomplished on the bells, one by the London Youths in 1764, the other by the Cumberlands in 1767, and altogether fifty-three peals are recorded as having been rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century. One of them, in 1775, was 5,151 Grandsire Major, and is the earliest recorded with that name, but two years earlier, at St. George's, Southwark, the Cumberlands had rung 5,071 changes of 'Cumberland eight-in,' which can hardly have been anything else than Grandsire. It is one example (there are several others) of the Cumberlands habit of giving their name to variations of old methods, and in no case did the Exercise accept the name.

Another instance was in 1769, when the Cumberlands rang 5,040 changes of Real Double Bob Major at St. Mary's and called it 'Cumberland real Double eight in.' The longest peal on the bells was 8,448 Treble Bob Major by the Junior Cumberlands in 1787, the first in the Kent variation in London.

In the first fortnight of the new century the Cumberlands scored another peal of London Court Bob Major. The method was having at the time a certain amount of popularity, but not long after it was dropped from the ringers' repertoire. Its disappearance was no great loss.

A few weeks later John Reeves, who had been out of the leading societies for several years, got together a band of London Youths and conducted the first performance of his variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. The variation, although slight, was a distinct acquisition to the composition of the method.

There were in the belfry when the tower was burnt out five peal boards dating from the early nineteenth century. One recorded Reeves' Grandsire Triples, two were for peals by the Junior Cumberlands—Grandsire Triples in 1822 and Grandsire Major in 1824—and two for peals by the College Youths—Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1812 and Stedman Triples in 1824. The Junior Cumberlands claimed their Grandsire Major as the first on the bells, which of course it was not. This is one of the many instances of unsound claims of first performances being made in good faith. The Stedman Triples was one of the earliest in the method rung in London.

The present lofty brick tower, with its stone spire, proved much less suitable for housing bells than its humble predecessor, and owing to the movement in the structure (rendered worse, it is said, by the trains which pass close by on the Underground railway), Whitechapel bells were difficult to ring, and the belfry had no very good name among London ringers.

HANDLING A BELL.

The main force which drives a ringing bell is gravity. A bell is a pendulum and, like other pendulums, swings downwards on one side by its own weight, and would swing upwards on the other side to the same extent but for the loss of energy caused by air resistance and the friction on the bearings.

The ringer has to make good that loss; he has to counteract the gravity exerted when the bell swings beyond the balance; and in change ringing he has to increase or diminish the arc in which the bell moves so as to vary the rate at which it strikes.

Of the total amount of force necessary to move a ringing bell the man can supply only a small proportion—in the case of large bells only a very small proportion—and the problem of handling a bell is to discover how to apply the force he can supply in the proper manner and at the proper time so as to obtain the best results from his labour.

Gravity is the main force which swings the bell, and gravity is a force which is constant, but it varies in the way it applies to the bell. It is very small indeed at the beginning of the bell's swing. It rapidly increases and reaches its full intensity halfway through the movement, when it amounts to somewhere about three times the weight of the bell. Then it diminishes and fades away as the bell swings upwards.

When the bell is in its full stride the force is so great that the ringer can do nothing to control it, either by increasing or diminishing it. But when the bell is at either end of its swing the force is small and can be more easily controlled. The closer to the two ends of the swing the force exerted by the ringer is applied, the greater will be the effect produced; therefore, the first important point we have to make is this: The closer the force exerted by the ringer's pull is applied to the beginning of the bell's swing the greater will be the effect, and in checking the bell's upward swing the greatest result will be produced when the bell is nearing the end of its upward journey.

The rate at which the bell swings is decided by gravity conditioned by the way in which the bell is hung. It would seem that the ringer cannot alter or control that rate. He may perhaps be able to do so to some extent in the case of very light bells; he certainly cannot in the case of heavy bells, or even of bells of medium size. The point at which the bell strikes depends on the relationship of the swinging of the bell and of the clapper, and this relationship is constant. The bell always speaks when it is in a particular position in its journey. The length of its upward swing has no effect on the point at which the bell sounds, and the note cannot be hastened by checking, as can be done in the case of chiming. The only thing which decides when the bell sounds is the time at which it starts on its downward journey. The ringer can and must control that start, but once the journey has begun he has no further control. All these considerations point to the necessity of the ringer being able to apply his energy to the very beginning of the bell's swing.

The force which the ringer can exert is derived entirely from his own weight. No man, however muscularly strong he may be, can apply to a bell rope more force than is represented by his weight. Therefore, if other things were equal (but they never are) the heavier

the man the greater would be his ability to ring a big bell.

In this connection it must be remembered that weight does not mean the dead weight shown by a weighing machine, for a moving body exercises more weight than a stationary body according to a recognised physical law. It sometimes happens that a man by 'jumping' on the rope of a deeply set bell can pull it off, though he can hang his dead weight on the rope without moving the bell. But however he does pull it off, the force he uses depends on nothing else than his weight.

There is no doubt a general impression among ringers that in ringing a big bell muscular strength can compensate for absence of weight, and that a comparatively light man, who is very strong in the arms, can pull as much as a heavier man who is not so muscularly strong. It is undoubtedly true that some of the most efficient of heavy bell ringers have been men of medium weight, but their efficiency has been derived not from the possession of any great amount of energy but from the ability to use correctly what they have.

Suppose we could construct a mechanical ringer and suppose we were to equip it with an engine of several hundred horse power. Do you suppose it could exert all that force on a hanging rope? What would happen would be that as soon as the amount of force exerted exceeded the weight of the machine, the machine itself would be lifted off the ground.

Ringers have recognised these facts, and in former times it was customary to provide foot straps. A foot-strap is a leather strap nailed at each end to the floor, into which the ringer thrust his foot. The result was, of course, to tie him down to the ground and therefore add infinitely to his weight. When bells went pretty badly it seems that footstraps were used even for light bells. They were common enough in connection with heavy bells down to recent times, and may still be seen in some belfries, though their use is practically obsolete. Improved hanging and more easily going bells have rendered them unnecessary. Perhaps the quicker rate at which heavy bells are usually rung is not altogether unconnected with their disuse. They served the purpose for which they were intended well enough, but we imagine that there was a great risk of injury to the man who used one of them unskilfully.

Our second important point is that the problem of correct bell handling is how to apply to the swinging bell in the best manner and at the proper time the energy a man possesses in his own weight.

(To be continued.)

SURREY ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT CARSHALTON.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Carshalton on Saturday, November 27th. The bells were available from 3 p.m. and after tea, and a good variety of methods was practised, ranging from rounds to London and Bristol Surprise Major, by about 30 ringers.

The tea and business meeting were held at the Greyhound Hotel, and nominations were received for the district officers for 1944 as follows: Master, D. Cooper; secretary, G. Massey; treasurers, H. Simmons and H. N. Pitstow; auditor, H. N. Pitstow; representatives on committee, Mrs. Kippin, Messrs. C. Pothecary, H. V. Young and F. E. Collins. Further nominations can be received up to 14 days before the annual district meeting, which will be held if possible at Streatham on Saturday, January 29th.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar and to Mr. L. Reece for making all arrangements. Mr. Reece had met with an accident which prevented him from being present, and good wishes for a speedy recovery were conveyed to him by the secretary.

'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'**THE OPEN LEAD.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Debatable points, and the need for their discussion, seem to me to be a matter that depends on what is practised in different districts, and what the leading ringer considers to be the best, so that it has always made me careful, when visiting other towers, to watch, or hear, the way it is done there, and endeavour to do my best to ring either way, but my having been coached to the open lead way gives me the impression it is the best.

I have had opportunities to come in contact with several who were considered capable of giving good advice on such matters, and when possible I have generally tried to follow it. When I read in 'The Ringing World' that there is nothing new to be learnt in the matter of rhythm and good striking since the days of the 'Clavis,' it brought to my mind what I had read years ago. When Troyte was making up 'Change Ringing' and Snowden 'Ropesight,' neither knew at the time that both were working on similar lines, for some improvement in ringing matters, and both give examples of the open lead, which again led me to think it was the best.

They made several visits to London (but not at the same time) and attended the practice meetings of the several societies, and heard for themselves what they had been seeking.

Troyte mentions several names in his 'Change Ringing' who helped him with useful matter. I also had opportunities to ring with some of them, and one (Mr. Haley) rang the 2nd in my first 500 of Grand-sire Triples (February, 1881) and I have never forgotten his reminder as to the open lead.

With regard to six-bell ringing, I have rung and conducted several peals, in 14 methods, and the hand stroke lead was rung open in every method.

C. TYLER.

Henfield, Sussex.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I agree that H. J. P.'s letter covers the ground, but do not agree with title. Should read thus:—

Duties in rhyme:—

Lead the Nags,
Spur the Lags,
Do the Fags,
Accept the Kicks,
Inflict the Pricks,
Placate the Dicks.

'A FLAT.'

ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH.**SALE OF BELLS.**

From 'The Edinburgh Evening News' of November 22nd, 1890.

The bells with which the citizens of Edinburgh were for long afflicted by the daily chimes which they gave forth from the belfry of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, having been replaced by a more musical set, were disposed of by auction in Dowell's Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh, this afternoon.

Nineteen bells were sold, ranging from six to nineteen inches in diameter. Other four bells, larger than any of those on sale, and which bear the names of the Lord Provost of the day, and three of the magistrates (presumably having been presented by them), have been retained by the Town Council, and will be placed in the Museum which is being formed in the City Chambers.

The Corporation were the sellers. It was explained in the sale catalogue that the bells were cast in 1698, ten years after the Revolution, by Meikle, in the Castlehill, Edinburgh, and intending purchasers were informed that as they were to be sold singly, they were adapted to the purpose of a house bell or gong, and would thus form a most interesting memento of old Edinburgh, while the larger would be suitable for a small church.

There was a large gathering of purchasers before the bells, which were at the end of the catalogue, were reached. The first, a six inch, was put up at one guinea, and was knocked down to Bailie Dunlop for £2 15s. The second was purchased by ex-Bailie Younger for £4. The third by Lord Provost Boyd for £4; the fourth, for £5 5s.; the fifth, eight inches in diameter, for £4 15s.; the sixth, for £5; the seventh, for £5; the eighth, 9½ inches in diameter, for £5 10s.; the ninth, for £5 5s.; the tenth, 10½ inches in diameter, for £5 10s.; the eleventh, for £4 10s. 1d.; the twelfth, 11½ inches diameter, for £7 10s.; the thirteenth, 12 inches diameter, for £5 10s.; the fourteenth, 12½ inches diameter, for £6; the fifteenth, 13 inches diameter, for £9 by ex-Councillor Gibson; the sixteenth, 14 inches diameter, for £26; the seventeenth, 16 inches diameter, for £30; the eighteenth, 18 inches in diameter, for £31, by Mr. Gourlay Steell, R.S.A.; and the nineteenth, 19 inches in diameter, for £36 by Mr. Steell. The whole chime realised £202 10s.

SUNDAY RINGING.—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 in his father's family, which had resulted from this practice.—Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, A.D. 1850.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: MR. EDWIN H. LEWIS.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: MR. GEORGE W. FLETCHER
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We would remind secretaries and readers generally that the postal
delay, usual at Christmas time, is likely this year to be much worse.
Last week several notices and other communications reached us too
late for inclusion in the current issue. We ask our correspondents to
post early.

The few delays in the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post are
also due to the heavy Christmas mails.

Intending purchasers of 'Bells of the Isle,' advertised on our back
page, should note that it can be obtained from the publishers, Messrs.
John Crowther, Ltd., Arcade Chambers, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin on the birth of a
son and heir, Robert Christopher, who arrived on December 2nd.

Mr. Charles Tyler, a letter from whom appears on another page,
took part in a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Nicholas', Brighton,
sixty years ago last Saturday.

To-day is the 62nd anniversary of the first peal on the bells of St.
Paul's Cathedral.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

NINETIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Mr. James George, who reached his ninetieth birthday on November
27th, celebrated it by travelling to Birmingham, where a tea had been
arranged, to which many of his ringing friends were invited.

The proceedings began with an attempt for a peal of Stedman
Triples at Bishop Ryder's Church, but before half-way was reached
it had to be abandoned owing to the indisposition of one of the band.

Mr. George entered the ringing chamber and rang the second fault-
lessly to two touches (three courses each) of Stedman Triples equally
as well as he could before the unfortunate loss of his leg. The ringing
concluded with a course of London Surprise Major.

About forty ringers and friends sat down to tea in the schoolroom.
They included the Rev. Canon Badger, who was Vicar of Bishop
Ryder's for 33 years, and the Rev. J. R. Hassett, the present Vicar.

The Rev. J. R. Hassett read out many congratulatory letters and
telegrams, one of which was from the Estates Department of the
London, Midland and Scottish Railway, conveying greetings for
'their oldest pensioner.' Canon Badger spoke of the good work Mr.
George had done at Bishop Ryder's, not only in the belfry, but also
as churchwarden.

Messrs. A. Walker, T. H. Reeves and F. J. Smallwood also spoke of
the various feats of heavy-bell ringing Mr. George had accomplished,
and wished him, on behalf of all the members of the St. Martin's
Guild, many more years of health to be amongst them.

It is worth noting that Mr. Frank Smallwood began his ringing
career at Bishop Ryder's and still maintains his affection for the
church and day school he attended.

The applause which greeted these speeches were a tribute to Mr.
George's popularity, and proved beyond doubt that everyone in the
room heartily endorsed everything that had been said. Mr. George
thanked them and said he was pleased to meet his old friends again,
and he would like everyone to know that he was feeling as young as
ever.

A course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells, Mr. George
ringing 11.12. Also a touch of 90 changes of Stedman Triples especially
composed by Harry Withers.

On Sunday morning, Mr. George was in the tower of Bishop Ryder's
again and rang the fourth (sixth in eight) to two six-scores of Grand-
sire Doubles, and struck it perfectly.

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.***DIFFERENCE IN MUFLERS.**

Dear Sir,—Whilst I cannot claim to have had a great deal of experience of muffled ringing, I should like to raise a point which so far seems to have been overlooked—namely, the type of muffle used.

It seems to me there can be degrees of muffling depending on the thickness of muffle used. The fact has to be borne in mind that in a good many cases muffling is done by home-made muffles, made from such things as sections of car tyres or something similar, and very often an industrious steeplekeeper has to do a bit of packing to produce evenness of the muffled strokes of each of the bells.

It would be interesting to hear opinions on the degree of muffling to produce the best effect and also the possibility of varying the degree of muffling to suit the circumstances for which muffled ringing is necessary.

In the case of fully muffled ringing there seems to be possibilities in the idea of muffling the hand and back-strokes with different degrees of muffling.

From a ringer's point of view, fully muffled ringing is nothing short of a bad headache if the ringing is very lengthy, and a variation in the degree of muffle between the hand-strokes and back-strokes might make an improvement on the outside effect as well as making things a little easier for the ringers.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

RINGING IN WHOLE PULLS.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. J. B. M. Ridout's letter in your issue of November 26th on muffled ringing, I would state, for his information and perhaps for a great number of ringers generally, that what he suggests was actually in practice at my own home tower—'The Norman Tower at Bury St. Edmunds'—45 years ago. Even then it was no new thing.

We used to muffle the back-stroke of the clappers and ring whole pull changes to a course of Grandire Triples or a touch of 168 with Queens and Tittums. Sometimes call changes were rung, which included Whittingtons as well as Queens and Tittums. We called this 'Echo Ringing.'

The bells were rung slowly and open leads maintained so as to give the open hand-stroke sound more time to escape and so enhance the echo effect of the muffled back-stroke sound.

We were many times congratulated on the effect by really musical listeners, especially in the call changes. Whole pull changes are not difficult to ring, but certainly call for good striking, bell control and concentration.

SYDNEY E. ROPER.

52, Mount Park Avenue, South Croydon.

MINOR IN WHOLE PULLS.

Dear Sir,—I believe your correspondent who says he has never heard of whole pull changes being rung with the bells muffled at back-stroke is quite right in thinking this is the most effective way from the listeners' point of view.

I can distinctly remember ringing at least two 720's in this way on the back six at Long Stanton, about 20 years ago. We rang 720's of Plain Bob and Single Court, each taking about an hour even on those light bells, but I cannot remember anything very difficult about it; perhaps if more complicated methods had been rung it might not have been quite so simple.

I hardly like to remark upon the possibilities of a peal rung in this way, for I don't suppose it could be called a peal even if the whole 5,040 changes were rung, and again, I can hardly imagine many bands wanting to try it.

Perhaps someone will let us know of any eight bell ringing of this kind, but I should think that on six is the most effective.

C. W. COOK.

Newton, Cambridge.

A MEMORY OF JOSEPH SYKES.

Dear Sir,—When I was a boy, 'Uncle Joe' Sykes and his band, for about two years, often rang the bells of the village where I lived. I have never forgotten how impressed I was with the muffled ringing which I heard on several occasions. The bells were rung very slowly to whole-pull changes with open hand-strokes, the back-strokes coming as muffled repetitions of each change. As far as I can remember, both Doubles and Minor were rung in this way with equal effect.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

12, The Close, Lichfield.

COMBINED PRACTICE AT CHATTERIS.

A combined practice was held at Chatteris on December 4th, at which ringers were present from Wilburton, Ely, Haddenham, Somersham, St. Ives and members of the local band. The methods rung were Grandire and Stedman Doubles, and Plain Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Cambridge and Norwich Surprise Minor.

The next meeting will be at Somersham on December 11th.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'Orpheus,' I consider that a Ringing Master's duties are to act as liaison officer at ringing meetings and at any gatherings of ringers of the whole association or of the branches of the same. At tower meetings, say for service ringing or for practice ringing, naturally the local captain or leader is in charge, but where an association or branch hold a meeting, then the Ringing Master should take the lead and scheme out the arrangements to suit everyone's ability and desires.

In my branch I have had as many as 40 ringers at some of our meetings, all stuffed into the tower, which is perhaps not a big one. Some want Cambridge and others Plain Bob, some can only ring rounds and others want a chance to call a little. Well, I go round them all and find out what is wanted and then announce the touch in a loud voice above the din, and I don't usually have any trouble in getting fellows 'to get hold.' Then, of course, I always remember the beginners, and backward and shy as they are, I always root them out and see they have a pull.

'Leave yourself out' is the motto, look out for the others. Before the meeting is over there is generally someone who will say, 'What about yourself?' If there is a service you must keep your eye on the clock, also hints can be put in about striking, etc., where necessary. Ringers take notice of the Ringing Master. He is supposed to know.

It is a good thing to be able to quote a touch to a budding conductor and to tell him how to make use of the observation bell in calling, etc.

There is another duty that the Ringing Master is sometimes called on to perform, and that is to preside at the business meeting when one is held. The Vicar of the tower is usually asked, by courtesy, to do this, but if he is not at hand then the Ringing Master should be ready to take the chair. He has the assistance of the secretary and officers present. He should take care to bring out discussion on the matters in hand and to see that the true feeling of the members is placed on record in the framing of the resolutions.

The Ringing Master can do much to encourage and sustain the interest in ringing in his district.

JAMES E. BURLES.

2, Rand Villas, North Seale, Barrow-in-Furness.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have just received that number of 'The Ringing World' in which the leading article deals with the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association's unanimous disapproval of peal ringing in war time.

To me, as no doubt to other keen ringers serving abroad, it makes sad reading. We want to know that ringing is being done whenever possible, and every keen ringer at home and abroad is glad to see reports of Sunday service ringing and peal ringing. It hurts somewhat to read that certain people oppose peal ringing.

No one can possibly oppose peal ringing through reasonable motives. But in my opinion there is a certain amount of jealousy amongst quite a few ringers, whose opportunity for practising ringing now is not so great as it was before the war (due no doubt to depleted bands). This jealousy is occasioned by the successes recorded by those bands who do manage to keep alive the peal columns now.

Having travelled up and down the country before and during the war in pursuit of ringing, I am convinced that in a few places the atmosphere has changed, and we have quite a few 'fifth columnists' amongst us, who are really just jealous of the peal ringers.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

Sierra Leone.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WRITTLE.**

A meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex Association was held on November 13th at Writtle, which is always a popular tower, and about 25 ringers attended from Great Baddow, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Danbury, Fryerning, Maldon, Springfield, Writtle and Brentwood. Some good practice was put in with Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich.

The Vicar welcomed the ringers, and in his address appealed to them to keep the bells going for the church services on every possible occasion they could and to endeavour to obtain recruits. He quite appreciated the difficulties in these days, but asked all to make a resolution to have the bells rung at least once on a Sunday.

At the business meeting, which followed tea at the Rose and Crown, it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Great Baddow on January 8th if it could be arranged. Thanks were expressed by the District Master, Mr. H. Mansfield, to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to be held and for taking the service, to the organist and to Mr. T. Lincoln for making the arrangements for the meeting and tea.

Ye ringers all who prize
Your health and happiness
Be sober, merry, wise,
And you'll the same possess.

—An old bell inscription.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 528.)

The next peal recorded in the belfry was rung on June 17th, 1876, again 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. This peal was rung for the St. Mary's Society and the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was conducted by Harvey Reeves, the printer, who afterwards founded 'Bells News.' The time occupied was 2 hours and 56 minutes, and it is interesting to note that one ringer whose name appears on this board is still a member of the society. I refer to John H. Wilkins, the hon. secretary.

Next we come to another peal of Grandsire Triples, rung on July 28th, 1877. The conductor was James Pettitt, of the St. Paul's Cathedral Society, and one of the greatest ringers of that period. Another ringer in this peal was Samuel Reeves, of Birmingham, father of the present hon. secretary of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild.

Another peal in 1878 was conducted by Harvey Reeves, another in 1880 by Thomas Maynard. Both these peals were rung for the St. Mary's Society and the College Youths, and the second of them bears the name of Robert Maynard.

The next peal recorded was one of 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, and it was rung in January, 1885, by the Wanstead Amalgamated Society and the St. James' Society. Three St. Mary's ringers took part in this peal, which was conducted by Hugh Thomas Scarlett, who lived in a wooden cottage at the end of the pathway leading from the churchyard to Shern Hall Street. The name of the Rev. T. Parry appears on this and the boards already mentioned.

Next there is a peal rung on Jubilee Day, June 21st, 1887, by members of the Society of College Youths and the Essex Association, nearly all of whom were St. Mary's men, and the peal is stated to have been 'the only peal rung by these Societies on Jubilee Day.' This peal was commenced at 6 a.m., and was finished about 9 a.m., and consisted of 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples.

In November of the same year a peal of 5,040 Union Triples was rung by the St. Mary's Society and is recorded as the first peal in the method on the bells. It is probably the only one, as this method was never popular with ringers. In February, 1889, the College Youths rang a peal of Stedman Triples, again, of course, of 5,040 changes, and this is recorded as the first true peal of Stedman Triples rung in Walthamstow. This method is very musical, and therefore popular, but it requires a great deal of mental concentration. The footnote implies that a false peal, i.e., one containing a repetition in one or more of the changes, had previously been rung in Walthamstow. This was probably true, as ringers of the time tell of a false peal having been rung at St. Saviour's Church in Markhouse Road, and there being a real ringers' row about it.

In November, 1889, a peal of Grandsire Major, 5056 changes, was rung for the St. Mary's Society and the Essex Association; and a few months later a peal of Bob Major was completed, both peals being rung by all

Walthamstow ringers, and in each case being the first in the method on the bells.

Other peals are recorded, one of which was rung on Christmas Eve, 1891, and another which turned out to be the last peal rung on the eight bells before the restoration. This peal was performed by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths on June 19th, 1895, and all the band bear the same Christian name. They were William Coakham, William B. Manning, William D. Smith, William Dallimore, William Burkin, William Pinsent, William H. Freeman and William Pye. The Vicar, Rev. William H. Langhorne, has his name at the foot of the board.

We now come to the restoration and augmentation of the bells in 1896, the most important time in the history of the society. We are told that for some months the bells had been silent, the dilapidated and insecure state of the bell frame and the decayed state of the timbers in the tower causing ringing to be dangerous. The defective timbers, which had not been renewed since the steeple was built in the 13th or 14th century, were replaced and a complete new cast-iron frame, independent of the walls, was fixed. It was stated that there was no liability to shrinkage, no vibration, and no damage to the tower. This from experience would appear to be correct. New fittings, bearings, and wheels were provided, and what is of the greatest importance two bells were added to the existing eight, making a very fine peal of ten bells. The two new bells were, of course, the lightest of the peal, and they were given in commemoration of the long reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The work was carried out by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate Bell Foundry. The ringers themselves gave considerable time and material to the improvement of the ringing chamber, and Mr. William Shurmer generously provided new steel girders. The ringing chamber was enlarged and match-boarded, seats provided, and the floor covered with linoleum. The whole cost, amounting to about £300, was defrayed mainly by public subscriptions at the instance of Messrs. Beck and Shurmer, churchwardens.

The dedication of the bells took place on Friday, December 11th, 1896, the ceremony being performed by the Archdeacon of St. Albans. The Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, the Rev. G. Padfield (St. Gabriel's), the Rev. H. L. Allpass (St. Saviour's) and the Rev. C. Copland were present, together with the churchwardens and many other prominent members of the congregation, whilst amongst the visitors were the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, Vicar of Great Totham, and assistant hon. secretary, Essex Association, and Mr. Arthur T. King, hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association.

A dinner followed the service of dedication. It was held in the Boys' National School, with the Vicar presiding. All the above-mentioned were present. The company numbered upwards of 100, and amongst the toasts was one, proposed by Mr. W. Shurmer, of 'The Bell-ringers.' He said that he could not say enough in their favour, they were so devoted to their duty. They had not only contributed substantially in cash, but they had provided material and had worked in their leisure time to place the belfry in its present perfect state. To them, and especially to Mr. Thomas Maynard, it was largely due that Walthamstow now had one of the finest peals of

bells in the county. He had, therefore, much pleasure in associating Mr. Maynard's name with the toast.

On May 11th, 1897, the first peal on the ten bells was recorded, one of 5,021 Grandsire Caters, occupying three hours and 19 minutes. The ringers were all local men, and also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A similar peal, rung on June 22nd of the same year, this time for the Essex Association, was started at 6 a.m., and was rung to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. We read elsewhere that this peal was finished soon after 9 a.m., when the ringers were entertained to breakfast by the towerkeeper, Thomas Maynard.

Then in 1898, on June 4th, a peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters was rung by ten 'Bills,' seven of whom were in the previous peal rung by Williams, with three new but quite well-known ringers of that name. One of these, William T. Cockerill, was hon. secretary of the A.S.C.Y. The conductor of this peal was William Pye, the composer William T. Elson, the Vicar Rev. William H. Langhorne, and the churchwardens William Shurmer and William Beck. This tablet is undoubtedly unique. All these Williams appear on it, and it is said, jokingly, that the name of the steeplekeeper, Thomas Maynard, appears on the back, where it cannot be seen.

In January, 1899, the first peal of Royal is recorded, the conductor being Thomas Maynard, and the Essex Association being credited with the peal. On February 2nd, 1901, ten Walthamstow ringers rang a muffled peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters in memory of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and this is suitably recorded on a marble tablet. The peal, which was conducted by Frederick Nunn, was rung for the Middlesex Association, and occupied the time of 3½ hours. The tablet is headed, 'V.R. In Memoriam.'

The next tablet is headed 'God Save the King,' and records a peal of Grandsire Caters, rung in 3 hours and 21 minutes on November 9th, 1901, to commemorate the 60th birthday of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. The conductor of this peal was William B. Manning.

The next tablet is of little interest except that it is about the only one that bears the name of the Rev. F. E. Murphy, Vicar. In 1908 we see signs of a real advance in ringing, as here is a record of a peal of 5,002 Stedman Caters. This is a much more difficult method than any previously rung on the ten bells in a peal, and as nine Walthamstow ringers took part a distinct improvement was evident.

Passing over records dated 1911, 1912 and 1913, we come to August 1st, 1914, when eight Walthamstow ringers and two Clapton ringers rang the first peal of Bob Royal on the bells. This peal was conducted by Robert Maynard, jun. It was the first in the method by all the band, and it was rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rumens. Mr. Rumens was assistant secretary of the St. Mary's Society.

This was the last peal rung at Walthamstow (St. Mary's) for many years, as a few days later war broke out.

(To be continued.)

TRING. — On Sunday, November 28th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: D. Campbell 1, C. Badrick 2, F. J. Reeve (conductor) 3, W. Lee 4, Cpl. E. Stevens (A.M.P.) 5, F. C. Reeve (R.A.F.) 6, Edwin H. Lewis 7, H. Bull 8.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 529.)

The Church of St. Patrick, Patrington, Yorkshire, is justly noted for its beautiful central tower, dominated by an octagonal and multi-spired lantern, terminating in a fine spire. It is pictured in most works on church architecture.

As early as 1552 there were here, 'Item iij belles in the steppill and a litle bell. Item ij handbells.' In 1907 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. added a treble to the old five bells, at the same time recasting the old treble, 2nd and tenor, and rehanging them all in a new iron frame. The tenor now is 10 cwt. 24 lb. in F sharp. The old treble and third were by G. Oldfield in 1674; second by an unknown founder 1768; tenor by J. Taylor and Sons, 1846; while the fourth bears the alphabet backwards and 'in well and wo land ESGE,' and bears no date or founder's name.

Patrington has a queer approach to its ringing room thus: One enters from the churchyard and ascends a spiral stairway in the north transept. At the top is a very low doorway leading to a passage so low that one has to proceed across a plank on hands and knees. This gangway has a rail on either side to keep one from falling into the church, which is very high.

The Church of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire, built circa 1380, is a noble edifice of cruciform shape in Decorated and Perpendicular styles, with embattled octagonal central tower 110ft. high. The tower has windows in each face of the upper stage, which contains eight bells, tenor 14½ cwt. It is one of the very few octagonal central towers in England, its pinnacles, gargoyles and panelled buttresses giving a fine effect. At each angle of the tower there is a lofty and slender crocketed pinnacle, but the beauty of the tower is to some extent lessened by the chimney-like stair turret on the north side.

It is interesting to know that the north, south, east and west sides of the tower are slightly greater in width than the remaining four, probably in order that these latter may be the more conveniently brought down to the great piers of the crossing. Thus the octagon tower is converted to a square by a series of cleverly recessed arches which excite the admiration and enthusiasm of architects who see this point of construction.

In 1600 there were five bells in this tower. In 1608 'the Great Bell' was new cast by George Lee, of Congleton, the weight being 2,300lb. In the following year the fourth was recast, at the same time that 'the timber worke of the rouse of the steeple, weathercock poole and the tow floures in the steeple were new made.'

In 1669 it is recorded, 'Our Great Bell in Nantwich, being above 2,000li in weight, chaunced to be cracked, and was cast anew at Wellington, in Shropshire, by one Clitheroe. Robert Parker, Mercer and Jon. Dean, Barber, Churchwardens, anno 1669, wch. cost the parish near £30.' Forty years later the whole ring of five were recast into six by Abram. Rudhall. This was in 1713/14, and in the registers it is recorded that the event was marred by a tragedy, for 'January 22nd, 1714, Mark, son of Mark Topham, kill'd by the 4th Bell clapper.'

The bells were hung in a massive oak frame, but this was never quite satisfactory, for the Parish Magazine

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

says it 'tended to throw considerable strain on the tower, making good ringing somewhat difficult.' Little attention was given to them until 1878, when the bells were quarter-turned, the frame strengthened, new wheels and new ropes fitted at a cost of £113 8s. Two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1922, and the first peal rung on them May 5th, 1923.

The approach to the ringing room is from an outside door leading to the turret staircase at the north-west corner of the north transept. Ascending, this one emerges on to a ledge with a low parapet running along the bottom side of the transept roof, and so to the octagonal central tower. The ringing chamber is then entered by a door at the top of three or four steps on reaching the end of the said ledge.

Leicester Cathedral of St. Martin stands on the site of a Roman temple, and as such is a very ancient foundation. The present stately yet rather severe and unadorned tower, with broach spire rising to a height of 202ft., is not the original. The old tower stood on Norman arches and had a fine crocketed spire rather like that of St. Mary de Castro Church nearby. This for some regrettable reason was taken down and the present one built 1860/7.

The history of bells in this church dates back to 1351, when in the Mayor's accounts he 'claimed allowance of 3s. 4d. paid to the clerks of St. Martin's Church for ringing Prime daily by assent of the community.' Further entries in succeeding years also give details of such ringing. As long ago as Henry VIII.'s time there was a ring of bells here, and it is presumed they were five in number, for charges and obits never mention more than that number. In 1585 the treble was recast; in 1604 the tenor fell and was rehung. In 1611 the second was recast, and in 1657 the ring was made into six. All were rehung in 1689, while in 1700 the 5th was recast. In 1702 the tenor cracked and was recast in 1704. A new ringing chamber was erected in 1754, and in 1781 all the

bells were recast and increased to eight by Edward Arnold, of Leicester. To these two trebles were added in 1787, and the tenor weighed at this time 21 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. In 1854 the four lightest were recast by J. Taylor and Son, and in 1879 the same firm recast the 9th and 5th.

On these bells many peals were rung, the opening one being on November 12th, 1781, when 5,040 Grandsire Triples was accomplished by Leicester Scholars. In 1784 and 1785 other peals in the same method were rung, and in 1782 a peal of Bob Major. John Martin called this, and also 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1786. The following year (1787) at the opening of the ten bells, 5,120 Grandsire Caters 'in ye tittums' was rung in 3 hours 37 minutes, called by Joseph Smith.

In 1860 the old spire was taken down and entirely rebuilt, being completed in 1867. Not until August 9th, 1902, was a complete peal rung in the new tower, and on that day, in honour of the Coronation of King Edward VII., the late George Cleal called 5,021 Grandsire Caters.

Since that time many peals have been rung in all standard and several Surprise Royal methods, the present writer having had the honour to take part in a large number of these. In 1937 all the ten bells were recast and an entire new ring of twelve with a semi-tone was erected in a new iron and steel frame. The tenor is now 25 cwt. 20 lb., and was given by Freemasons of Leicestershire and Rutland. The other bells are the gift of individual donors. Peals of Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Surprise Maximus have been rung on the new bells, as well as Surprise Major on the middle or 'Stelfox eight.'

The approach to the ringing chamber here is not direct but via a spiral stairway—entrance outside—at the north-east corner of the north transept. Emerging from top, one traverses the short portion of roof gutter on duckboards to a short flight of stone steps up the face of the tower to the transept roof apex, thence by double doors into the ringing room.

(To be continued.)

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in your review of 'Bells of the Isle,' particularly where you refer to 'Great Paul's' journey from Loughborough to London. I have read somewhere a full account of this, and it would be interesting if it could be republished. No doubt Messrs. Taylor have this preserved in their records.

Twice in my life I have seen the trolley which carried the bell. The first time as a boy, when it brought a large boiler to a factory here, and the second time was during the last war on the Great North Road. It bore a cast metal plate with raised letters, and, if my memory is correct, it read, 'This trolley in 1881 carried "Great Paul," weighing 17 tons, from John Taylor's bell foundry at Loughborough to St. Paul's Cathedral, London.'

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRAINTREE.

The best attended meeting this year of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Braintree on December 4th, when 21 ringers from twelve towers were present.

Service was conducted by the Rev. Hartley S. Cook and the singing was accompanied by Miss H. G. Snowden. At the business meeting the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, presided, and six new members from Black Notley, the Rev. J. B. Southern, Mrs. E. Huxter, Mr. S. Bones, Mr. M. Brown, Mr. A. Carruthers and Mr. F. Partner, were elected. The annual district meeting was fixed for January 29th at Bocking.

The visitors included Mr. L. J. Clark, Mr. H. J. Mansfield, Mr. E. J. Runtter, Miss Hill and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, who cycled from Great Thurlow in Suffolk. Good use was made of the bells before and after the black-out.

RINGING THE OLD YEAR OUT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to know (as no doubt many more readers will) if we shall be allowed to 'ring out the old, ring in the new' this year. As this is rather a late hour, I wondered whether it might not be allowed. I think if we are permitted to ring we should make it as short as possible.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey.

[There is no official restriction on ringing at night, but the black-out must be strictly observed.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I correct the reference in 'Belfry Gossip' last week to the peal of Double Norwich rung at Crayford on November 27th?

The mistake is perhaps my fault, as the wording of the footnote sent with the peal could easily be misleading. It should have read, 'Believed to be peal No. 5,000 by the Kent County Association.' Has any other association reached this total?

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS. — On November 28th, at St. Thomas', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Able Seaman D. Watson 1, †Miss F. L. Wright 2, J. W. Smith 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, F. V. Nichols 5, P. C. Richards 6, A. Whatmore (conductor) 7, A. Reynolds 8. *First quarter-peal and first attempt. †First attempt on an inside bell.

NEWMARKET.—At St. Mary's Church on December 1st, 1,264 Bob Major, on handbells: R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3-4, R. C. Sharpe 5-6, S. Forwood 7-8.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall (6 bells) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Luke's, Derby, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Church Room 5 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Holy Trinity, Burnley, on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Kings Langley on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Barnet on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tower blacked out.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual district meeting at Baldock, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Tea 5 o'clock.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Mansfield Woodhouse on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on Saturday, Dec. 11th, combined with Bristol City practice meeting. Bells 2.30 p.m. until black-out.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Melksham on Dec. 11th. Bells (8) at 3. Service 4.30. Light tea, with meeting to follow at 5 p.m.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15. Service ringing, St. unstan's, St. pn. y. Sunday, Dec. 19 h, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting (with the Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster Societies) at Doncaster, Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Arrange own tea. Cafes near church. Business in Church Hall 5.45 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 18th, at 3 p.m. No refreshment.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. and during evening service, 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, at 5 p.m. Names for tea by Dec. 16th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Wigston Magna (8 bells) on Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea in the schoolroom at 5 p.m. for those only who notify me by Dec. 15th. Plenty of buses from Northampton Street and The Newarques.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Annual meeting at Churchill, Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

GREETING.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. James George on his 90th birthday. Am glad to hear he is well.—(Mrs.) C. Mitchell, 50, Dunregan Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

Wanted, Set of Handbells by Shaw. State number, compass, note, size, and condition.—R. Harper, A.C.2, 1497347, St. Regis Hotel, Cork Street, London, W.1.

STOURBRIDGE.—On Thursday, November 25th, at 9, Bowling Green Road, 720 Bob Minor in 17 minutes: Miss Flossie Wright (first 720 of Minor) 1-2, J. William Smith 3-4, B. C. Ashford (conductor) 5-6.

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[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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OPEN LEADS.

A week or two ago we mentioned the desirability of general discussion in the Exercise on matters which concern ringers and their art, even though they include some about which people may think that everything which can be said has already been said. It is well for the generation now coming to the belfries to understand why things are done, and not to do them simply because older men have done them. We were pleased therefore to receive letters on such things as muffled ringing and the duties of Ringing Masters.

Among the subjects mentioned, however, as debatable was one which we, on first thoughts, had put down as definitely settled beyond all questioning, and that was whether or not open leads ought to be made in ringing. For the Exercise as a whole, we can say that it is definitely settled; and it would seem impossible that any band should ever ring without open leads were it not that a tradition to the contrary lingered long among the six-bell belfries of a part of Yorkshire, and, we presume, still survives to some extent. Like that other (to most ringers unaccountable) custom of the same district, of having a little sally at the tail end of the rope as well as the regular one in the usual position.

Why these things should have been adopted there and nowhere else, and why they should have survived in spite of the general usage of the rest of the country, might make an interesting speculation for anyone who has a taste for such things. Whatever else they show they are evidence of the strong hold tradition has on the Exercise and of the extent to which we are influenced by what was done centuries ago.

When we started to consider the question of the open leads it struck us rather as a surprise that we (like the great majority of ringers) have always condemned closed leads without ever once hearing any ringing performed in that style. It does not seem a very fair thing to condemn what we have had no practical experience of, yet we have no doubt that the Exercise as a whole is right. The musical charm of change ringing consists, so far as the ringer is concerned, not in the regularity of the striking, but in the regularity of the rhythm, which is not quite the same thing. To get a rhythm it is necessary to have accentuation of some sort, or, as ringers would say, to have a good 'beat.' This is obtained in various ways and not least by the open lead.

(Continued on page 546.)

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Without it we know that the effect must be monotonous and perhaps the more monotonous the better the striking.

For all but a tiny fraction of the Exercise the question is not whether there should be open leads or not, but what sort they should be. Some have attempted to lay down a rule on the matter and say that the pause at the handstroke should equal the time taken by one bell to sound. But custom differs; in some places a much wider lead is made than in others, and the rule mentioned should be taken as no more than an approximate guide. The one thing necessary is that there should be a marked pause and that every member of the band should make exactly the same length of pause. When, as often occurs, a man puts in an extra slow lead, because he happens to remember that good open leads are essential, he only breaks the regular rhythm and makes hard work for the tenor man.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, December 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes,

AT 45, WASHINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDISRE CATER, 5030 CHANGES;

*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2 M.S.G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
MRS. JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4 CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal on ten bells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, December 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*ALAN WHITE (Lincoln) ... 1-2 JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. Margaret D. Telford
John's) ... 3-4 (Somerville) ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by MARGARET D. TELFORD

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

448				448					
23456	W	M	R	23456	W	M	R		
64235	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—		
52436	—	—	—	62534	—	—	—		
35426	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—		
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—		
464				464					
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	
23564	—	1	—	—	25463	—	1	—	
52364	—	—	—	—	45362	—	—	—	
35264	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	
480				480					
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
52364	—	1	—	—	23564	—	1	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
63254	—	1	—	—	45362	—	1	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
496				496					
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
52364	—	1	—	—	45362	—	1	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	—	23645	—	1	—	—
23456	—	2	—	—	23456	—	1	—	—

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WRAYSBURY, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

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

Tenor 10 cwt.

H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... Treble	WILLIAM WELLING 5
TONY PRICE 2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 6
GEORGE M. KILBY 3	WILLIAM H. COLES 7
NORMAN V. HARDING ... 4	THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by THOMAS G. BANNISTER

SWANAGE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 22 cwt.

EDWARD T. GRIFFIN ... 1 reble	ARTHUR G. ROSE 5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2	SGT. P. H. TOCOK, R.A.C. 6
CYRIL F. TURNER 3	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7
CHARLES R. FORFIT 4	*JOHN E. COLNS Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* Proposed member of the Guild prior to the peal. First peal on the bells since restoration by Messrs. John Taylor, of Loughborough.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;Comprising one 720 of Kent Treble Bob and six of Plain Bob.
Tenor 10½ cwt.

REGINALD J. HOUGHTON ... 1 reble	ANDREW C. SINFIELD 4
HENRY LAWRENCE 2	C. HENRY HARDING 5
*RONALD J. SHARP 3	CPL. JACK STUBBS, R.A.F. Tenor

Conducted by JACK STUBBS.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

*AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently.

Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

*OSCAR N. THOMAS ... 1 reble	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 4
HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 2	HENRY H. FEARN 5
S. GEORGE CHAPLIN ... 3	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First attempt for a peal. Bung to commemorate the centenary of the parish of Shirley.

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THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 14 cwt.

JACK LINHMAN 1 reble	† WILLIAM TYSON 4
*JOHN M. BROADBENT ... 2	JOHN A. BROWN 5
CHRISTOPHER T. LAMB ... 3	DENIS A. BAYLES Tenor

Conducted by D. A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal in three methods.

STEDMAN'S PRINCIPLE.—This system has been practised to a great extent in the metropolis on seven, nine and eleven bells, being much admired for the amusement it affords the ringer and the music it produces. But as it is too intricate for common practice, it is confined to a few select performers.—William Shipway.

BELLRINGING AT SEVILLE.

Mr. O. E. Borrett sends us the following account of the ringing at the Giralda Tower at Seville in Spain, which he has come across and which he says is the best description he has seen of that remarkable performance:—

In the belfry of the Giralda Tower in Seville, says the writer, I saw the leap to the bells, now forbidden.

The tower, on which a 13ft. figure of Faith gyrates as a wind-vane, was once the Tower of the Great Mosque, and was designed by Geber, the Moor who invented algebra. In 1568 the belfry was added. The way up the tower is a series of inclined planes, and the platform of the belfry is surrounded by a low parapet between the great arches, in which the bells are suspended 30ft. above.

In each arch a bell is fixed to the centre of an iron axle, the ends of which are inserted in sockets in the masonry. The upper part of the bell-rope is wound round the axle on one side of the bell. Above each bell is a superstructure of alternate planks of wood and slats of iron, bound together, and to the bell and its axle by iron bands. This superstructure resembles a target 4ft. wide and from 6 to 8 ft. high, and its purpose is almost to balance the weight of each bell—the largest bell weighing 18 tons.

When the rope is pulled, the bell begins to swing and then revolves outwards or inwards, according to the winding of the rope on the axle. When the rope is unwound the bell continues to revolve by its momentum, and the rope is rewound on the axle.

At two minutes to eleven the rope of each bell is held by a boy. He begins to pull and the great bell moves gently to and fro. With each pull on the rope the bell swings more and more. The boy stands on the parapet and throws his weight on the rope. Again he does this, and the bell and superstructure begin to revolve, and with each revolution the tongue strikes with a deafening clang. The boy continues, dragging on the rope, and the bell revolves faster and faster, until the rope is unwound. Then the boy ceases to pull and the rope is wound up again on the axle.

The bell I watched was revolving outwards, that is to say, the upward sweep of the bell and superstructure were outside the tower. When enough rope had been wound up on the axle the boy stopped the centre of the arch. There it was caught by the edge of the superstructure, moving outwards and upwards, and the boy was swung clear out of the belfry. This flight through the air at the end of the rope towards the revolving mass 30ft. above resembled part of a parabola, and he landed with his feet on the upper surface of the superstructure in its next revolution. His weight and the leverage act as a check, and the bell swings horizontally in the arch. Inside the tower is the bell; outside is the platform of wood and iron on which the boy is standing; and the whole is moving gently as a see-saw 300ft. above the city.

Two coils of rope are now round the superstructure. The boy moves to its farthest edge and leans back; his end of the see-saw goes down; the bell swings upwards; the rope unwinds; and the boy at the end of the rope is swung back into the belfry.

The other bells are ringing, and amid noise that shakes the tower the other boys are leaping like demons, some inside and some outside the belfry, to and from these clanging monsters.

When the ringing ceased, the boy spoke: 'The seniors saw the bells? Many people run away when they see the leap. No, I am not afraid. I had great fear at first; that was two years ago. I was 14 then. It does not make me giddy, even at night, but the lights seem a long way below. Once a man was killed. No one saw, but they found him on the stones down there. Some said he was drunk. There is now an old man in charge of the bells. He is sixty and blind, but he can do the leap to the bells.'

DEATH OF MR F. E. PITMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick Edmund Pitman, which occurred suddenly at Bromley, Kent, on December 5th. He had not enjoyed the best of health for several months, suffering on and off with an internal complaint, but was regular in his attendance at Sunday service ringing.

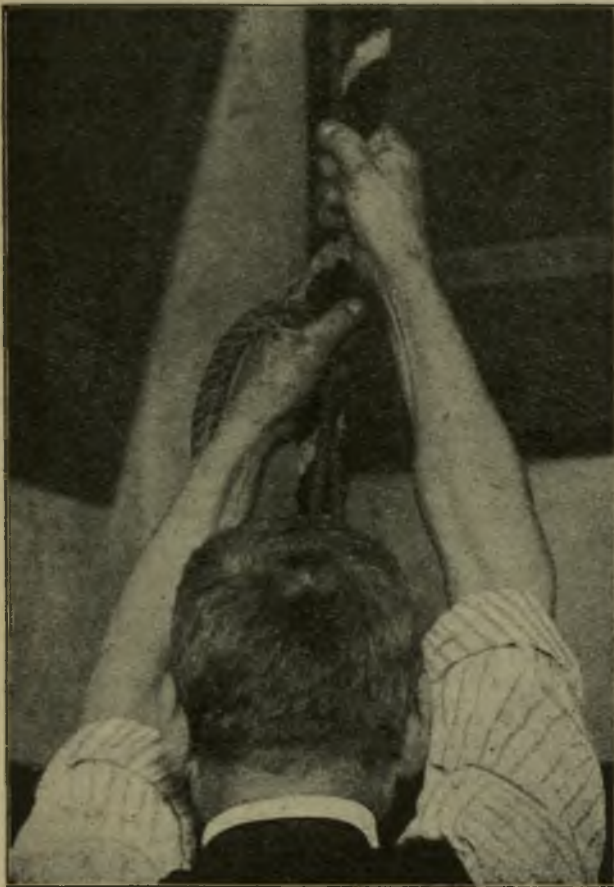
The funeral was at Plaistow Cemetery on December 9th. In addition to the family mourners, the following ringers were present: Messrs. E. A. Young, I. Emery, J. E. Lyddiard, G. Kite, E. Mounter, G. F. James, R. J. Williams, G. H. R. Smith, V. Benning and P. Spice. A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave.

Mr. Pitman learned to ring at Salisbury in 1928, and on moving to Southampton in 1929 became a change ringer. In 1936 he and his wife went to Bromley, where he joined the band at the Parish Church. He rang several peals in the district, and his first peal on handbells was reported only in last week's 'Ringing World'. His tower bell peals numbered 24, and included Grandsire Cinques at Christchurch Priory and Bob Royal at Wimborne Minster. Letters from him on various subjects have fairly frequently appeared in our columns. Up to the last he was regular in his attendance at St. Luke's, Bromley, the parish church and its bells having been destroyed in one of the air raids.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 536.)

The medium by which the energy exerted by the ringer is applied to the swinging bell is the rope. By the rope we must understand, not exactly the hempen cord which normally hangs down to the belfry, but only that part of it which extends from the wheel to the ringers' hands, to which must be added the man's arms and the rest of his body in varying degree.

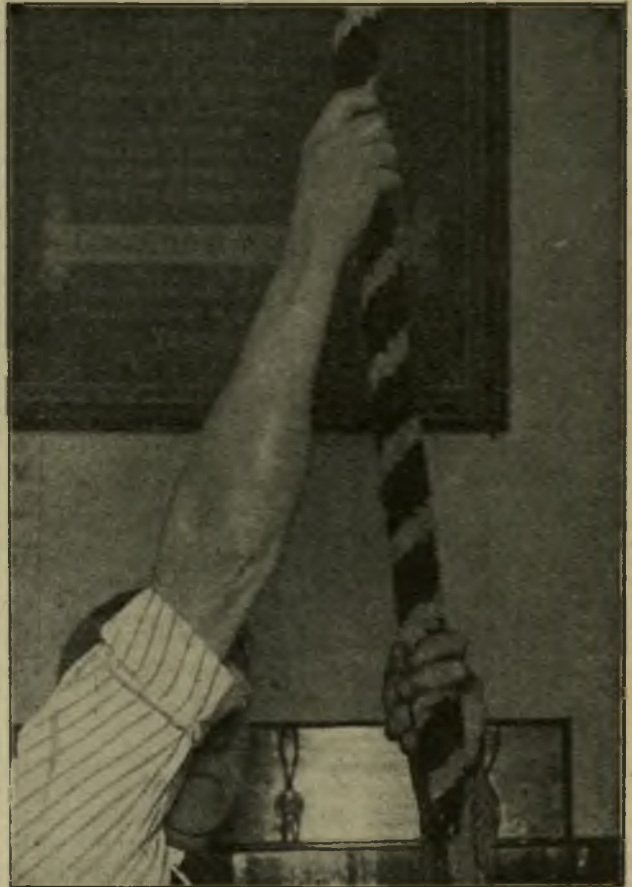


No. 1.—THE RIGHT WAY.

Now for a rope to be a proper means of transmitting energy, the first essential is that it must be taut; unless it is so, there is loss of energy. This, no doubt, is obvious to everybody and hardly needs to be laboured, but there is one illustration very apposite to our present discussion. Some years ago, before electric bells became common, it was usual to instal in houses miniature bells operated from a distance by bell-pulls and wire. The bells, about three inches in diameter, were shaped like church bells and made of the same metal. They were hung on springs and were connected with the front door or the sitting-room bell-pulls by a system of wire and cranks. Bell hanging in common speech in those days meant the fitting up of these bells, and it was a skilled craft. When the work was well done and the wires completely taut, the energy applied to the bell-pull was at once transferred, and with little loss to the bell, which might be several rooms and some floors away. But when

the work was badly done and the wires left slack or bent, it took a lot of pulling and much waste of energy to move the bell even slightly.

A similar thing happens with a church bell. When the rope is springy, and especially when there is a long draught, there is not only a loss of energy (caused by the necessity of rendering the rope taut before it can be effective), but there is also a loss of time before the energy



No. 2.—THE WRONG WAY.

can be applied to the bell. The ringer cannot help the rope being springy; all he can do is to counteract its effect. But he can prevent loss of energy caused by absence of tautness in that part of the rope which is represented by his own arms and body.

At the exact moment when the man applies his energy to the bell, the rope, his arms, and his whole body should be in tension. That is to say, the amount of weight which he is going to use should hang easily and naturally on the rope. If the arms are bent, or if the body is bent, they cannot suspend the man's weight, as they can when the arms and body are straight. If a man hangs on a horizontal bar and allows his arms and body to extend to the fullest, he can support his weight without much difficulty, but if he bends his arms or his body he will quickly find the muscular strain intolerable.

Almost the first thing in teaching a beginner how to handle a bell is to see that, before he begins to pull, he

grasps the sally in the right way, and that he reaches up to the full extent of both his arms. Just compare the illustrations, No. 1 and No. 2. In the first the man's hands are close together, as close as they can be without interfering with each other's grip on the rope, and his arms are so arranged that he can at once transfer his weight (or as much of it as he needs) on to the rope without any muscular strain on his arms or any part of his body. Now look at illustration No. 2, which shows a rather (but not very) extreme instance of a common fault. To transfer his weight to the rope the man must use his right arm almost exclusively; the left arm could only be used by muscular contraction, and ordinarily in such a case does no work at all. The first man's weight will be applied easily, naturally, and equally to the rope; the second man's will be lopsided and will be used with difficulty and will not be available until the time has passed when it is most needed.

Even when the hands are placed correctly on the sally there is a very great tendency with many ringers to begin their pull with bent instead of straight arms. This means that the "rope" is slack instead of taut at the beginning of the pull, and before the energy can be applied the rope must be straightened. It can be done so in either or both of two ways. Either the arms are stiffened by muscular contraction or the weight of the upper part of the body is lowered by bending at the hips or knees.

Both mean a waste of energy and a waste of precious time. When the man is ringing a heavy or a badly-going bell, this waste is serious and may mean all the difference between success and failure. But it may be argued that nowadays bells of medium and light weight

go so well, and so little energy is required to ring them, that this loss is of no great importance. It may be so, but good ringing and good striking depend on the ringer being able to start the bell on its downward swing at exactly the right moment, and to do that he must have complete control of the bell, which he cannot have until the rope is taut. Therefore any time wasted in making it taut, even if it is but infinitesimal, detracts from the ability to ring and strike a bell correctly.

Fully extended arms and a proper grip of the sally at the beginning of the pull are essential features of correct bell handling.

In this matter tall ringers suffer from a serious handicap. Not because they are tall, for high stature in itself is a great asset, but because tail ends are almost invariably too long and sallies too low for them. It is possible, of course, to adjust tail ends without much trouble, and this is done before a peal or any serious ringing. But sallies cannot be altered without shifting the rope on the wheel. A rope which suits a man of medium or short stature is too low for a tall man, though he can, and usually does, make shift with it; whereas a rope which suits a tall man would make ringing almost impossible for a short man. Actually tail ends are usually too long and sallies too low even for short men. The experience of a ringer about 5ft. 4in. in height and short in the arm is that it is very seldom indeed that he visits a belfry where the ropes are too short for him, and quite a common thing to find them too long. It would be a very good thing if in a belfry the sallies were properly adjusted for the tallest ringers and a number of boxes provided for the shorter men to stand on.

(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.

45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,

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The Editor wishes all readers of 'The
Ringing World' a Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year.

The main object of 'The Ringing World' is not to
make a profit, but to serve the best interests of ringers
and the art of change ringing. Nevertheless, it cannot
fulfil its object unless it is in a sound financial condi-
tion, and efforts are now being made by the responsible
persons to put into proper order the arrangements by
which the paper derives its revenue.

One improvement which it is hoped to make concerns
the postal subscribers who have their copies direct from
the office. Such subscription may begin at any time,
and hitherto it has been usual to date the quarter from
the first number sent. In future it is hoped that all
subscriptions will be considered due on January 1st, April
1st, July 1st and October 1st. New subscribers are
asked to remit their subscriptions so as to cover the
period up to the next of these dates, and old subscribers
will be asked to make the necessary adjustment to come
into line.

The alteration is to facilitate bookkeeping, and we are
sure subscribers will forgive any slight inconvenience it
may cause them.

By the passing of Arthur J. Neale we lost, if not the last, one of
the last remaining links with Charles Middleton. As a young man,
Arthur Neale frequently rang with Middleton at Aylsham.

Mr. Charles Forfitt, who took part in the peal of Grandsire Triples
at Swanage on December 11th, reached his 81st birthday on November
26th. He is a regular service ringer at St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, DARLINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I make a correction in Mr. Morris' account of the
bells of St. Cuthbert's, Darlington? They have been recast and rehung
in a steel frame and ball bearings by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of
Croydon. The dedication was on Easter Monday, 1937. The old tenor,
which was by G. Mears and Co., was dated 1864 and was 18 cwt. 14 lb.,
not 16½ cwt. as stated.

L. VENUS, Tower Secretary.

93, Salisbury Terrace, Darlington.

GREAT PAUL.

HOW THE BELL CAME TO LONDON.

Mr. Edwin Barnett has referred to an account of the bringing of Great Paul to London, and suggested that it might be worth republishing. Nowadays one might think that there could hardly be much worth saying about how a casting weighing 16 tons was conveyed from the Midlands to London, but 60 years ago it was a difficult operation and one not without some hazards and risks.

The trouble was not in the weight, for railways had been in operation for half a century, and were just as capable of conveying heavy goods as they are to-day; but the bell was too wide to permit of its being put on a train, and of necessity it had to be conveyed by road. Roads in those days were not what they are now. There was not a great difference between their condition and that of the roads in the Middle Ages. There had indeed been a great improvement in the palmy days of the stage coaches, but they were ended when the railways came in, and the roads were used for little else than farm wagons and carts. The only way they were repaired was by spreading loose stones on the surface during the autumn, and leaving it to the traffic to work them in. At the edges of the way the soil was soft enough to let the wheels of even a heavily laden farm wagon sink in.

THE MAN WITH THE RED FLAG.

A weight like Great Paul had to be loaded on a strong trolley and towed by two steam traction engines. Hills had to be climbed and descended (the latter as difficult and more risky than the former) and bridges had to be crossed which were not built to carry such a load. The pace was a slow one, not only because the traction engines of those days were not built for speed, but also because the law required that in front of every mechanically propelled vehicle on the highway a man should walk carrying a red flag to warn other users of the road, and especially those in charge of horses and animals. Many of us can remember the man and his flag strolling along in front of traction engine or steam roller. This was an indignity the earliest motor-cars had to submit to. Great Paul's journey, therefore, took several days.

The bell started on its journey from Loughborough on a Thursday and by the next day it had reached Market Harborough. We now follow a contemporary newspaper account:—

Arriving as far as Market Harborough on Friday, a start was again made at an early hour on Saturday. Oxenden Hill proved a difficult one, the ground being soft and the incline very steep. The wheels of the trolley sank in some inches and the bell had to be drawn back and a fresh part of the road selected. The van engine was then sent on to the front and helped by its wire rope to tow the bell to the summit.

From this point until Landport everything went well, but here an incline long and steep acted in the opposite way, and the bell trolley pressed hard upon the engine and in a measure overpowered it—although the steam was reversed on the piston—to the extent that the latter part of the descent was made at a pace very much quicker than was desirable, although control was never absolutely lost.

THROUGH NORTHAMPTON.

Onwards the journey was continued over an undulating district of long steep hills with lovely and widespread scenery around until Brixworth was reached and the five miles of hills leading to Northampton were commenced upon. The excitement caused by the bell was not so great along Saturday's route as it had been the two days before, for although as many people came out to look at it few followed it for the reason that it had become necessary to cover the bell with tarpaulin. This was in consequence of scribbles of names in pencil or in chalk, or rather of what was much worse—for that useless folly might have been tolerated—the numerous attempts to scratch names with knives and chisels, and ultimately one man brought a punch and hammer to indent his initials. It was, therefore, all but hidden from view when the great bell approached the suburbs of the populous shoe-manufacturing town, to the disappointment of many hundreds of inhabitants of Kingsthorpe. But as soon as the borough limits were entered and a detachment of two sergeants of police and six or eight constables appeared to protect the bell, the tarpaulin was removed and Great Paul made a triumphal progress accompanied literally by thousands upon its route. It was a sight to be remembered to gaze upon that surging sea of heads that extended as far as the eye could see and came forward some hundreds of yards in advance of the bell.

The railway bridge having been safely passed under, the engines were detached to get water from the River Nene, over which a hand-

some but rather low stone bridge of three arches had to be passed. The town surveyor was rather nervous about the condition of the bridge and wished the bell trolley to be hauled over by the rope; this was tried, but happily failed, for there is no doubt that the bridge was equal to carry five times the weight of the bell and its carriage (22 tons), whilst to have prevented an accident by the use of the rope on the sharp descent of the bridge after the summit had been passed would have been very difficult indeed. As it was, the engine was ultimately coupled and the bell pulled over in excellent style amid general plaudits. The bell now went on some short distance beyond the town and pulled up for the night. No progress was made on the Sunday.

It was on the following Tuesday that the accident, referred to in our issue of December 3rd, happened. The Press Association's correspondent reported later that the bell still remains in the same position in the road between Fenny Stratford and Brickhill, and did not arrive at Dunstable on Tuesday night as has been stated. The wagon with its load is still half embedded in the roadway, and attempts were made yesterday to extricate it by means of jacks. When it is got out of its present position the truck will be moved along the remainder of its journey on iron plates which have been sent for the purpose.

A later telegram said that a distance of only 100 yards represents the progress made yesterday by the truck bearing the bell, the boiler plates upon which attempts were made to travel proving of little use, the narrow wheels of the truck sinking at once into the clay soil.

By the following Saturday the bell reached Highgate and there it rested during the Sunday. At three o'clock on the Monday morning it began the last stage of its journey, and accompanied by about 300 people who thought it worth their while to get up so early just to walk in the procession, it was carried to the Cathedral, where in due course it was hung in the south-western tower.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the mention of Great Paul, it may be of interest that my two uncles, Charles and Percy Howard, who were at that time in the Howard Works at Bedford and were well-known ringers, went over to Brickhill with tackle and helped to get the truck out of the soft ground. They both went afterwards to Australia, where Charles died only last year in Melbourne. Percy, who was a solicitor near Perth, died nearly 20 years ago.

J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Aith, Little Chalfont, Amersham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHELTENHAM.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Cheltenham on December 4th.

The twelve bells were set going soon after two o'clock, and service in church was conducted by the Rector, Canon J. B. Goodlife. There was a full choir and organ accompaniment. About 60 members and friends were present at the tea in a cafe near the church. They included the Rector, the Rev. T. H. Thorold (curate), the Rev. N. E. Hope (Master of the association), the two churchwardens, Alderman Clara Winterbotham, whose parents gave the two trebles to make the ring of twelve, and members from Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Swindon, etc.

At the business meeting the Rev. K. C. Davis took the chair. The following officers were re-elected: Chairman, Canon J. Baghot De la Bere; representative, W. Dyer; hon. secretary, W. Yeend. Thanks were given for their past services. Mr. John Austin was congratulated on reaching his 80th birthday. The date and place of the next meeting were left in the hands of the hon. secretary. Mr. W. Dyer, the captain of the local band, was thanked for the arrangements he had made.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A FALSE TOUCH.

Mr. R. J. B. Hadden writes to point out that the well-known touch of Stedman Triples, consisting of five courses produced by calling two bobs with one plain six between them, is false.

This has been a recognised touch for many years, though we doubt if it is often rung. It is another example of how precarious the composition of the method is, outside certain well-defined limits.

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ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 541.)

There are many records of peals rung since the war, mostly of Stedman Caters, in which method the society has become proficient. On January 8th, 1921, a peal of 7,011 changes in this method occupied over 41 hours, and it is recorded as the longest peal on the bells. On this tablet we find the name of Rev. H. D. Lampen, Vicar. The reader of this paper was the composer and conductor of this peal, which was rung for the Middlesex Association. Later on, to be precise on September 25th, 1926, a peal of 6,003 Stedman Caters was rung in a little under four hours as a 70th birthday compliment to Robert Maynard, sen., who rang the tenor. It was conducted by the tenor ringer's eldest son.

There have been others of which no record exists. Since the formation of county associations, however, all peals have been recorded, and from these we may take some as being of exceptional interest.

On March 18th, 1899, 5,060 Stedman Caters were rung after many attempts. This was conducted by William B. Manning, and it was said to be the first peal in the method on the bells. Some time later, however, the composition was found to be false, and the peal was thus nullified. In the interval a true peal in the same method had been rung on the bells, with another conductor, and Mr. Manning, who really deserved to have had the honour of conducting the first peal of Stedman Caters on the bells, was bitterly disappointed.

On December 26th, 1913, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal in the County of Essex was rung on the St. Mary's bells in 3½ hours by a band most of whom were visitors.

On July 19th, 1919, a combined band of St. Mary's and St. Saviour's ringers rang a peal of Bob Major to celebrate peace. It will be noticed that only eight bells were rung, due probably to a shortage of ringers.

St. George's Day in 1921 was commemorated by a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, again by visitors.

On March 25th, 1922, a peal of Stedman Caters was rung with the clappers half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Bishop of Colchester.

On June 24th, 1922, a peal of 5,104 Kent Treble Bob Royal, Granta Variation, was rung. Five of the ringers, including the conductor, were of St. Mary's, and the peal was the first in the variation ever rung, and only one other such peal has been rung since that date.

On June 2nd, 1923, which was a Saturday, another peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung, to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King George, which took place next day.

On December 26th, 1923, in six hours and 55 minutes, a peal of 10,440 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung. This was credited to the Middlesex Association, and is the longest peal ever rung at St. Mary's Church. It is also the record length in this method. The only member of the local band to take part in this peal was the reader.

On February 12th, 1927, a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung to welcome the Rev. G. D. Oakley to Walthamstow, and on June 24th, in the same year, a peal of Stedman Caters was rung for the King's birthday.

Lastly, on September 24th, 1927, a peal of 5,041 changes of Stedman Caters was rung as a compliment to Henry A. Barnett, of All Hallows', Tottenham, and Robert Maynard, of St. Mary's, both of whom attained their 71st birthday within a few days of this date. It will be noticed that 71 x 71 equals the number of changes in the peal, and the composition was specially chosen for the occasion because of the number of changes it contained.

This ends my record. I hope I have been able to convey to my hearers some interesting facts relating to the bells of St. Mary's Church, and their ringers; and, what is of more importance to me, have stimulated interest in the fascinating art of change ringing.

POSTSCRIPT.

As already stated, the foregoing articles were read as a paper to the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society on January 17th, 1935, and so far as it was a historical record it could have been considered as up to date at that time. Since then, however, much has happened, at Walthamstow as well as elsewhere, and it may be of general interest to mention a few of the more important peals rung, and also some details of air-raid damage done to the tower, which damage is still unrepaired.

So far as the society itself is concerned, it can hardly be said to be in quite such a flourishing condition as it was nine years ago, when the paper was prepared. It was hoped that the reading would stimulate such interest in the bells that many enthusiastic recruits would be obtained, but the interest taken was mainly in the historical and personal references, and quite apart from any other considerations it can hardly be said that lectures on bells to Antiquarian Societies is an ideal method of getting recruits for belfries. However that may be, the paper undoubtedly had some effect on the members of the society, who, during the next few years, found the much needed youngsters. These, however, have all been swallowed up by His Majesty's Forces, consequently the society, like so many others, is reduced in numbers, we hope for a very short period.

Several of the ringers mentioned in the articles have since died, and where thought necessary, this has been stated. The last of these to go was Robert J. Maynard, who died on August 2nd last at the age of 86. He was a really lovable man, and had been a member of the society since its inception, and a ringer in the tower for some years previously, in all about 77 years. He rang in the Victory ringing in November, 1942, and on Christmas Day. He also attended a few times after the lifting of the ban, but had to give up a few weeks before he died.

Of the many peals rung since the writing of the articles, the following are of the most importance. A framed illuminated card records a peal of 5,043 Stedman Caters, rung on March 16th, 1935, in 3 hours and 20 minutes, with half-muffled clappers, in memory of the late William Pye. It was rung for the Essex and Middlesex Associations, and it was conducted by C. T. Coles.

On May 6th, 1935, in 3 hours and 8 minutes, members of the Essex Association rang a peal of 5,039 Grandsire Caters, for the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V. It was conducted by R. Maynard, jun. A footnote to a record of the peal, hanging in the belfry, states that 'R. Maynard, sen., has rung in three Jubilee

peals in this tower, Queen Victoria, 1887 and 1897, and the above.'

Two other peals should be mentioned, although neither are recorded in the belfry. On January 25th, 1926, 5,040 Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung half-muffled in memory of His late Majesty King George V., the conductor being G. R. Pye, and on September 26th in the same year 5,151 Stedman Caters was rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Robert J. Maynard, his son conducting.

Some time during the blitz in the autumn of 1940 a bomb fell on some almshouses adjoining the churchyard north of the church. The tower sustained some damage, the battlements on the north side being still down. In connection with this incident, some alarm was caused by a report that an unexploded bomb was buried in a large hole at the foot of the tower. The church and churchyard were closed to the public, and a bomb disposal unit summoned. The officer of the unit, accompanied by the chief assistant to the A.R.P. officer of the district and a police officer, made an investigation in the dead of night. In an exposed vault they found a metal object, which was confirmed as the unexploded bomb. The area was roped off and placed under constant police guard.

Some days later further search was made by another army officer, who reported no trace of a bomb. Once more the officer who carried out the original investigation entered the hole and found that the 'bomb' was a metal coffin. It transpired that the hole was caused by a large piece of masonry which fell from the top of the church tower, and which entered a vault, partly exposing the metal coffin, which, being covered with the dust and debris of years, was easily mistaken for a bomb.

Thus there was a happy ending to a strange episode, which, I trust, will also be a happy ending to my articles.

Note.—Part of the account of the restoration proceedings in 1896, which appeared in our issue of December 3rd, should have appeared at the top of page 541 in the following issue.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT POOLE.

The annual meeting of the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Poole on December 4th and was attended by nearly 50 ringers. Service in church was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Phillips, the branch secretary, and the preacher was the Rev. E. C. Harris, Rector of Poole.

At the business meeting after tea in the Church House, the Rector presided in the absence of the branch chairman, Canon Eddrump. The Rev. C. A. Phillips reported that the minute book and several papers had been lost, at least temporarily, when his house received some unwelcome and damaging attention earlier in the year. He referred to the lifting of the 'ban,' the rededication of Swanage bells and the 'coming of age' of Corfe Mullen bells, the latter event being celebrated by the only tower bell peal of the period. He spoke of the passing of Messrs. Bastable, of Swanage, and Fred Cole, of Poole. Several handbell peals had been scored for the branch by the Bournemouth and district ringers.

The officers of the branch were all re-elected with the addition of Mr. Arthur Rose, who was appointed Assistant Ringing Master.

Thanks were given to the Rector and the ladies who provided the tea.

During the afternoon and evening Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, and Major methods, including Cambridge Surprise, were rung on the tower bells with rounds for the many beginners present. The handbell ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

EALING.—On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Stephen's, '20 Kent Treble Bob Minor; J. A. Trollope (conductor) 1, J. E. Churchill 2, A. Jones 3, J. E. L. Cockey 4, E. C. S. Turner 5, A. Harding 6, F. Miller tenor.

THATCHAM.—On December 3rd, for the induction of the new Vicar, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major: Capt. Poyntz, Miss Davis, Miss Matthews, H. Curtis, T. Fisher, A. Smith, D. Cooper, A. Chandler and A. H. Brown.

CATHEDRAL BELLS OF ENGLAND.

O chiming bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
From your ivy-covered belfries
Let a great Te Deum pour
On the day when Peace comes winging
Her way to earth, and bringing
As merrie an Old England
As she was before the war!

The ancient bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
That chime from lofty towers
At the ending of the day,
Reach eager hearts that listen
With lifted eyes that glisten
As yearning thoughts turn fondly
To the lads so far away.

When Victory's voice comes ringing
O'er the hills and valleys singing
Her saga of the battle fields
Where cannons cease to roar,
Then a shout of acclamation
Will go up from every nation
That stood behind Old England
In her tragedy of war.

O chiming bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
From your ivy-covered belfries
Let a great Te Deum pour
On the day when Peace comes winging
Her way to earth, and bringing
As merrie an Old England
As she was before the war!

—CLARA ENDICOTT SEARS.

Harvard, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

DEATH OF MR C. W. TAYLOR.

The death is announced of Mr. C. W. Taylor, of Grimsby, who passed away on November 28th shortly before his 76th birthday. He had been in hospital for a fortnight, but had been ailing for some time before that.

The funeral was at St. James' Grimsby, on December 2nd. The Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was represented by Mr. H. I. Mingay, hon. district secretary, Mr. M. Walker, of Ulceby, trustee, P. C. A. Pashley, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, of Barton-on-Humber, Mr. J. Kennington, Mr. C. Kennington and Mr. A. B. Shephard. The service was conducted by Canon E. Lisle Marsden, Vicar and president of the district and the Northern Branch. The interment was at Scarthoe Cemetery, where floral tributes were laid from the ringers. The bells of St. Andrew's were rung half-muffled on the same evening.

Mr. Taylor joined the old North Lincolnshire Guild in 1898 and rang his first peal at St. James', Grimsby, in 1903. Soon afterwards he joined the St. James' company and rang with them for many years. Later he joined the St. Andrew's band. He was a member of the Yorkshire and London County Associations. He rang 73 peals for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, one of them on handbells; two for the Yorkshire Association; and one for the London County Association. From 1924 until his death he represented the Grimsby District on the committee of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Guild, and was a trustee for the District Bell Fund. He was a hard worker in the cause of ringing and a good conductor.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BRIERLEY HILL.

The Dudley and District Guild held their quarterly meeting at Brierley Hill on December 4th, when they were joined by the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association. Upwards of forty members and friends were present and some excellent practice on the tower bells and handbells resulted.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rector, who gave, in place of the usual address, details from a leaflet by the Rev. H. Drake on care and preservation of churches and bells in war time.

The Rector joined the members at tea and afterwards presided over the business meeting. When the routine work had been disposed of, the Central Council representative, Mr. F. Colclough, brought to the attention of the members a circular re the taking over of 'The Ringing World' by the Central Council. This was read out and it was resolved that the Guild should support the Council, gratification being expressed that the future of our journal was assured.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting, being the annual, at Dudley on March 18th.

Votes of thanks to the Rector, and the ladies who provided the tea, brought the meeting to a close.

THE BELLS OF RICHMOND.

After the royal commissioners had made their final visit to Rychemond in the year 1532 they reported that there had been 'delyverid to the churchwardens there the xv day of May anno regni regis Edwardi Sexti septimo by Sir Thomas Carwarden, knight, Nicholas Leigh, and William Saunders esquires, comysioners of our soveraigne lorde by kynge, among others to that effect, theses parselles of churche gooddes hereafter ensuring.

'Imprimis a challis of silver, poiz xv oz di.

'Item ij alter clothes for the comunyon table.

'Also remaining in their charge to the kings use three bells in the steeple and a saunce bell.'

These were all the goods saved to the church in the great spoliation of Edward the Sixth's reign. All the rest of ornaments and vestments were seized, nominally to prevent superstitious services, actually to enrich a gang of men who had gained control of the government of the country.

During the seventeenth century the bells were increased to five, and in 1680 James Bartlet, of White-chapel, was employed to recast them. On the treble (now the fourth) he put one of those bragging inscriptions by which an old founder sometimes proclaimed his superiority over his predecessor—'Lambert made me weake not fit to Ring. But Bartlet amongst the rest hath made me sing.' This inscription necessarily had to be cast on the bell before the founder or anybody else had had an opportunity of judging whether it was a good bell or not.

Bartlet also recast the saunce bell, and it was used for the clock to strike on.

In the early eighteenth century there was a good band of ringers at Richmond, one of the earliest in the country. Indeed, the steeples of the lower Thames valley were a major factor in the development of change ringing. At Richmond lived a man named William Gardiner, a person of wealth and position, who not only took an interest in the bells, but was himself a skilful ringer.

In the year 1713 Thomas Gardiner joined the Society of College Youths. We know nothing about him, but quite likely he was the same as a man who was one of the churchwardens at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1735, when the present ring of twelve was installed and a relative of the James and Elizabeth Gardner, whose names are on the eighth. There is no evidence that William Gardiner belonged to the same family, but it is more than probable. He was in close touch with the London ringers and was a member of the Society of College Youths. In 1729 he rang the fifth to 5,184 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis', Backchurch, the first peal on the bells, which afterwards were hung at All Hallows', Lombard Street, and, when that church was pulled down, were offered to the new Guildford Cathedral. In 1744 he held the office of Master of the College Youths.

Gardiner evidently was desirous of forming a good band at his home tower, and in 1740 he gave two trebles to complete the octave there. Robert Catlin cast them and at the same time made a thorough restoration of the ring, which included the renewal of the old treble. Two years later Catlin recast the fifth in the octave.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Bob Major rung on August 25th, 1740, and conducted by John Sharpe. A month later the College Youths rang a five-

thousand in the same method. The band included Robert Catlin, John Hardham, John Trenell and John Cundell, but not Benjamin Annable. It was at the time of one of the recurring quarrels between Annable and Cundell, and these men may be supposed to be leaders of the opposition to Annable. Gardiner himself did not stand in the peal, nor did he in any of the peal performances by the local company.

By March 10th, 1742, they had become skilled enough to ring a 'compleat Peal of Five Thousand and Fourty of Richmond Triples.' Exactly what it was we do not know, for the figures are lost; but we may pretty safely assume it to be a close variation of one of the standard methods—either Plain Bob or Grandsire—and not unlikely it was only a special composition of one of them. William Walker rang the seventh and probably conducted. He was the first of two or three men of the name who, in the following sixty years or so, held prominent positions in the belfries of the district.

Two other notable peals were rung by the local band—Double Grandsire Triples in 1767, and Real Double Bob Major in 1816, 'with two bobs in a lead and as many 2nds as 7ths with bobs behind and before alternately.'

The last was conducted by George Cole, of Isleworth, who in 1824 called at Richmond 'a true and complete peal of Stedman Tripples consisting of 5,040 changes, composed by Mr. John Cooper, of Birmingham, being the first ever rung in that system on these bells. This intricate peal consisted of 480 calls known as parts and singles.'

It was one of the earliest peals of Stedman Triples rung, and obviously was on the multi-bob plan, but the composition has not been identified.

What is meant by the expression 'parts and singles' is obscure. The writing on the board is perfectly clear and cannot be misread. Probably the painter misunderstood his instructions and wrote 'parts' instead of bobs.

The longest peal on the bells was John Reeves' 8,448 Oxford Treble Bob Major rung by the local men in 1810. About that time they were calling themselves the Country College Youths. There is no reason to think they had any particular connection with the London society, although George Cole was for some years the leading peal conductor of the College Youths.

Richmond tower contains about eight or nine peal boards dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. They are all in good condition, and the belfry is kept in excellent order, though change ringing is not practised there. Some years ago Messrs. Mears and Stainbank rehung the bells in ball-bearings. The circle is a left-handed one.

Few peals have been rung on the bells for many years. The church is in the middle of the town, the tower is a low one, and close by are some small houses inhabited by people who express their opinions without much attempt at disguise. About thirty years ago, towards the end of a peal of Stedman Triples conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles, a crowd collected in the pathway just below the belfry window, and for more than half an hour employed themselves in shouting nasty things about the ringers and uttering threats about what they intended to do to them when they came out of the church. When that did happen they were as harmless as a lot of old sheep. Since then only one peal has been rung on the bells—Treble Bob, conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner.

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, Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15. Service ringing, St. unstan's, St. pney. Sunday, Dec. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting (with the Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster Societies) at Doncaster, Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Arrange own tea. Cafes near church. Business in Church Hall 5.45 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 18th, at 3 p.m. No refreshment.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. and during evening. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, at 5 p.m.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Wigston Magna (8 bells) on Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Plenty of buses from Northampton Street and The Newarkes.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WHISTON (8), near Rotherham, Yorkshire. — Practice Thursday, Dec. 23rd, 7 p.m. Also new Year's Day, 3-8 p.m. All welcome.—N. Chaddock, 33, Brecklands Broom, Rotherham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual District Meeting at Winchester Jan. 1st. — W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

BIRTH.

WAKE. — On Dec. 7th, at Rashleigh Maternity Home, Maidenhead, Berks, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Wake, the gift of a son.

GREETINGS.

Christmas greetings to all my ringing friends and sincere wishes for a victorious and brighter New Year.—Edgar R. Rapley, India.

To all our ringing friends a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Hearty Christmas greetings and all best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W. 12.

Harry Hoskins offers Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends at home and abroad.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends from C. H. Webb and family, 68, Brownhill, Green Road, Coventry.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Southern District.—Best wishes to all members and ringing friends for Christmas and the New Year.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. E. Barnett's letter in this week's 'Ringing World,' I can inform him of one other association besides the Kent County Association which has scored 5,000 peals. The Norwich Diocesan Association scored its five thousandth peal on Saturday, December 17th, 1938.

I had the good fortune and honour to conduct this 5,000th peal, which was one of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, at Winterton, Norfolk, a tower quite near my home in that county. Although I did not know it beforehand, our association total stood at 4,998 on that Saturday morning and as it happened three peals were rung that day. Mr. Golden, who was then secretary, checked up the times at which the peals were concluded and subsequently wrote to inform me that our peal had been the 5,000th.

On looking through our association report for 1938 I find that it mentions that our achievement was the occasion for a leading article by the late Editor of 'The Ringing World' under the title 'Norwich Association's Achievement,' and published on January 27th, 1939.

I understood at the time that the Kent County, Yorkshire and Midland Counties Associations were our nearest rivals, and it may be that one or both of the two latter may have brought up the 5,000 since December 17th, 1938, but I do not recollect any mention of such an event.

In conclusion, I feel sure that all my fellow members of the Norwich Diocesan Association would wish to join me in congratulating the Kent County Association, and we realise that, had it not been for the war, they would have run us much closer. I am sure that Norwich are looking forward to the 10,000 mark and are eagerly awaiting the day when peace returns to enable them to get started in earnest on the job. We shall welcome the healthy rivalry of other associations, confident of our ability to put up an equally good show and to maintain the high reputation of Norfolk as a centre of ringing from the earliest times. I may add that we have already achieved nearly 80 of the second 5,000.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Co. Durham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HENFIELD.**

A well-attended meeting of the Sussex County Association was held at Henfield on December 4th. Ringing began at half-past two and everyone was well catered for, whether in rounds or Surprise, under the supervision of the Ringing Master, Lieut.-Instr. R. G. Cross.

The Vicar, the Rev. — de Candole, conducted the service, and in his address welcomed the ringers and said that not only he himself but the general public were glad to hear the bells again.

Thirty-seven sat down to tea, which was kindly given by the local captain, Mr. F. Cruttenden. It was decided to hold the annual divisional meeting at Burgess Hill in February.

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By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

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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*.

Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

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No. 1,709. Vol. XXXVIII

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1943.

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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.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

To-day is Christmas Eve, and to-morrow throughout the land the bells will be sending forth once more the Christmas message—Glory to God in the highest, and in earth peace, goodwill toward men—surely the noblest message that has ever been given to humanity.

But at what a time it comes now! Peace? when nearly every nation in the world is engaged in deadly strife. Goodwill? when we read almost every morning in our newspapers, with satisfaction and approval, that some town in Germany has been devastated by fire and high explosive. It might seem that the last things in men's minds are peace and goodwill, and it is only hollow mockery to talk about them at the present time. Indeed it is most regrettably true that to many men peace means no more than the ending of war which will follow on the triumph over our enemies, and goodwill a weak-kneed sentiment which must not be permitted to interfere with the revenge (justice they call it) which will be meted out to those responsible for the war. With such a spirit the message of the bells is strangely out of tune.

No man who takes a sane and Christian view of the present crisis can doubt for a moment that the war must be carried on with the utmost rigour, and if the bombing of towns and the killing of people are necessary to winning the conflict, then they must be done. Nor can there be any doubt that Germany and those who think as she does must be taught such a lesson as will not be forgotten for many years. Anything like sloppy pacifism is futile and out of place.

But that is not everything. England must set her teeth and steel her heart to win this war. She must face stern realities in the after settlement, and neither through weariness nor careless good nature shrink from what hard and pitiless measures are necessary. But England will lose her soul and throw away her heritage if she forgets that, above and beyond all the considerations that press clamorously at the present time, are the great verities which have come to us in the Christian religion. However incongruous the Christmas message may seem at the present time, the fact remains that it is true and it is eternal.

It is the duty and the privilege of us ringers to broadcast by means of our bells this supremely important warning. We do not in the least doubt that it will be heard by many, though perhaps unconsciously by the majority of them. Church bells have the power (why is a great

(Continued on page 558.)

mystery) of touching the inmost feelings of some of those who hear them, and stirring to life the best that is in them. We can be sure that England, and through England the world, will be the better for the bells which will ring to-morrow, though their influence is unnoticed and unmarked.

It should be a help and an inspiration to every ringer that he not only enjoys the practice of a most fascinating art, but at times like this can be a humble agent in proclaiming a message which the country will ignore at its peril, for if it is ignored it will most certainly in the long run mean the end of this present civilisation.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

In order to avoid misunderstanding we should like to make clear that the only alteration and curtailment of the notices of meetings sent to us by association secretaries is to delete words which serve no useful purpose. For instance, 'The next monthly meeting of the branch will (D.V.) be held at So-and-so, on —,' becomes 'Meeting at So-and-so on —.' The very common 'All ringers welcome' is omitted because it is quite redundant. All notices are, in themselves, invitations, and if ringers were not welcome at the meetings the notices would not be published.

On one occasion only (it was during the summer) we were compelled to hold over five or six forward notices. All of them appeared twice before the meetings referred to, and no great harm was done. Many times we reached the limit, but managed to keep within it.

For quite a considerable time now we have had very little need to do any curtailment. Secretaries have generally adopted the new style without any difficulty and themselves do the curtailment. They deserve our thanks and they have them.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT¹ BOB MAJOR.

1,248					1,248				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
53624	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	25634	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
26435	—	—	—	—	26435	—	—	—	—
Twice Repeated.					Twice Repeated.				
1,280					1,280				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
65324	—	—	—	—	54326	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	34625	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	23645	—	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	—	43526	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32546	—	—	—	—
Repeated.					Repeated.				
1,248					1,280				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
35426	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	62534	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
36254	—	—	—	S	24356	—	—	—	S
62354	—	—	—	—	43256	—	—	—	—
32456	—	—	—	—	32456	—	—	—	—
Repeated.					Repeated.				

MANGOTSFIELD, GLOS.—On December 4th. 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Palmer 1, Miss N. Gardner 2, C. Harding 3, J. Jefferies, jun. 4, T. James 5, D. Gardner 6, J. Jefferies, sen. (conductor) 7, F. Durbin 8. Rung as a compliment to the ringer of the 5th, who has completed 47 years' service on the L.M.S. Railway.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

CHEADLE, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. GILFS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN G. CARTLIDGE Treble	CHARLES H. PAGE 5
WILLIAM P. DEANE 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 6
EDWARD STEELE 3	ANDREW THOMPSON 7
WILLIAM CARNWELL 4	ARTHUR W. HALL 7enor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by ARTHUR W. HALL.

First peal on the bells since they were augmented to eight. A birthday compliment to the Rev. J. J. Macdonald.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Major.

WELLINGTON, SALOP.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

IN THE TOL H ROOM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in G.

CPL. C. BRETT-SMITH, R.A.F. 1-2	*L/CPL. A. J. ADAMS, R.A.O.C. 5-6
A/C.I HAROLD CHANT, R.A.F. 3-4	†PTE. JAMES FERNLEY, A.C.C. 7-8

Composed by G. WILLIAMS. Conducted by CYRIL BRETT-SMITH.

* First peal in the method on' handbells. † First handbell peal. First peal as conductor.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF EXETER BRANCH.

That change ringing is reviving was definitely in evidence at Exeter on December 11th, when the local Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers held its annual meeting. Most of the associated towers were represented, and regular practices are being conducted in many of them. Thirty odd members and friends practised Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major in the afternoon at St. David's, and more were present at the service in St. Edmund's, when the Rev. Colin Marr officiated.

After tea in Western's Cafe, Mr. W. H. Howe presented the report and balance sheet, which showed a credit in hand of £13 13s.

Messrs. E. J. Ryall (chairman), W. H. Howe (secretary and treasurer), as well as Messrs. Biffin, Pook and Rowe (representatives to the General Committee), were re-elected. Mr. E. Biffin was elected as Ringing Master.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed to occur in February. Mr. and Mrs. Wayman were elected new members. Mr. Biffin proposed 'that the annual meeting of the whole Guild should be held on Whit Monday and that this recommendation should go forward to the General Committee of the Guild.' The Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox pointed out that with a scattered diocese like Exeter, difficulties of transport were very great. He preferred that the various branches should hold their local meetings. The members present almost unanimously favoured Mr. Biffin's proposal.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. Edmund's and the organist concluded the meeting.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BRADFORD.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Bradford Cathedral on November 27th. Ringing began soon after 3 p.m. and continued until the business meeting at 7 p.m. Mr. W. H. Senior presided, and members were present from Armley, Batley, Burley, Bushey, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Liversedge, Pudsey, Rothwell, Shipley and the local company, as well as Mr. Ballard, of Leicester, and Mr. Farmer, of Shrewsbury.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Barton and seconded by Mr. A. Smith.

The next meeting will be at Pudsey in January.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 542.)

St. Asaph is the smallest cathedral city in Great Britain. The See was established in the sixth century. The first building, which was of wood, was burnt down in 1282, and being re-erected was again almost totally destroyed in the wars of Owen Glendower. The present edifice was built about 1480, but a portion of the choir is of a later date. In the Civil Wars the cathedral was occupied by the soldiery and received considerable damage, being used as a stable, barrack and hospital, and even as an office for the postmaster.

The central tower, which is 40ft. square and 100ft. high, gave cause for much anxiety owing to a subsidence, and with it the south transept and chancel. It was restored in 1930. It was considered not strong enough to carry a ring of bells.

The following occurs in Archdeacon Thomas's History: 'In 1680 it was ordered "the three bells being broken crack and insufficient to give notice of ye time of celebration of divine service," should be cast into two new ones: and in 1681 an agreement was made with Thomas Roberts, bell founder, of Shrewsbury, to take down the three bells in the tower and recast them as two of the same weight within six weeks, for £40. After replacing them, the canon of the bigger bell broke, and it fell, but was renewed the same year.' These bells were recast in 1848 by C. and G. Mears, of London. Largest, note D, 25 cwt.; other bell note E.

Sheffield Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul has a massive central tower and spire, and here the approach to the ringing chamber is much the same as that at Leicester Cathedral described above: by a spiral stairway at the end of one of the transepts, emerging on roof, which is traversed to the central tower. Here is a ring of twelve bells with a tenor 41 cwt. Recently Mr. Barton, the peal secretary of the Yorks Association, stated that 36 peals had been rung on these twelve to Cinques and Maximus.

Daniel Hedderly made the old ring into eight in 1745, and it is recorded that the tenor was cast in a barn which stood at the east end of the churchyard. There have been records in the history of ringing when the men of Sheffield have been of the front rank, and at the beginning of the 19th century they were unquestionably no mean company. With only one ring of bells there were two sets of ringers, the 'ins' and the 'outs.' St. Peter's Youths were the former, and St. Peter's Independent Youths were the latter. There were changes, of course, and at different times members of the 'outs' can be found ringing with the 'ins,' so that it is difficult to draw a dividing line between the two. While the 'ins' were able to satisfy their peal-ringing aspirations on tower bells, the 'outs' turned their attention to handbells, and it was probably the rivalry between the two companies that provided those wonderful handbell performances of a century ago.

The first peal recorded on the tower bells was of Union Treble Bob (which is now known as the Oxford Variation) on the eight bells, 'on Tuesday evening ye 8th of March, 1785.' The second peal is on the same bells, the tenor of which was 33 cwt., and is noteworthy as being of Cambridge Surprise, 6,048 changes in 4 hours 18 minutes. The late J. W. Snowdon points out that this

was unfortunately false, but this does not demerit the performance of the ringers. Other peals are recorded on the ten (tenor 30 cwt.), cast in 1798, and on the ten of 1804. The latter was 5,040 Bob Major Royal, in 3 hours 36 minutes, on November 27th, 1811. The tenor, 41 cwt., was rung by William Heald 'and assistant puller,' and the peal called by John Woodhead. Two trebles were added in 1868 by Mears and Stainbank, being the gift of Henry Wilson, of Sharrow, thus completing the present twelve.

Hedon, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, possesses a very fine church with a central tower of a solid and satisfactory design. The ornament grows gradually in richness from the ringers' storey to the belfry, and from the belfry to the double parapet and pinnacles. The buttresses are at first double, and are then replaced by a single buttress set diagonally. The effective combination of buttresses and pinnacles is worthy of notice. This is probably the determining feature of the beauty of Magdalen tower at Oxford.

Originally there were five bells at Hedon, cast in 1686 and 1687 and, from their inscriptions, they appear to have been presented, not to the church, but to the Corporation of Hedon. The tenor was cast in 1687 by Samuel Smith, a bellfounder of York, the bell being the gift of Sir Charles Duncomb, one of the two members of Parliament for the borough. The fourth bell was cast in the same year, presumably at the same foundry, and bore the unusual inscription: 'Wind them and Bringe Them and I will Ring for Them.' The fifth, sixth and seventh were cast in 1686 by William and Philip Wightman. A treble had been added (now the 3rd) to make the ring to six in 1776, while in 1929 the whole were recast and two trebles added by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., being the gift of Col. and Mrs. Lambert White. The ring is now a very fine one, with a tenor 17½ cwt.

(To be continued.)

BELLRINGING AT SEVILLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The interesting account sent you by Mr. C. E. Borrett of the ringing at the Giralda Tower, Seville, seems to leave the whole affair more mysterious than ever. How could a boy of fourteen (or the strongest man for that matter) swing a bell by pulling a rope 'wound round the axle at one side of the bell'? We know from experience that it is almost impossible to move in the slightest even the lightest bell when the rope is round the stock instead of the wheel, and one of these Seville bells is said to be 18 tons. The bells are said to revolve 'faster and faster,' although they are heavily counterbalanced. Perhaps one of your readers who knows can explain what really did happen when these bells were rung. 'ENQUIRER.'

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Barnett's letter I notice he inserts the proviso 'believed to be.' How has the total been arrived at? By the annual reports or the peal books? If by the reports, what about the numbers with a suffix?

I would point out that the reports do not agree with the peal books, as some peals which appear in the books are not in the reports, and some in the reports are not in the peal book.

Whilst on the subject of peals, can anyone say whether there are any eight-bell towers in Kent where the Kent County Association has not rung a peal, and the name of the tower or towers?

16, Harefield Road, Brockley, S.E.4. F. W. RICHARDSON.

ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your article about the disposal of the bells of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, reminded me of a visit there in 1923.

It seemed to me that its fine tower must contain a peal of some sort, although I knew there was not one hung for ringing, so while I was inside I asked the guide. His answer came quite pat, 'Yes, sir we have a peal of ten tubular bells by Harrington Lathom, of Coventry.'

E. B.

'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.
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The time draws near the birth of Christ:

The moon is hid; the night is still;

The Christmas bells from hill to hill

Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,

From far and near, on mead and moor,

Swell out and fail, as if a door

Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,

That now dilate and now decrease,

Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,

Peace and goodwill to all mankind.

This year I slept and woke with pain,

I almost wish'd no more to wake,

And that my hold on life would break

Before I heard those bells again:

But they my troubled spirit rule,

For they controll'd me when a boy;

They bring me sorrow touch'd with joy,

The merry merry bells of Yule.

—Tennyson.

The Editor would be very glad if anyone who has a spare copy of 'The Ringing World' for November 19th would let him have it for a well-known ringer who is serving abroad.

We are sorry to hear that Miss I. B. Thompson, the treasurer of the Midland Counties Association, has broken her right wrist through a fall in the black-out while on the way to a Red Cross meeting.

The handbell peal of Bob Major rung at Wellington on December 16th is the first so far in this war rung by a band consisting entirely of ringers serving in H.M. Forces.

Sixty years ago to-day Mr. James S. Wilde rang the tenor at Hyde in Cheshire, where his family lived. Mr. Wilde is happily still alive and still takes a great interest in ringing. He lives at Auckland, New Zealand.

THORNTON HEATH.—On Sunday, December 5th, at 17, Hamilton Road, 1,260 Grandsire Triples on handbells: E. Jennings (conductor) 1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, C. H. Kippin 5-6, F. E. Collins 7-8. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin.

ASHFORD KENT.—On Sunday, December 5th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. C. Castle 1, Miss S. Wickens 2, P. Page 3, Flight-Sergt. T. Callingham 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 8.

MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

The many friends of Mr. George R. Pye will hear with regret that he has had to go into hospital for a serious operation. It was performed last Sunday and we have received a telegram from Mr. Ernest W. Pye saying that it was a success and the patient is as well as can be expected. In view of his age and the recent state of his health there is considerable anxiety.

ON PEAL RINGING.

We have been told by so grave and learned an authority as 'The Quarterly Review' that 'one unparalleled enthusiast, whose book was printed in 1618, devoted 475 pages to prove that the principal enjoyment of the blessed in heaven will be the continual ringing of bells.' No further details were given, no name of the author, no clue by which we could trace this most remarkable and interesting book. We might, indeed, have suspected that the reviewer was trying to pull our legs, if we did not know that such a thing was far below the dignity of a 'Quarterly' reviewer in the year 1854. We fear we shall never know the name of the author, nor have a chance of dipping into his book. Who and what was he? We must assume in the absence of evidence to the contrary that he was sane, though that, of course, is open to discussion. Learned he must have been and diligent, or he would not have written a book of close on five hundred pages in the reign of King James the First. Well-informed we must grant him, for obviously he was acquainted with facts not generally known. But what a pity we have lost all details of the ringing and the methods practised! Perhaps we shall find out later.

It may be that the author had in his mind a sort of glorified club room in which the blessed sit in luxurious armchairs, and continually ring electric bells; and (when the ministering spirit appears) give the order, 'Another round of the same, please!' There are so many different sorts of ringing. But we reject this solution of the problem as being too Mohammedan.

The ringing, we take it then, is proper bellringing, land and back, and rounds and changes. But why should our author be at such pains to prove that all the blessed are going to do little else throughout eternity? Was it to create a longing for coming bliss or was it only to point out that people must not expect too much? There is a story (N.B. this is a chestnut) of a man who lived at Wigan (you vary the name according to fancy and circumstances), who died. The next day, as he was walking down the streets of his new abode, he met an old friend who had preceded him and who greeted him warmly. 'Well, what do you think of it?' he asked. 'Not a great deal,' replied the other. 'In fact, so far as I can see, heaven is not a very much better place than Wigan.' 'But, my dear fellow,' rejoined his friend, 'This isn't heaven!' It might be that some people would think the same if they had nothing else to do except pull at a bell rope for ever and ever.

We have, of course many enthusiasts whose appetite for peal ringing seems insatiable. The more peals they can attempt, and the longer the peals are, the better they like it. Yet we imagine that, even with them, unlimited and unrestricted ringing would produce satiety in the end; and we fancy that more than half the attraction of peal ringing lies in the fact that peals take a lot of trouble to arrange and they are not easy to accomplish.

Here is a profound problem for the philosopher and metaphysician to cogitate about. Why do we ring peals? Why do we shut ourselves up in belfries for hours together, and (sometimes) sweat and toil when we might be taking our ease by the fireside, or on the sea shore, or watching Aston Villa beat Blackburn Rovers? (N.B. names to be filled in to taste.) Don't tell a cynic it is because the ringing itself is so enjoyable, for to every peal ringer the most enjoyable change is the last one, and the greatest satisfaction is felt when all is over.

We do not pretend to have any solution of the problem. We accept the fact that there is an overmastering fascination about peal ringing, but though it would be pleasant and interesting (material restrictions removed) to start for a peal of Cambridge Surprise on five hundred bells, we trust our old author has exaggerated the extent to which there will be bellringing in the next world.

A LETTER FROM MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like, through the courtesy of your paper, to express to my ringing friends my sincere Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

I cannot let the occasion pass without a word of appreciation for the excellent way in which 'The Ringing World' has been produced during the past year. Its leading articles maintain the high standard of its founder, and the special articles covering a wide range of subjects of interest to ringers have been both varied and instructive.

To those members of the Exercise who still have the opportunity to handle a rope I would say that we 'exiles' look to them to keep the flag flying until the day when the Christmas message of 'Peace on earth to men of goodwill' shall be accomplished.

India.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

GREAT PAUL.

(Continued from page 551.)

HOW THE BELL REACHED THE CATHEDRAL.

The following account is from 'The Daily News,' at that time a leading London daily, and now merged in 'The News Chronicle.'

The usually quiet neighbourhood of Highgate was on Sunday evening the scene of a demonstration such as might have seemed to the old historian who speaks of Britain as the 'ringing isle' fully to justify his designation. Rarely have the people of London flocked out in this direction in greater numbers than they did on Sunday night to see for themselves the monster bell of whose happy birth and adventurous journey they had lately been hearing so much.

All day, and especially in the evening, curious crowds thronged out to see the bell and to touch it, and to discuss its proportions and its composition and its tone—as judged by a poke with an umbrella or a rap with the knuckles—and when darkness had dispersed them a pertinacious mob of perhaps three hundred still clung to the railings of the enclosure from which they had been expelled. They had come to see the bell into London, and so they stuck to their various coigns of vantage in the best of spirits and ready to make very merry over a little scare which everybody experienced as the trolley on which Great Paul was bound seemed to be setting off on its own account on an impromptu mission into the centre of a mason's showyard. In the twilight of early dawn it was not quite clear what had occurred, but it certainly did occur that just when both engines were detached after a deal of furious puffing and rattling and whirling of wheels, the trolley made an unexpected plunge down the sloping side of the roadway, and for an instant seemed bent on capsizing among the monuments. Perhaps the danger was more seeming than real. There was a scuffle among the people and a heavy thud against a propitiously placed kerbstone, and then came the merry laugh that plainly told that there was nothing much the matter.

It was about three o'clock, nearly broad daylight, when the bell got fairly under way amid a ringing cheer of the valorous three hundred who marched on all sides of it, and as they tramped down into London found, apparently, ample reward for their long vigil in the ludicrous appearances that were descried at the bedroom windows along the route. All along the line people peeped out upon it but could not be persuaded to join the procession.

The arrival at St. Paul's, however, was later than had been calculated on. The Cathedral is only about five miles and a half from the spot on which the bell had rested on Sunday, and between three and six it was imagined there would be ample time to accomplish the downhill journey. Unexpected difficulties presented themselves, however. The surveyor of Islington prevented the bell from coming down the Liverpool Road, and Upper Street had to be substituted. This route presented alternate ascents and

declines, and more than once it became necessary to send on an engine ahead and throw it across the road as a stationary engine by which to haul up some slippery slope with a length of steel rope.

However, the last acclivity was successfully scaled, and from Islington Green to the Cathedral progress was rapid and the attendant crowd ever on the increase. Those who were awaiting the arrival at St Paul's were made anxious for a time by a rumour that the City police intended to stop the cavalcade at the City boundary, where it did not arrive until close upon eight, the proper limit of time being six in the morning. However, nothing so injudicious was attempted; on the contrary, the police afforded every facility, and at five minutes to eight Mr. Coles, the contractor for the conveyance of the bell, had the satisfaction of bringing up his charge to the very inch assigned for the purpose by Mr. Pemrose, the Cathedral surveyor.

The crowd of spectators around the Cathedral had by this time become a large one, mustering perhaps two thousand people, who cheered vociferously as the engines pulled up alongside. In an hour or two the space intervening between the top of the trolley and the platform from which the bell was to slide down to the front of the tower was bridged by complementary timbers, and the various stays and ties by which the newcomer had been secured to the carriage were removed. In order to do this it became necessary for one or two men to creep up through a hole in the woodwork at the bottom of the bell into the body of it, and a large pair of bellows and elastic tubing had to be brought into play to guard against their possible suffocating.

While the work was proceeding and the ever-increasing crowd was surging around the Cathedral boundaries, the Lord Mayor drew by in semi-state on his way to the Old Bailey Sessions House, and in passing his lordship was seen endeavouring to address to Mr. Pemrose something which was, no doubt, as currently assumed to be, his congratulations at the success thus far attendant upon this weighty undertaking. His responsibility, however, had only just commenced, and some little anxiety among the spectators within the enclosure was naturally experienced and expressed as to the success of the arrangements that had been made. If, however, all should go as merrily as the earlier stages of the work have done, there will certainly be good cause for congratulation.

With the smallest possible delay, and with apparently no difficulty whatever, Great Paul was induced to make the slow and stately movement towards the Cathedral, and set out upon the sloping launchway that had been constructed towards the enlarged doorway that had been constructed at the foot of the clock tower. One strand of a rope gave way, but another and stouter rope, with all the necessary gear attached, was immediately forthcoming to take its place, and to illustrate the provident forethought of the arrangements for the day's proceedings,

(Continued on next page.)

TOWER CLOCKS

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GREAT PAUL.

(Continued from previous page.)

which were as successful as the most exacting could have desired.

At the time we write the bell is barricaded from the public view, but passers-by endeavour to obtain a sight of it, even though it can only be done by clutching at the top of the hoarding which had purposely been daubed by the tallow and blacklead that had been provided, greatly in excess of requirements, for reducing friction on the timbers beneath the bell.

On Tuesday last we paid a visit to the bell, but experienced a great difficulty from the not at all courteous opposition of the Cathedral officials. With a determination as inflexible as adamant, the janitor in charge barred the way, and it was not until the appearance of the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth, who kindly used his influence in our favour, that we gained admittance.

The bell was upon a low stage waiting until the headstock was first hoisted, before being moved any further. From the state of affairs going on around us, we wondered whether the bell would be in position this week. There were only about half a dozen workmen present, who seemed to be taking it remarkably easy, we thought. The stock had the chain round it ready for hoisting, and very powerful tackle was in position ready for that purpose.

The bell is peculiarly plain in appearance and devoid of the ornamentation which we expected to see. But that is a small matter. So long as the bell is good, the outside appearance goes for very little. Some interest was manifested in the two impressions of coins which appear on the top part of the bell.

Dr. Stainer was very busy pointing out to visitors all the details connected with the bell in that courteous manner which is one of his distinguished characteristics, and for one whose acquaintance with bells is so very limited he certainly did his task very well. The bell is intended to be placed in position this week. It will be hung in the usual way on immense gudgeons without a wheel, but, as we understood Mr. Taylor, with two levers like a school bell, and, as that gentleman told us, two men would be able to chime it swinging, the latter being a statement which we could not, however, see our way clear at the time to subscribe to. The clapper is a vast appendage made of wrought iron.

JOINT MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A joint meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association and the East Grinstead Guild was held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on December 4th, when 28 ringers were present. There was some good practice in various methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major, and a short service was held at 4.15 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Walker.

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, after which the secretary called attention to the passing of Mr. J. Steddy and Mr. Exeter. The Vicar welcomed the association and guild to St. Peter's and said he was pleased that the bells are now being rung again after the long silence. He wished everyone a very happy Christmas and expressed the hope that before long peace would reign in this unhappy world. Mr. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the organist and to the ladies who had prepared tea.

Hawkhurst was selected for the next meeting, to be held in February, 1944. The towers represented at the meeting were Hifchin, Heris, Lamberhurst, Uckfield, East Grinstead, Wadhurst, Benenden, Hawkhurst, Rotherfield, Thorne, Yorks, and the local band.

HASTINGS.—At All Saints' on Sunday, December 5th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Carlton 1, W. Bradfield 2, A. Funnell 3, A. Easton 4, W. Joiner 5, J. Downing 6, A. Levett (conductor) 7, G. Martin 8.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETINGS AT NEW BUCKINGHAM AND NORWICH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at New Buckenham on November 20th, was attended by 16 ringers from Banham, Bergh Apton, New Buckenham, Attleborough, Diss, Fornett, Mulbarton, Norwich and Wymondham. Various methods were rung, the service was taken by the president, in the absence of the Vicar through illness, and a tea was provided at the St. George and Dragon. Members were pleased to see present Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Golden after a long absence.

On December 4th, a meeting of the association was held at St. Giles', Norwich, when ringers were present from Bergh Apton, Cambridge, Long Stratton, Mulbarton, Norwich, Whittle-le-Woods (Lancs), Wroxham, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth, 27 in all. Various methods were attempted during the afternoon. The Vicar in an address at the service expressed his gratitude to those who had kept the bells going every Sunday morning since the ban was removed. Tea was presided over by Mrs. Ditcham, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Sayer.

A collection is made at each meeting of the association for the restoration fund of the ring of twelve at St. Nicholas', Yarmouth, destroyed in an air raid. At the last three meetings £2 7s. 6d. was contributed.

It was decided to have the next meeting at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on February 5th, and for the annual meeting to revert to the pre-war practice of having it on Easter Monday.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the various letters that have appeared relating to the duties of a Ringing Master.

We have been told what, in the opinions of some of your readers, a good Ringing Master should do, but, at the risk of expecting too much from an individual, I venture to add one further task. We all know of the type of ringer, often referred to in a not very complimentary way as one of the locals, who never bothers, through one reason or another, to go ringing in a tower other than his own. As to the County Association and its meetings, he has no time for it, and often says as much, if not more, although, as is often the case, he has been made a member at some time or another. I am not intending to plead his case, but, whether he is right or wrong, one of his chief complaints is that little interest is taken in him by the association (referred to in the usual vague manner), and, therefore, it is not to be expected that he should be filled with enthusiasm over a body that, more or less, disowns him.

All this perambulation of mine leads me to the point which I intend to make; in that it would certainly do no harm and, quite probably, do a lot of good if the Ringing Master made a point of visiting the various towers in the association on their practice nights. If a Ringing Master were to add this function to that of his other duties (which very often appear to start and finish at a district meeting), I have no doubt that the average, so called, local ringer would feel that he is really part of the association and might be prompted to give as well as receive.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BARNET.

Twenty ringing members and friends were present at a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association held at Barnet on December 11th. Six affiliated towers were represented, and visitors came from Bayswater, Herne Hill and St. Albans. Plain courses and touches in various methods, including Cambridge Surprise Major, were brought round and the bells were lowered in peal, the striking throughout being well maintained.

The following were elected as ringing members of the association: Messrs. J. Lord (Hendon), F. Hill (Stammore), A. Wallman, V. Woodards, E. Dench, D. Langdon and P. Coward (Edmonton) and J. C. Mellor (Potters Bar). Congratulations were given to the young people from Edmonton upon the successful attempts to ring their first peals on handbells. The meeting respected the memory of Mr. R. Roffey (Barnet) and Mr. W. E. Troke (St. Giles-in-the-Fields), late members of the association. Tea was provided through the energies of the local captain, Mr. H. J. Eldred, and although the ringing continued after black-out, social activities continued for some while after the bells were silent.

MUFFLED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in J. B. M. Ridout's letter regarding muffled ringing. Your contributor may be interested to hear we rang a touch of Grandsire Triples at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in whole pull changes, with open handstroke and muffled backstroke. The bells were rung slowly and the effect was most pleasing. The occasion was the death of His Majesty King George V.

GEORGE N. BLAKE.

St. Albans.

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. 1st, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. —A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester, January 1st. Service in the Cathedral 3.45 p.m. Address by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Winchester. Tea and meeting to follow at Dumpers' Restaurant. Cathedral bells (12) before service and St. Maurice's Church (6). Names for tea by December 29th. —W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 1st. Bells (10) 3.30. Names for tea before December 28th.—A. Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

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.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Beeston on Saturday, January 8th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. Short service 4.30. Full particulars next week.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District).—Joint meeting at Staveley on Saturday, January 8th. Hope to have tea arrangements in next week's issue.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

GREETINGS.

That this Christmas may bring happiness to all ringing friends, with Victory and Peace in the New Year, and a return to the belfries of all ringers in the Services, is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles.

Wishing all College Youths and ringing friends everything we should wish ourselves in the coming season.—Ernest G. Fenn (Master), A. B. Peck (Secretary), A. A. Hughes (Treasurer).

Kind thoughts and seasonable greetings to all my old ringing friends, with very happy memories of pleasant times spent in days long since past.—From Chas. J. North, Norton Cottage, West Street, Selsey-on-Sea, Sussex.

To all our brothers of the belfry at home and overseas, a restful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.—W. H. Fussell, Slough.

Kindest Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends at home and overseas.—From Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. B. Wayman, Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all ringing friends is the sincere wish of A. Harman, 27, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.

To all our friends of the belfry, and especially to those of the Norwich Diocesan Association, best wishes for Christmas and a happier New Year.—Nolan and Iris Golden, Checkendon, Reading, and 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich. Christmas, 1943.

Best wishes to all our ringing friends for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, Birmingham.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Greetings and best wishes to all friends from Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Harris, Woburn, Beds.

DEATH.

LAFLIN.—On Wednesday, December 8th, Annie, dearly-loved wife of Peter Laflin, of Stockport, St. George's, aged 50 years, leaving husband, son and three daughters to mourn their loss.

THE PEAL AT CHEADLE

The bells at the Roman Catholic Church at Cheadle, where a peal was rung on Saturday, December 11th, as reported in our peal column, were originally a ring of six cast at Whitechapel in 1846. The first peal on them was in 1922, conducted by J. E. Sykes, the next Grand-sire Doubles in 1926, conducted by A. W. Hall.

The bells were increased to eight in 1939, and in May, 1940, a peal on the octave was arranged to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, but it had to be abandoned owing to war work. Father Macdonald, for whose birthday the recent peal was rung, visited the belfry before the attempt and afterwards entertained the band.

BRAINTREE.—On Sunday, December 12th, 1,320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: S. Warne 1, H. Hammond 2, G. Lindridge 3, F. E. May 4, L. W. Wiffen 5, R. Martin 6. A birthday compliment to Mr. Harry Hammond, who was 78 the day before. He rang his bell faultlessly.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1943.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE.

'The year is dying in the night; ring out wild bells, and let him die.' Whatever other thoughts may to-day be in our minds, all of us are glad and thankful that one more of the war's years has gone. The journey is long, and the way hard and full of perils, but another milestone has been passed, and the end draws steadily nearer. When it will come we do not know, for certainly there is still to face a period more bitter and more bloody than we have yet experienced. It is quite unlikely that this war will end, as did the last, by the capitulation of the men who dominate the enemy forces; they have been told to expect no mercy and have no other course than to fight to the utmost extremity.

Yet, as we turn our eyes backward over the year that has gone, and note what has happened since nineteen hundred and forty-three was born, we may reasonably have a sober confidence that when next the bells ring out the old and ring in the new it will be to a world in which formal war, at any rate, has for the time ceased. How soon peace, in any other sense than the mere cessation of war, will come to the world is the great problem of the future. Anything and everything which makes for the higher and better things of life—religion, humanity, charity, goodwill, and high ideals—will be sorely needed, and for England the influence which church bells exert will have a definite and valuable, if humble, part to play.

So far as the Ringing Exercise is concerned, we may look back on the past year with thankfulness and restrained satisfaction. We have had overwhelming evidence of the hold church bells have on the affection of the people. We stand higher in popular estimation and are better appreciated than ever we were. The very natural fear that the long silence of the bells, the diversion of men's attention and interest into other channels, and the dearth of recruits, would have a disastrous effect on change ringing has not been realised. The art is not, cannot, and should not, be practised to the extent of peace time, but enthusiasm is alive, service ringing is well maintained, and when the opportunity comes ringers will be able to face the full task of rehabilitation with confidence and assurance of success.

The Exercise has three invaluable assets. One is that change ringing is a most fascinating art founded on a strict mathematical science and therefore on fundamental truth. Another is that it has a hard core of men who, having become ringers, find in their vocation a lifelong

(Continued on page 566.)

interest, which is proof against all changes and accidents. The third is that we are intimately connected with the Church and have her great influence behind us when we need it and if we deserve it. These things, in varying degree, have kept ringing alive for more than four centuries. They are our assurance for the years to come.

We do not therefore despair for the future. But anything worth having is worth working for and struggling for, nor otherwise can it be enjoyed. There is much to be done, both in individual belfries and in the wider spheres of the great associations and guilds and the Central Council. So far the men whom we look to as leaders have not failed us, and we are sure they will not.

We can go forward into the New Year with hope and confidence. Let us never forget that one of the greatest attractions of change ringing is that it sets high ideals before its devotees. No man ever has, or ever will, get out of it all it has to offer. To whatever heights he rises there is still something more to be achieved, whether it be in method ringing, or in composition, or in excellency of striking. The way of progress and that which brings the greatest satisfaction is to have the highest standards, and always to strive to reach them though they never are attained.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*CYRIL ISON... .. Treble	L. ONARD TREVOR 5
ARTHUR KIDDINGTON 2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 6
WILLIAM A. WOOD 3	†FRANK TROTMAN 7
JAMES DRAICOTT 4	FRANK MEASURES Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Major. Rung to celebrate the third wedding anniversary of the ringers of the 5th.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTERS Treble	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 5
RICHARD G. BELL 2	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 6
M. URICE F. R. HIBBERT 3	CECIL C. MAYNE... .. 7
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen 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. G. OVER 5
FREDERICK OLDROYD 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 6
ALFRED H. POLLING 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 4	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. POLLING.

The above band comprises the past and present Sunday band of the Cathedral with the general secretary of the Guild.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The 5,000th peal by the Midland Counties Association was rung April 22nd, 1939, at Peckleton, Leicestershire. Since then 114 more peals have been rung.

ERNEST MORRIS, General Hon. Sec.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5076 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
*BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 7-8
*D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Caters. † 25th peal. First peal of Caters as conductor and for the association. Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Spice on their silver wedding day.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) ... 7-8
*D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Ten. The first peal of Royal for the association.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF REVERSE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

M. J. F. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 7-8
D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 23, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART,

Tenor size 16 in B.

BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6
*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 3-4	D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal in the method on an inside pair.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT CHILDE OKEFORD.

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Childe Okeford and was attended by members representing Mere, Gillingham, Shroton, Fontmell Magna, Zeals, Hazlebury Bryan, Sturminster, Stoke Wake, Okeford Fitzpaine, Cucklington, Stoke Trister and Kington Magna.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. W. Delahay), who gave an address. Tea followed in the Schoolroom, the arrangement for which was in the capable hands of Mr. Haughton.

At the business meeting apologies for absence were received from Dr. E. W. J. Hellins (chairman), the Rev. W. C. Shute (Ringing Master) and Mr. W. G. Payne. The statement of accounts, read by the secretary, showed that receipts to date amounted to £5 18s. and the expenses to 11s. 2d.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins; vice-chairman, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; secretary and treasurer, the Rev. William Uphill; Ringing Masters, Mr. W. C. Shute, Mr. L. Perrett and Mr. E. P. T. Field. Nine new ringing members were elected.

It was decided to make a contribution to the central funds of £3 and to invest another £5 of the credit balance in Savings Certificates. The next meeting was arranged to take place in March at Fontmell Magna.

The secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and the local band for the cordial reception given to the Guild, and also to Mr. Haughton and his assistants for providing tea.

NINETEEN FORTY THREE.

For ringers the most important event of the past year was the ending of the ban on the use of church bells and the resumption of the activities of the belfry. The previous year had seen a break in the long silence of the bells when we rang for the victory of El Alamein, but that was definitely stated to be exceptional, and the people at the War Office clearly intended to keep the use of bells in their own hands so long as the war lasted. In response to the pressure of public opinion, they did (grudgingly, as it would seem, and at the last moment) admit of Christmas ringing; but most of us had reconciled ourselves to the prospect of having to wait until the end of the war.

We ought not to blame them overmuch. They knew (what we did not) how narrow was the margin of safety by which England had escaped invasion. They realised (as we could not) what war in this country would mean. And they were reluctant to alter or relax any precautions which had once been thought necessary. Still they must have been increasingly aware that church bells were very inadequate for the purpose intended, so an amended order was issued in March, which, however, seemed only to make the prolonged silence more certain.

But the general public were by no means satisfied, and qualified persons were of opinion that in the event of invasion ringing would not only be of no use as a warning, but would be a positive danger, while the Church objected to the deprivation of one of her forms of expression. The Archbishop of York took the lead and a debate in the House of Lords made it clear that the issue could no longer be shirked. The Prime Minister and the War Cabinet took the matter into their own hands and decided that there was no reason why Sunday ringing should not be resumed. Even then the new order was so drafted as to cover only what was actually said in Mr. Churchill's formal statement, and to ignore the implication of his explanatory statement that 'the significance of invasion no longer attaches to the ringing of church bells.' It was not until the end of May that we recovered full liberty.

PROGRESS OF RINGING.

It is an excellent sign of the vitality of the Exercise that Sunday service ringing and the holding of meetings have been resumed with far less difficulty than might have been expected. Not, of course, in full degree, for war-time conditions operate severely, but in a way which seems to show that the ultimate future of change ringing is assured.

Peal ringing is always an excellent test of the life and enthusiasm of the Exercise, and here the record for 1943 is quite satisfactory. The lifting of the ban did not lead to that 'orgy of peal ringing' which some expected because, apart from the fact that a certain number of ringers did not feel disposed to ring peals during war time, the difficulties of getting together good bands were great, and as the autumn and winter drew on, many belfries were made unavailable by the black-out restrictions. There was also the very serious handicap caused by the difficulties of travelling.

Notwithstanding all this, nearly one hundred peals were rung on tower bells. The actual number so far reported in our columns is 97, but this most certainly will be increased by several rung last Monday, of which as yet we have received no reports.

The handbell peals numbered 137, and the total for the year, 236, exceeded the total for the year before, which was 225. Of course, no useful comparison can be made, as all the 1942 peals were on handbells.

SOME PEALS.

The ban was finally lifted in the closing days of May, and on June 5th the first tower bell peal was scored. It was rung at Crayford by members of the Kent County Association, all of whom were well-known as peal ringers and could be expected to take the first opportunity of resuming their hindered activities. The method was Double Norwich and the conductor Mr. George Cross. It was followed next week by Grandsire Triples at Burgess Hill, with Mr. Frank Bennett as conductor, and not long afterwards by Stedman Triples at Guildford pro-Cathedral, conducted by Mr. Alfred Pulling.

Mr. Pulling also called the first peal rung on ten bells, one of Stedman Caters at Haslemere on July 3rd. The first peal of Royal (Plain Bob) was rung a week after that at Newcastle-under-Lyme, with Mr. John Worth as conductor. Cinques was reached on September 4th with the wedding peal of Stedman at Surfleet, but none of Maximus was achieved. Meanwhile Doubles (on six bells) and Minor had been rung; the first on June 14th at Croft in Leicestershire with Mr. Henry Bird as conductor; the other at Ticknell in Derbyshire and Chatteris in Cambridgeshire, both on June 19th. Mr. J. Bailey and Mr. Frank Warrington were the conductors. A peal of Doubles, rung as Doubles should be on five bells in a five-bell tower, was accomplished at Brafield, Northamptonshire, on November 27th, with Mr. Philip Jones conducting.

As was inevitable in the circumstances, the majority of the other peals were in the simpler of the standard methods. That was wise, for it is much better for the outside public, and should be much more enjoyable for the band, to ring a good peal of Bob Major, or Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, rather than to attempt Surprise before practice has restored the old skill. Cambridge Royal was rung at Beddington on October 16th, Bristol Surprise Major at Bushey on October 23rd, and the four standard Surprise Major methods spliced in the same tower on November 13th. The bands were mixed, but

made up largely by the same persons. On November 9th the Oxford Society rang 5,016 Grandsire Cinques at Christ Church.

A peal of more than usual interest was the Stedman Triples at Crayford on July 24th, when Messrs. C. T. Coles and James Bennett each completed his list of 1,000 peals.

At the time the year was born, the Leicester band were in the middle of a handbell peal of Stedman Caters, and during the following twelve months they maintained the position they have long held among handbell ringers. Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Grandsire Caters and Double Bob Royal, were rung in the town during the year.

HANDBELL PEALS.

Birmingham is another town where good handbell performances may usually be looked for. The men there rang peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques, and Kent Treble Bob Royal and Maximus. The St. Mary-le-Tower band at Ipswich rang Kent Treble Bob Maximus. We have an idea that they began to practise for a peal in that method on 14 bells, but, if so, the renewal of tower-bell ringing probably diverted their activities into other courses.

At Bushey the band, made up of three local ringers and Mr. Ernest Turner, added to the fine list of peals already scored by them. London Surprise Major was rung on February 25th, Bristol Surprise Major on May 26th, and Spliced Surprise Major in the four standard methods on July 5th. All of them were conducted by Mr. Harold Cashmore.

At Edmonton, Mr. John Thomas was the mainstay of a band which rang several peals in various methods, including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Royal, Kent Treble Bob Royal, and Stedman Caters. Mr. Thomas is a most efficient instructor, and the indications are that some of his latest pupils will go far. We may hear more of them in the coming year.

There were other bands (among them those at Bournemouth, Oxford and Kent) who kept up the standard they had reached in the year before, but obviously we cannot mention all the performances that deserve praise. The ban was a great stimulus to handbell ringing. Without it the high standard of method ringing would hardly have been reached in so many places and by so many persons. Now that tower bell ringing is coming again into its own we may find that the interest in handbells will to some extent decline, but however that may be, the handbell peals of the last four years have borne an important part in the keeping alive the art of change ringing, and it has enough fascination of its own to make it always popular with some ringers.

LOSS BY DEATH.

During the year several men passed away who were well known and respected in their own circles and in their own time, though none was in the first rank of ringers. John Martin Routh, who died on February 15th had reached the great age of 97 years. He had far outlived all his contemporaries, and to the present generation he was no more than a name; but he had held a leading position for some years in the Ancient Society of College Youths. Philip Hodgkin was a Kent ringer somewhat of the old type, a man of very strong physique, and distinguished by his feat of turning the tenor at Tenterden in to a peal at a time when it was really a strong man's job. William J. Jeffries was well known among the ringers of South London, especially as a conductor of Grandsire Triples. Other Kent ringers who died in 1943 were F. Belsey, of Rochester, William Latter, of Tunbridge Wells, and John W. Steddy, of Edenbridge.

The College Youths lost an old member in the person of Richard T. Woodley, a former secretary of the society, and the Cumberlands an old member in Arthur J. Neal, in his younger days a ringer at Aylsham in Norfolk.

Richard F. Lane was known to many ringers through the work he did as a bell hanger for Messrs. John Taylor and Company, and Edgar H. Bailey was the oldest member of the family which some years ago made ringing history in the belfry at Leiston. Frank Rutler was one of the band at St. Paul's Cathedral, and George Frederick Dickens a valued member of the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham. Robert I. Maynard was for long steenkeeper at Walthamstow, Sentimus Radford was conductor at St. Nicolas' Guildford, and Thomas Fitzjohn at one time leader at Thetford. William Farley had been closely associated with the bells of Wells Cathedral. Lincolnshire lost Thomas L. Bainbridge, and Yorkshire Joseph Thackeray. Edward Clapshaw, said to be the oldest ringer, died in his 99th year.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Two lives which might have been of great value to the Exercise were lost when Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharn and Flying Officer R. F. Kingham were killed on active service. Both failed to return from bombing operations over Germany. The war claimed another victim in Lieut. W. F. Trobe, of the Royal Navy, who had been a member of the band at St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

War-time conditions and the shortage of paper made the publication of new books very difficult. Miss Snowden, however, was able to place on the market, soon after the ban was lifted, an entirely new edition of 'Standard Methods,' which had been written just before the war broke out, and printed before the cost of printing went up and the quality of paper went down.

Mr. Frederick Sharpe issued further sections of his book on 'The Bells of Berkshire.' More parts will be printed next year and the book when completed will take high rank among the county histories of bells.

'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.

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

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

We occasionally hear of readers who find a difficulty in obtaining 'The Ringing World' through newsagents or of irregularity in delivery. They are not many considering the number of subscribers, but they are more than we should like. The trouble is entirely due to the difficulties of distribution caused by war conditions and are beyond our control. Until the delay caused by the heavy Christmas mails there has been no trouble in the delivery of copies sent from the office by post.

The Editor thanks those friends who kindly sent the copy of 'The Ringing World' asked for in the last issue.

Mr. Walter Perkins, of Irthlingborough, has had an unfortunate accident. On the morning of December 18th he slipped and fell, breaking his collarbone.

To-day is the 55th anniversary of the 15,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton, in which Canon G. F. Coleridge rang the sixth.

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very painstaking of Mr. Barnett to revive the account of Great Paul's journey to London.

There is much more in the account than I can call to mind. At the time that the bell passed through Leicester I was an apprentice in an iron foundry in that city. It was parked, the first night of its journey, in a field in Belgrave, and Belgrave presented quite the appearance of a 'fair' that evening.

Coles and Matthews, Coventry, were the haulage contractors.

When I visited the Giralda Tower of Seville in 1910 a blind man was the ringer, but he did no leap. He rang the bells while standing on the belfry floor, just as one would ring a school bell. I forget whether the bell wheels were half or full.

E. DENISON TAYLOR.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

THE LATE MR. E. F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Among the books which the Guildford library inherited from the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's collection was a small manuscript book written throughout by Mr. Behan. The book contains a great number of touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters of varying lengths up to quarter-peals, also a small number of touches and quarter-peals of Stedman Triples. Also there are some notes on the scientific side of Grandsire Triples, mostly, I think, obtained by a study of the W. H. Thompson articles in Snowdon's 'Grandsire.'

In a note, Mr. Behan refers to the Australian tour, and sends the book hoping it will be of more use to the ringers of Great Britain than appears likely to be the case in Australia. It is rather strange that, so far as I recollect, there was no meeting between Mr. Behan and the English ringers during the 1934 visit.

Guildford.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SWINDON.

Over thirty ringers attended a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 11th. The local towers were well represented, and among the visitors were Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester, and two members of the R.A.F. The ringing ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman Caters.

At the business meeting, after the tea, all the officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. G. Lancaster, of the Branch Committee, who has had to give up ringing on account of failing sight. Mr. H. W. Bishop was elected in his stead. The meeting welcomed the taking over of 'The Ringing World' by the Central Council and expressed a hope that the various associations would provide the necessary funds as outlined by the Council.

It was decided to hold monthly meetings in future on the second Saturday in each month, and the places fixed for the next three meetings are St. Mark's, Swindon, Stratton St. Margaret, and Rodbourne Cheney.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MELKSHAM.

At the annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Melksham on December 11th, forty members were present from Melksham, Holt, Westbury, North Bradley, Longbridge Deverell, Bishop's Cannings, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), Southbroom, and visitors from Bath, Wilton and Salisbury. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, and rounds for the beginners.

The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Sangster, and tea was partaken of in the parochial club room. The business meeting was presided over by Mr. A. T. Weeks (vice-chairman) in the absence of Mr. E. F. White (branch chairman). All the officers of the branch were re-elected, and Mr. P. Harding was appointed Ringing Master to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. S. Hillier. Many young ringers were proposed as members of the Guild. The chairman thanked the Vicar and organist and the ladies who provided the tea.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on December 18th, was attended by about 30 ringers from five district towers and visitors from Hemel Hempstead, Leverstock Green, Luton, Watford and Bristol.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, Bob Major and Royal, Kent Royal, Double Norwich and Cambridge Major.

A service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson. Tea was arranged in the St. Peter's Institute by the local ringers, and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar was chairman.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hatfield in January. The secretary's report showed an encouraging position in spite of the general shortage of ringers. At several towers instruction was taking place and bands were co-operating as far as possible for service ringing. The district officers were re-elected as follows: Secretary, Mr. R. W. Darvill; committee, Messrs. A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell and Mrs. Fergusson. Mr. Hazell was elected as deputy secretary.

A motion was passed that as soon as possible a notice should be inserted in 'The Ringing World' for the benefit of visitors of the times of ringing at all towers in the district, and that where possible notices of these times should be posted in the respective churches.

It was agreed that ringing meetings shall continue to be held monthly, but that business meetings should only be the quarterly ones to save time during the winter months.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Coles to the Vicar and those who had prepared tea.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

About 25 members of the Midland Counties Association were present at a meeting of the Nottingham Branch at Radcliffe-on-Trent on December 11th. They represented Bulwell, Cotgrave, Daybrook, Nottingham and the local band.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar. Illness near the church prevented any ringing after tea, although the young lady beginners had made a set of black-out curtains and fixed them ready for the meeting. When the proprietor of the tea-room heard of the difficulty he offered the use of a room for the evening, and handbells were made good use of, the methods being Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major with some tunes.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. G. Nowell, who had been active in making the arrangements for the day, but unfortunately was confined to bed with a chill.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to the curate who played the organ, and the young ladies who fixed up the black-out.

HANDLING A BELL.

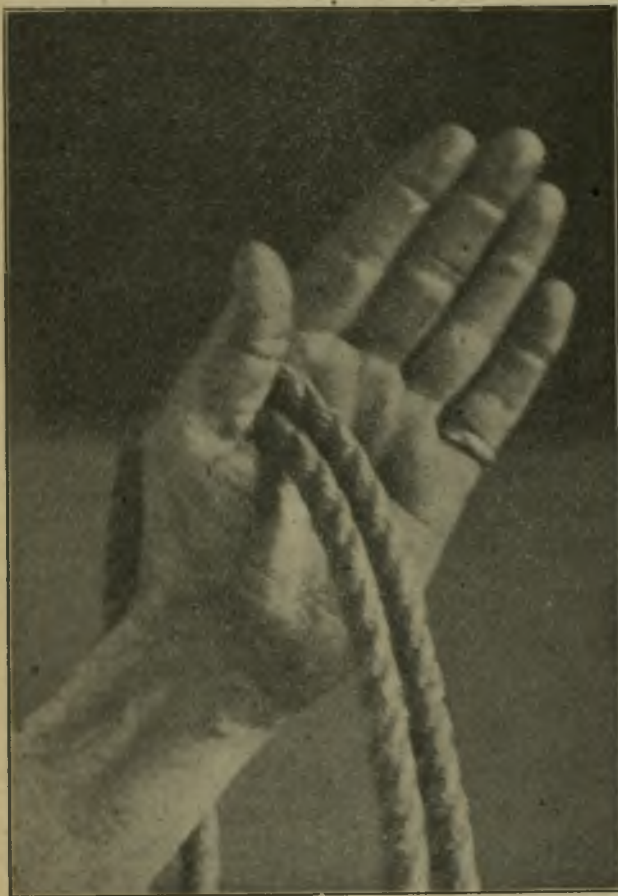
(Continued from page 549.)

Before the ringer actually rings a bell there are two points which need careful attention.

The first is the manner in which he grips the rope. We have already stressed the importance of keeping the hands close together and, in addition, there is a right way and a wrong way of grasping the sally. We have seen that the 'rope' which transmits the energy exerted by the man to the bell consists partly of that portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the

the rope flying about wildly. But always a beginner should be taught complete control of the handling of the bell at handstroke without having any concern with the tail end. The instructor can look after that.

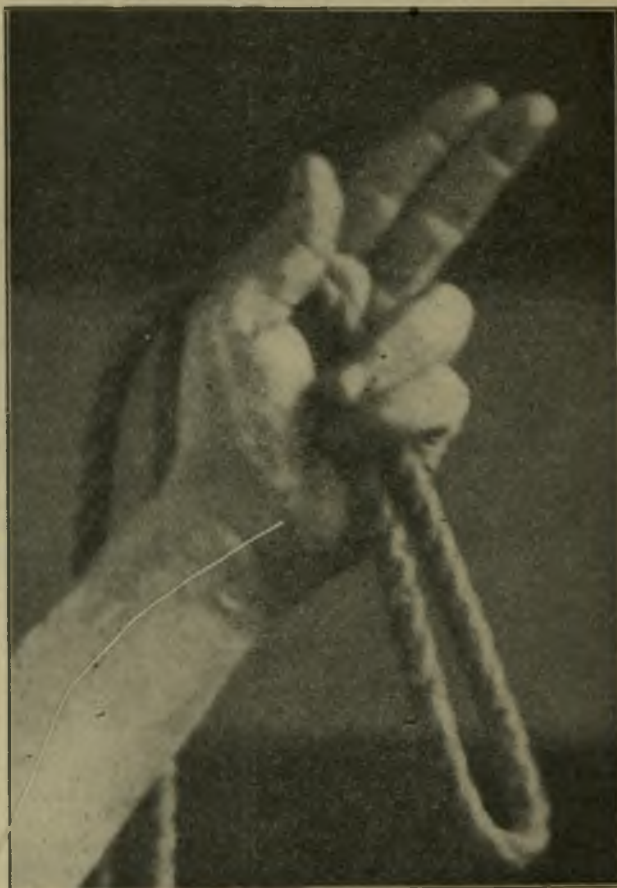
Since the ringer must hold the tail end in one hand when he pulls at handstroke, he must learn to do so in such a way that it does not in the slightest interfere with his natural grip on the sally. He can do it if he keeps the tail end in the fork of the thumb (as shown in the first illustration) and does not depend on his fingers to hold it.



No. 1.—THE RIGHT WAY.

ringer's hands, and partly of the man's arms and body; and if it be so, it is essential that the join between the two should be a sound one. The join is provided by the grip of the man's hands.

Now, to grip a rope firmly is an action which comes naturally to most men, and it is quite correct, and almost sufficient, to say that the proper way to grip a sally is to grip it naturally. Indeed, there would be no difficulty whatever in the matter if it were not for the tail end. When the bell is at hand the tail end is a superfluity. It has no work to do and, so far as ringing and striking the bell are concerned, might be left alone hanging to the ground. That would in practice (after the handstroke pull is made) be awkward and clumsy; and so it is necessary to have the end in one hand to be ready when the backstroke pull comes to be made, and to prevent



No. 2.—THE WRONG WAY.

The difficulty with beginners is that they are afraid they will drop the tail end, and they are quite easily tempted to use some of their fingers to hold it (as in the second illustration). Here is one important reason why the learner should not be allowed to hold the tail end until he has finished his lessons on handling a bell at handstroke. For it is pretty certain that, if he once contacts the habit of using his fingers to hold the tail end at handstroke, he will have the utmost difficulty in breaking himself of it. A grip with only two fingers, instead of with four, is not a natural grip. It means a faulty join in the 'rope' and a loss of energy.

There is another defect which is very easy to acquire, and once acquired almost impossible to get rid of, and that is to grip both sally and tail end with the four fingers instead of keeping the tail end in the fork of the

(Continued on next page.) •

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from previous page.)

thumb. It is not nearly so bad a fault as the other, and in some circumstances and with some men is hardly a fault at all. But the slack rope does not hang so well as when the tail end is correctly held, and the grip on the sally is not so perfect. If from the very start the instructor insists that his pupil holds the tail end properly there will be no trouble in the matter.

In the excellent little book, 'Hints to Instructors,' issued by the Central Council, the authors recommend that 'during the handstroke practice a short loop of rope to represent the tail end should be held in the crutch of the lower hand.' It is a good idea, and will accustom the novice to the proper way of holding the tail end before he actually has to manipulate it; but it should not be used until the last stages of the lesson. The important thing is that the beginner should know how to control and 'feel' the bell at the end of its upward swing, and to apply in the proper manner and at the proper time the correct amount of energy to the following downward swing. Everything else is of lesser importance, and anything which may distract the attention from the main object should be excluded.

For the grip on the sally to be an effective join in the 'rope' it is, of course, essential that it should be of sufficient strength. Actually very few persons are inclined to grip the sally too lightly when they are pulling. The tendency is the other way, and the grip with beginners is usually unnecessarily strong. The sally should be gripped just as tightly as seems natural to obtain a firm grasp and no more. And the grip should last only so long as the comparatively short time in which actual pulling is done. During the rest of the time the hands, even when touching the sally, should be free, and the tail end should be held quite lightly except when pulling or checking is done at backstroke.

Over-gripping and a too tight hold on the rope mean muscular strain and resulting tiredness, as well as sore hands and blisters. It is a common experience that when a ringer begins, his hands very quickly become sore and his first peal usually produces a crop of blisters. As he goes on the rope has no effect on his hands, and he can ring peal after peal without the suspicion of a blister. It is commonly thought that his hands become hardened and inured to the work. Most likely it is so to some extent, but the real explanation is that practice has taught him that it is not necessary to hold the rope so tightly as he once did.

The second important point is how to stand while ringing. Here again the best description is to say that the more naturally and easily the man stands the better. Before he begins to ring he should stand with his body lightly and equally poised on his two legs. His muscles should all be relaxed but ready to come into action the instant they are needed, for ringing calls on to a greater

or less degree most of the muscles of the body. The feet should be slightly apart and the right foot somewhat in advance of the left (if the ringer holds the tail end in his left hand) or the left somewhat in advance of the right (if he holds the tail end in his right hand).

The ringer should stand as closely under the rope as he can, provided there is room to allow the rope to fall in a direct downward path, and this will be possible and easy if the sally is only two or three inches in front of the man's nose. When, as some men do, he stands a foot or so behind the rope the pulling has to be done with bent arms, and with consequent muscular strain and loss of energy.

It is a good plan for a man who is about to ring a bell of more than average weight (especially if he himself is on the light side) to raise himself on his toes and, stretching his arms to the fullest extent, grasp the sally as high as he can. He can then drop back on to his heels and allow his arms to take their ordinary tension. He will then have the bell on the balance and be in a position to exert just the amount of energy required to strike the bell correctly in the first rounds and will be ready for the backstroke change. This plan can be used with advantage with bells of medium weight, for it is a great help in gaining quickly that knowledge of the exact amount of pulling a bell needs without which complete control is impossible.

(To be continued.)

A FALSE TOUCH OF STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—What exactly does Mr. R. J. B. Hadden mean? From his description the sixes run: Bob, plain, bob, repeated (as necessary). This produces a seven (not five) part touch. It runs to 252 changes, and is true, not false.

He seems to mean: Bob, plain, bob, followed by 11 plain sixes. This is false.

Staverton Vicarage.

E. S. POWELL.

[The ambiguity was ours, not Mr. Hadden's.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT WELLINGTON

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Regarding the handbell peal of Bob Major at Wellington on December 16th, Mr. W. Saunders, of Coalbrookdale, informs me it is the first handbell peal in the method rung in Shropshire and the first for the Shropshire Association.

C. BRETT-SMITH.

Cosford, Salop.

DOUBLE WEDDING AT IBSTOCK.

On Saturday, December 18th, at Ibstock, Leicestershire, one of the local ringers, Corol F. S. Fowkes, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Fowkes, of Glen Helen, Melbourne Road, Ibstock, was married to Miss Nora Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, of 18, Park View, Oakthorpe. The bride was given away by her father and had as her bridesmaids Miss Beryl Goacher (cousin) and Miss Margaret Fowkes (sister of the bridegroom). Mr. C. Hawkesworth, brother-in-law, was best man. Both the bridegroom and his father are members of the local company, and the bridegroom is home after service with the R.A.S.C. in Africa.

At the same time the bridegroom's sister, Miss Muriel Fowkes, was married to Mr. Frank Smith. The bride was given away by her father and had as her bridesmaids two more sisters, Miss Gwen Fowkes and Miss Freda Fowkes. Mr. G. Attwood was best man. The service was choral and was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. R. Newberry.

The wedding bells were rung by A. E. Rowley, Miss I. Rowley, C. Verev and W. T. Goadby, of the local band, assisted by H. O. Over and E. Ford, of Hugglescote, and E. C. Holland, of Market Bosworth.

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For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester, January 1st. Service in the Cathedral 3.45 p.m. Address by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Winchester. Tea and meeting to follow at Dumpers' Restaurant. Cathedral bells (12) before service and St. Maurice's Church (6).—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

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

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 1st. Bells (10) 3.30.—A. Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

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.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Annual meeting at Frome, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 5th.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells at Fordington 2.30 p.m., St. Peter's 4. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow at The Spinning Wheel Cafe (near the church). Names for tea by Jan. 4th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Weymouth.

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. Names by Jan. 5th.—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.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District).—Joint meeting at Staveley, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Names for tea to Mr. A. Parsons, 42, Circular Road, Staveley, near Chesterfield, by Jan. 5th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

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. Names for tea before Jan. 5th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea provided; please apply.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Annual meeting at Bedford on Saturday, Jan. 8th. St. Peter's bells from 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

HADDENHAM, CAMBS.—Meeting Jan. 8th. Bells from 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. p. roximately.—R. H. Bullen.

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.

NEW YEAR GREETING.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Fidler, Grandison, 28, Nanpantan Road, Loughborough, send greetings to all ringing friends.

DEATH OF MR. A. W. DOBBINS.

The death is announced of Mr. A. Wallace Dobbins, which occurred on December 11th. Mr. Dobbins was captain of the band at Gorseinon, South Wales, for many years, and a sidesman at St. Catherine's Church. He was a proficient ringer in the standard methods.

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