

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 216. Vol. VIII.

FRIDAY, MAY 7th, 1915.

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

Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

WHAT WILL THE COUNCIL DO?

In a letter which appears elsewhere in this issue, Mr. W. Willson makes a suggestion to the Central Council that they should undertake the issue, through the County and Diocesan Associations, of a certificate to each of those towers which has given men to the Navy and Army in connection with the war; in other words that in each tower should be placed a "Roll of Honour," supplied, except as to details of names, etc., by the Council. Many members of this body would doubtless like to see some such step taken by the central organisation, to place a permanent record in all towers of those who have so readily gone to the aid of the Empire and of humanity in this titanic struggle. Coming from this representative authority, such a scheme would have added weight and bear a greater significance than if carried out merely by individual associations.

Admirable as the thing may be in principle, however, we doubt if the suggestion is likely to see fruition. While special occasions call for special measures, it must not be forgotten that in the past the Council has been slow to act in anything outside a very circumscribed sphere. There are those connected with it who would like to see the scope of its activities extended, but hitherto its work has been confined within limited bounds, and anything beyond has found no support except, may be, a pious expression of approval. Where, too, financial considerations are involved the Council has always been very chary of active participation, preferring to confine its expenditure—outside its own actual administrative costs—to the publication of printed works. We do not suggest that in the financial aspect the Council, with its limited income, is not right in reserving its funds for the issue of works—a responsibility which few individuals would care to undertake. In other matters, however, there is a widespread feeling that the Council might show more initiative.

It is possible that in its general lines Mr. Willson's proposal may be carried into effect by the Council, although in detail it may need adjustment, and as, at the moment, it is not possible to say from how many towers men have gone out, it might be worth while leaving consideration of the question to a committee for report at the next meeting, rather than shelve it for lack of information. The whole thing, of course, is not a really big question nor a vital one, but it is just one of those practical things in which the Council might show its interest in the personal affairs of the individual towers, where at present, without question, there is a feeling that the central body holds itself in aloofness.

CHARLES GARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

CHARS. C. GARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

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OR IN PEALS.

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BEST BELL ROPES.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BATH, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, April 19, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 21 cwt.

TROOPER JOSEPH W. BELL Treble	HERBERT E. HOLDER ... 5
CHARLES W. BELL ... 2	RICHARD J. COUSINS ... 6
*PTE. FRANK C. BILLOWS 3	SERGT. WALTER FARLEY 7
*CORPL. HENRY JONES ... 4	THOMAS HOGSFLESH... Tenor

Conducted by RICHARD J. COUSINS.

* Elected members previous to starting for the peal, which was arranged for members on H.M. Service stationed at Bath, Ringers of the treble and 7th belong to the North Somerset Yeomanry, of the 3rd and 4th to the 10th Devons and 8th Cornwalls respectively.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Wednesday, April 28, 1915, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT ST. CHAD'S (R.C.) CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 15 cwt., in F.

PERCY O. LAFLIN ... Treble	GEORGE F. SWANN ... 5
*GEORGE GARRISON ... 2	JAMES E. GROVES ... 6
SAMUEL GROVE... 3	ALF PADDON SMITH ... 7
MORRIS J. MORRIS ... 4	JAMES GEORGE ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEAL.

SHIPLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(SHIPLEY BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 1, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-four Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising 720 each of Canterbury, York, Beverley, Chester, London, Carlisle and Cambridge. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM DENMAN, JUNR... Treble	GEORGE LUCAS... 4
THOMAS ADAMS ... 2	JAMES F. BOWELL ... 5
RICHARD H. BOWELL ... 3	ALFRED CRIPPS ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED CRIPPS.

This is the first Surprise peal in seven different methods in Sussex, by the Sussex County Association and by all the band. This peal was attempted the previous week to commemorate the festival of St. George, but was lost after over two hours' capital ringing.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 21, 1915, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
IN THE TOWER OF SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's each called differently.

*FREDERICK DAKIN ... Treble	STEDMAN H. SYMONDS... 3-4
*CHARLES POULSON ... 2	ARTHUR SYMONDS ... 5-6

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

* First peal. Rung to celebrate the 27th birthday of the conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 21, 1915, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT 97, EDENBRIDGE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

MISS EDITH K. PARKER 1-2	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	WILBY J. HAZELL ... 7-8

Composed by FRED G. MAY, and

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

The above peal has 52 course-ends.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes, IN THE BELFREY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

*MISS EDITH K. PARKER	1-2	JOHN THOMAS...	5-6
WILLIAM SHEPHERD	3-4	ERNEST PYE	7-8
ALFRED W. GRIMES	9-10		

Composed by GEORGE T. DALTRY, and Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

Umpire: JAMES PARKER.

* First peal of Stedman on handbells.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, May 1, 1915, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. C. T. COLES, 49, WOOD STREET, WALTHAMSTOW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

JOHN THOMAS	1-2	GEORGE R. PYE	7-8
ERNEST PYE	3-4	WILLIAM PYE	9-10
WILLIAM SHEPHERD	5-6	ALFRED W. GRIMES	11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by ERNEST PYE.

Umpires: C. T. COLES, J. ADAMS and R. K. KNIGHT.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 27, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT KING EDWARD VI'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Size 8 in B flat.

REV. E. BANKES JAMES...	1-2	ALFRED H. PULLING	5-6
REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY	3-4	J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON	7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witnesses: MRS. PULLING, A. WHITE and L. WHITE.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1915, in Two Hours and Seven-and-a-half Minutes,

AT KING EDWARD VI'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Size 12 in F.

REV. E. BANKES JAMES...	1-2	ALFRED H. PULLING	5-6
REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY	3-4	FRANK BLONDELL	7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Umpire: J. B. WILLIAMSON.

Witnesses: MRS. PULLING, A. WHITE, L. WHITE and C. REILLY.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT KING EDWARD VI'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Size 12 in F.

REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY	1-2	REV. E. BANKES JAMES	5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING	3-4	MADRICE SMITHER...	7-8
FRANK BLONDELL	9-10		

Composed by A. KNIGHTS, and Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Umpire: J. B. WILLIAMSON.

Witnesses: MRS. PULLING, A. WHITE, C. REILLY and L. WHITE.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 29, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT KING EDWARD VI'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Size 6 in C.

*REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY	1-2	ALFRED H. PULLING	5-6
*J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON	3-4	REV. E. BANKES JAMES	7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witnesses: MRS. PULLING, A. WHITE, L. WHITE and C. REILLY.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples "in hand."

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The following further contributions to the Prince of Wales' Fund have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	78	2	6
Bushey Society, April contribution (per Mrs. B. Prewett)	0	4	0
"Wanderer," April contribution	0	2	0
Mrs. "Wanderer," April contribution	0	2	0
Total	£78	10	6

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers serving with H.M. Forces:—

- A. T. Verralls, of St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, and Pembury, Kent, A.S.C., now at Woolwich.
- Henry John Dewey, of Reigate, Surrey, R.A.M.C., now at Aldershot.
- From St. Luke's, Wellingborough:—
 - Horace Plowman, and
 - Albert Plowman, 3rd Batt. Northants Regiment, now at Westham Camp, Weymouth.
 - Leonard Waterfoot, R.A.M.C., now at Aldershot.
- From Lavenham, Suffolk:—
 - Pte C. King, 5th Suffolks, Thetford.
 - Pte L. Poulson, 6th Suffolk Cycle Corps, South Lincs.
 - Corpl. W. R. J. Poulson, 6th Suffolk Cycle Corps, Anderley, Lincs
 - Pte T. Fryke, National Reserve, Colchester.
 - Pte F. A. Poulson, 4th Norfolks.

The Rev. C. E. Matthews, Master of the Winchester Guild, Chaplain of the Forces, left for the Front on Friday last.

DEATH OF VETERAN RINGER.

A veteran Glossop ringer has passed away in the person of Mr. James Sellars, who died at the age of 73 years. The deceased had resided in Old Glossop practically all his life. He began work in a mill, but for 27 years was "mine host" of the Bull's Head, a well known hostelry, where ringers of that district were wont to foregather to discuss their feats and the art they loved. Mr. Sellars became a ringer when quite a young man, and in this he followed in his father's footsteps. He became an able exponent of change ringing, and was also a member of the renowned band of Old Glossop Handbell Ringers, who several times gained championship honours at Belle Vue, and who, at the time were looked upon as the cleverest band of handbell ringers in the country. They visited London, Newcastle and other towns to give performances.

The deceased was passionately devoted to church bell ringing, and was regularly at his post at Glossop Parish Church until advancing years, and failing health caused him to desist. On completing fifty years' service at Glossop Parish Church, Mr. Sellars was, in 1909, made the recipient of a handsome gold-mounted ebony walking stick, suitably inscribed, the presentation taking place at a commemorative gathering, and being made by the Vicar. Mr. Sellars was President of the Glossop Association from its formation in 1910.

For some few years past Mr. Sellars had lived in retirement, and for eighteen months before his death was confined to bed.

On the evening of the funeral, representatives of the three local churches, All Saints', Glossop, Whitfield and Dinting, rang a muffled touch of 1400 Kent Treble Bob Major at the Parish Church as a last token of respect.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS' CRITICISMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very pleased to see from letters of Mr. Wright and Mr. Coppock that there were other gentlemen awaiting the results of the Easter meeting of the Midland Counties Association at Derby besides myself. I consider it was a very unjust affair to allow the voting for the delegates to the Central Council to be carried out, as there were so few members present. I was rather disappointed myself at the ringing being off, but that was not the reason why I was not present. It was owing to family affairs that I was kept away, this being the first annual meeting of the M.C.A. that I had been absent from for ten years. If I had been there I should have objected to the voting for the delegates to the Central Council under the circumstance, and should have asked for voting papers to be sent round to each belfry to give each member an opportunity of voting. It would only have delayed the results for about a week or so, and would have also been fair play, besides giving every man a chance.—Yours faithfully,

23, Shaw Street, Ilkeston.

E. C. GOBEY.

DEATH OF MR. ANDREW WARNER.**BELL FOUNDER "TOMMY" DIES OF WOUNDS.**

We deeply regret to record the death of Rifeman Andrew Warner, a member of the well-known firm of Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry who died in Boulogne Hospital on Wednesday week. As we briefly stated in our last issue, Rifeman Warner received serious injury in the storming of the now famous Hill 60, being struck in the head by bursting shrapnel during a charge. He was removed to hospital in a desperate condition, and unhappily succumbed. The ringing Exercise will extend its sincere sympathy to the members of the family who are left to mourn the loss of so gallant a soldier.

Rifeman Warner, who was 28 years of age, and was educated at Uppingham, where he was a member of the O.T.C., enlisted when the war broke out in the Queen Victoria Rifles (9th London Regiment), and went out to France just before Christmas as one of the first drafts to replace casualties. Some of his letters sent home to his brother, Mr. Robert Warner, have appeared in our columns, and have been full of interest. By a pathetic coincidence we publish another from him to-day, written a short time before the attack in which he sustained his fatal injuries.

Mr. Andrew Warner was a Freeman of the City of London, and a member of the Founders' Company.

THE RIFELMAN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

In a letter to his brother, written, of course, before receiving his fatal wound at Hill 60, Rifeman Warner says: "There is a possibility that you may see my name under slightly wounded, but I am glad to tell you that a bullet struck my water bottle buckle, and cut the skin a bit, and they inoculated me against lockjaw, which entailed two days' detention in the hospital at our base.

"I have got two bullet holes in my overcoat. The bullet did not seem to like the look of me, and went out the other side. I have now rejoined the battalion, which has just come into the town. They did not give us much rest this journey, as they turned us out again on Sunday at nine in the morning, and gave us a good 12 to 14 miles march to a set of trenches we had not hitherto been in. Owing to the recent operations there seems to have been some confusion, as the lot we relieved came back again after two hours. We had, therefore, to be turned off again about nine at night to find some billets somewhere.

"We went back again next night and relieved the same lot. The spot is quite close to where Evan Warner was shot, and I scrutinised some of the many graves to see whether there were any of the L.R.B. (London Rifle Brigade), but saw none.

THE "R.I.P." REGIMENT.

"Apropos of this, I had a good laugh when one of our chaps wandered into the burial enclosure in the morning from our dug-out, and also examined the graves; he returned and said to me: 'This lot seems to have lost very heavily round here. I wonder what regiment they belong to, as I have never heard of the R.I.P. before.'

"We are all known by our initials out here, such as Q.V.R.'s (Queen Victoria Rifles), N.F.'s or K.O.S.B.'s, and so on.

"We were moved from here next evening, and spent an unpleasant night in a foul, slimy cellar which smelt of everything unpleasant. The trenches themselves were very comfortable and dry, and some natural springs have been harnessed to supply water throughout the whole length of the trenches. Hand grenades are a drawback here, and the dropping of same is woefully accurate at times, and we lost six men in three nights. Behind us are considerable woods which enables the trenches to be rationed by day if necessary, and it was these woods which took a lot of capturing in the early part of this campaign.

"The dead lie very thick in them, and the sight is extremely unpleasant. If you happen to have read in the 'Daily Mail' about a certain lot of trenches called 'Hyde Park Corner,' 'Shaftesbury Avenue,' etc., you will be interested to know that these are the trenches referred to.

"We were relieved on Wednesday night, and returned to Baillie at three o'clock on Thursday morning, and to-day the snow is thick on the ground, and the wind is piercing. We have a rest now until next Monday. We shall be shifted before long, and in fact you can guess by the papers that things are on the move, and we shall have to be content with a minimum of rest, or none at all very soon. We hear rumours of the battalion being relieved, but we shall want all the men we have got to keep things going, as the enemy are stickers, and want a lot of shifting. I think they will get it hot sooner or later. We have had our bayonets sharpened to-day.

"It really looks as if the authorities have got some strenuous work for us to do. As a matter of fact, a large portion of our lot are crooked up with frost-bitten feet, and other complaints incidental to being exposed throughout the winter months.

"THE RINGING WORLD" IN THE TRENCHES.

"I was interested to receive a copy of 'The Ringing World,' in which was the letter which I wrote to you. I notice from the different copies which you send every week that few peals are now being rung, and by the length of the names contained in the Roll of Honour, it should not be long before I run across an ardent campanologist, trying to while away the weary hours with pencil and paper in the hope of finding 'something new.'

"We get our nights disturbed now and again when in billets by shells being dropped amongst the houses, to the detriment of bricks

and mortar, though none have come near us as yet. Last night we had a Zeppelin over here, which dropped about nine bombs on us. They kicked up a tremendous noise, but only seemed to have spoilt some growing crops. The holes are about 26ft. in diameter, and quite 10ft. deep, so they could have done some damage if they had dropped amongst us.

"The airship was fairly low, and within easy gun shot, but it was gone before one thoroughly woke up. Our new trenches are as dry as a bone in moderate weather, as the soil is sandy and porous. The wind is chilly at times, but the weather is now much better, and it is a treat to sit in what little sun there is and have a good prolonged sluice down in the stream near by.

"The French who used to be about here have left their dead all over the place, and their arrangements for burial seem to have been very easy-going. All along the trenches the back barricade is the graveyard, unmarked by any cross or stone, and the action of the weather has laid bare many gruesome sights, and it is impossible to dig without running up against something extremely unpleasant. Other bodies lying behind us are only covered by a sprinkling of light soil, and there is a German guardsman close by, whose height is 7 feet 2 inches, and his body has been officially measured.

"The British will stick at nothing to get in their dead, and to find a nice quiet spot to bury them in, and to mark a wooden cross with the letters R.I.P. and a register for future reference.

A "TICKET" TO ENGLAND OR HEAVEN.

"The work we have to do varies very considerably, and it is very hard to lick off just what is exciting to write about, and we are forbidden to mention those items which are of the most interest to us here.

"We are, of course, all waiting for our new General, i.e., 'General Advance,' and we are being prepared to take part in the new offensive operations by excessive close order drill in our rest hours. This is really very good for us, as trench work tends to loosen the ties of discipline. We manage, however, to get in some football to play or to watch, and also an occasional concert.

"I have joined a special squad of snipers, bomb throwers, trench mortarers and grenadiers, and our duty is to make as great a nuisance of ourselves as possible to the enemy. We are thus able to more readily gain distinction or extinction, in so much as the chances of a ticket to England or Heaven are correspondingly greater. Anyhow it will be a bit of excitement and a good test of nerves, so we shall see how things turn out."

EXPERTS AND BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The "Experts" and their critics have given us their views at such length, that I am reluctant to add even a drop to the stream of words; but I should like to endorse your contention that the "expert" is, so to speak, a professor who ought not, as a rule, to be employed in teaching the rudiments of grammar. That, as regards ringing, may be done by average ringers wherever there are novices who need help and encouragement. But these average ringers are often just the men who cannot or will not take the trouble to teach beginners. They have no patience with the ignorance of others: they only say "When you have learned to ring, we will come and help you." When I myself and a young band in my parish were learning, I tried to get help from the ringers (quite a good band) in a neighbouring parish, but found them almost useless as teachers; and the man who really helped us was an "expert" ringer, the late Mr. T. Field, of Oxford. He was ready to take infinite pains with beginners; and so, I believe, are many of the experts of to-day, though we hear more of their peal-ringing activities.—Yours faithfully,

St. Albans, May 1st.

T. L. PAPILLON.

S. MARY-DE-CASTRO, LEICESTER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—My friend, Mr. Morris, was somewhat in error in his account of these bells in your last issue. It was the peal rung on January 31st, 1831—the opening peal—which was false. That on March 7th was certainly true, being Holt's Ten-part rung correctly. At the time, Thomas Sibson, who was an old man, and who had turned St. Margaret's tenor in to Bob Royal in 1803, thought Holt's Ten-part could be rung with two common singles. He varied the peal and used the common singles. The next best man to Edward Biggs, the conductor, was John Harper. He pointed out immediately its falseness. For his courage, he was let down. The band met again on March 7th, but with Robert Lloyd in his place; the rest as before. The "composer" of the false peal was then an inmate of the adjoining Trinity Hospital, and it is said his remorse for his mistake hastened his end. A remarkable coincidence of the "cussedness" of these false variations turned up again when at the opening of St. Mark's bells in this town on Whit-Thursdays, 1878, the same false peal was rung! I knew the men of the last and some of the 1831 peal. When time permits, I will give you their history.

W. W.

BENFIELDSD.—Durham and Newcastle Association. — On April 11th, for evening service, at St. Cuthbert's Church, 720 Berwick Surpise: J. W. Forster 1, John Marshall 2, R. Dixon 3, T. H. Surtees 4, A. Charlton 5, F. Brron (conductor) 6. First 720 of Berwick by all the band and on the bells.

TOWER MUSIC IN THE LOW COUNTRIES.

A NEW AND INTERESTING VOLUME.

"Carillons of Belgium and Holland," by W. G. Rice. Price 6s. net. John Lane and Company, The Bodley Head, London; and New York.

At a moment when Belgium is ravaged with war and Holland is torn by anxieties lest any moment may find her plunged into the sanguinary conflict, there is a touch of pathos in the appearance of the first book to give us anything like an exhaustive survey of the famous carillons of the Low Countries. The stately and beautiful towers, with their famous carillons, are a source of national pride to the people of these countries, and bell music such as we in England have but a faint idea of, is one of the charms of those lands. When one thinks of it, therefore, it is somewhat remarkable that until now there has been no publication dealing comprehensively with the subject. Lovers of bells will, therefore, welcome Mr W. G. Rice's attractive volume which should find a place on the book-shelf of every ringer. The book made its appearance in America a little while in front of its publication in England, and is the only volume on bells ever issued in America. Included among the numerous illustrations are towers and steeples rarely reached by tourists, each possessing marked individuality and of exquisite architectural design; such, for instance, as that of Zutphen, Mons, Delft, Schiedam, Veere, Oudenarde, Utrecht and Groningen. Other prints serve to explain the system of installation of sets of bells and their various appurtenances, such as the gun-metal cylinders, or barrels, with inserted pegs, transmission bars and wires, keyboards, or claviers, and foot-pedals for manipulation of the bass bells; all contributing to elucidate the "modus operandi," whether automatic, by means of weights controlling the movements of outside hammers, or by the action of a single performer, the carillonneur, who operates the clappers striking the soundbow from within. Of the thirty principal carillons in Belgium and twenty in Holland, a short description of each is given with an estimate of its qualities.

As in England, writes Dr. A. H. Nichols, in reviewing the volume, the art of bell founding seems to have been transmitted in families, and thus for many years the Hemonys ranked as the Rudhalls of the Low Countries, having cast the bells of Mechlin and Antwerp. Scarcely less famous was the older firm of the van den Gheyns, who conducted a foundry at Mechlin as early as 1566, thus antedating by four years the establishment of the Whitechapel foundry. Since the year 1790 work has been carried on by the successors of this family at Louvain, the present representative being Felix van Aerschodt, who, by-the-way, supplied the set at Catlistock, England. Per contra, the Taylors, of Loughborough, have acquired the reputation of skilled carillon makers, and their bells sent to Appingedam, Flushing, and Eindhoven are pronounced of superior tone and more accurate attunement than those of former times.

We have to deplore the loss of many carillons by fire, by cannon shot in time of warfare, or by sequestration as part of the spoils of war. At Aranjuez, Spain, for example, is a set of thirty-one bells by Melchior de Haze, one of the successors of the Hemonys, while another set of fifty-nine bells in the same town were destroyed by fire in 1821, all carried off as loot.

Of the carillons of the Low Countries, that of St. Rombold, Mechlin, has generally been considered "facile princeps." Composed of 45 bells attuned to the chromatic scale, it has been made famous by the meritorious work and writings of Joseph Denyn, municipal carillonneur, whose artistic performances attract from far and wide devotees of this peculiar bell music, and who is well known in England. Though the church edifice was virtually destroyed in the bombardment of 1914, the stately tower and bells sustained no irreparable loss. Prize competitions held in this tower in 1910 brought together many bell masters; while in 1912 more than 20,000 people assembled upon the occasion of a national celebration, held in honour of the completion of Mr Denyn's twenty-fifth year of service in the tower. It is said that in the evening Mr. Denyn's exquisite rendering of van den Gheyn's third Prelude and some more familiar melodies held his immense audience spellbound. St. Rombold's bells, by-the-way, were barely saved from the melting pot in 1792 by the diplomatic plea of Haverals, the carillonneur, who managed to persuade the French officials that one set of bells should be preserved to celebrate "la gloire de la republique."

In no country is the music of the bells so generally appreciated as in Belgium, whose towers seem to be throwing forth an almost constant succession of operatic airs, military marches, melodies and songs. The principle upon which these selections are divided is thus explained by Mr. Price:—

"The hour is divided into either four or eight parts (for the quarters are sometimes sub-divided). The eighth hour play, when it occurs, consists of a flourish of not over two bars. The quarter-tunes before and after the hour are comparatively short and of equal length—about four times as long as those of the eighths. The half-hour play is at least four times as long as that of the quarters, and is followed by the striking of the next hour by a bell of higher pitch than that used at the hour itself. The play before the hour is at least twice as long as that before the half-hour."

It is one of the noteworthy features of bell music that, notwithstanding the interest developed in the various countries and for a period of centuries, no provision has anywhere been made to give opportunity for systematic education. With agreeable surprise, we learn, therefore,

that incident to the rejuvenescence of carillon playing in Belgium, till recently decadent, both the municipality of Mechlin and the National Government had worked out in 1914 a scheme for the establishment and partial support of a school designed to facilitate the acquisition of this art, all now rendered nugatory by a cruel war which must impoverish the survivors for at least a generation.

Within this volume is collated at first hand a compendium of additional information relating to the cost of carillons, the time of the weekly performances in various towns, a critical notice of certain performances, etc., which render the work invaluable for reference.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

MEETING AT DERITEND.

The first quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at St. John's, Deritend, on Saturday week, and was most successful.

The belfry of St. John's is "old familiar ground" to the St. Martin's Guild, and has been so for generations, as testified by a peal tablet recording two peals rung by them—Kent Treble Bob Major in 1821, and Stedman Triples in 1844—both being the first in the method on the bells.

The original church was founded in 1375 as a chapel of ease to Aston Parish Church. The present structure, erected in 1755, is a building in modern Italian style, with a square tower terminating in an open balustrading and pinnacles, and containing a ring of eight bells cast by Wells, of Aldbourne, 1777, tenor 1½ cwt. in F sharp.

The bells were raised for the meeting early in the afternoon, and ringing was indulged in in the following methods: Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise. London was also tried but wouldn't "go."

Tea, which was kindly provided by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Eric P. Gonner, M.A., was partaken of in the church room, when a goodly company sat down, and were favoured with the presence of the Vicar and his strapping son, who is a lieutenant in the 16th King's Royal Rifles. The business meeting followed, at which Canon Gonner took the chair, and this was chiefly remarkable for the small amount of business on the agenda.

The Secretary proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Canon for the use of his bells, for the excellent tea, for presiding at that meeting and for the very warm welcome which he had extended to them.—This was seconded by Mr. Godden, supported by Mr. Painter (who the members were very glad to have amongst them again after his serious illness), and was, needless to say, carried unanimously.—In replying, Canon Gonner gave a very interesting account of the history of St. John's, and invited everyone to have a look round the church under the able guidance of Mr. Sumner.

Of particular interest were two paintings in the vestry, showing the first "chapel" erected in 1375, and its successor. When looking at these pictures it is almost impossible to realise that one is standing on the very spot depicted there, for a greater and more complete change in the topography of a district could not be imagined. The pictures show a quaint little building standing in a beautiful position beside a babbling brook, a path across green fields which must have been a delight to lovers, and giant trees towering over all. Where are now the fields and the trees? Not a single tree of any kind or sort can be seen, nor a blade of grass; the district is to-day one of the poorest and dirtiest parts of Birmingham. Only the brook remains, and of this ———!

Hearing the strains of the organ, it was found that Mr. J. Price, who, we were given to understand, is clerk, vergor, and deputy organist all in one—a most useful man to have about a church—was playing hymn tunes for our benefit. "God save the King" was given by special request, and was most heartily sung by everyone.

Most of us wondered what was going to happen next when we saw Mr. Harry Withers get on to the organ seat, and all were more than astonished when he commenced to manipulate the keys in sacred tunes as though to the manner born. The versatility of this man is marvellous. All of us had heard him play the dulcimer, piano, carillon and handbells, but we did not know he was any good at a three-manual church organ!

Later the belfry was again visited, the bells being kept going until about 8.30 p.m., and it was agreed that it had been a most enjoyable meeting. The best thanks are due, and are hereby conveyed, to the tower keeper, Mr. Webb, for his part in the arrangements, and for having the belfry ready and for his general courtesy.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Castle Bromwich in July.

A. P. S.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY, EDINBURGH.

The annual dinner of the above society was held in the Caledonian Station Hotel, Edinburgh, on the evening of Wednesday week, when the chair was occupied by Mr. Kenneth Sanderson, Writer to the Signet, President of the Society. After dinner, the Chairman gave the toasts of the King, Queen, and other members of the Royal Family, which was heartily received.—The Rev. Dr. Fisher, senior minister of the parish, then, in a few well-chosen remarks, proposed the immortal memory of the donor of the bells (Mrs. Anderson), which was received by all present, standing. Songs were afterwards given by several members of the choir, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Cowie, the organist of St. Cuthbert's, and a course of Grandsire Triples on the handbells, brought a most enjoyable and social evening to a close.

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A LEEDS WORTHY.

THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

By the permission and kindly interest of the Vicar and wardens of Leeds Parish Church, and through the generosity of Mr. Wm. Whitaker (the first secretary of the Yorkshire Association), a handsome tablet has been erected in the ringing chamber of the Parish Church tower, recording the accomplishment in 1830 of a peal of New Treble Bob Royal (5000 changes), by a band of Leeds ringers as a token of loyalty and respect to their late Sovereign. The following is the inscription:—

"NEW TREBLE BOB ROYAL.
On Thursday the 15th of July 1830,
Being the day appointed for the

INTERMENT OF HIS LATE MAJESTY GEORGE THE FOURTH.

The Amateur Society of Change Ringers, Leeds, out of respect to their late beloved Sovereign, ascended to the Tower of the Parish Church, a little after nine o'clock in the evening and rung with the bells muffled a Peal of

NEW TREBLE BOB ROYAL,
consisting of 5,000 changes exact,
which was completed at forty-three minutes past midnight, occupying three hours and twenty-three minutes in the performance.

PERFORMERS' NAMES:

Mr. Thos. Rafton	Treble	Mr. Joseph Moxon	6
Mr. John Hudson	2	Mr. John Mortimer	7
Mr. John Thorp	3	Mr. Wm. Gawkrödger	8
Mr. William Groves	4	Mr. Sam Smallpage	9
Mr. Christopher Isles	5	Conductor of the Peal, Mr. James Naylor	Tenor

The above Peal was composed for this occasion by Mr. Hugh Wright, of Leeds, formerly of Nottingham, author of 15,163 Treble Bob Major, Albion Surprise, etc., etc."



MR. WM. WHITAKER.

Mr. William Whitaker has been an assiduous collector of records and interesting items connected with change ringing for many years, and now that he is getting well on to becoming an octogenarian he is anxious to see these placed where they are of the greatest interest. Hence his desire to place this historical record of the work of Leeds ringers nearly 100 years ago permanently in the tower.

It is interesting to find that Yorkshire men of those days preferred the Kent Variation (or New Treble Bob as it was called) to the Oxford variety with its broken music, and the county has more or less maintained its fidelity to its first love. Very little is known of the performers of this peal, but there are men living who well remember Kit Isles and Mr. Gawkrödger, who is spoken of as being a clever ringer.

Mr. Whitaker succeeded the latter as President of the Leeds Society in 1874, and held the office with credit for nine years.

A very kind and brotherly custom prevailed in the Parish Church belfry in those days. When an old member of the company became somewhat infirm and not well able to climb the steps, he was made a "pensioner," which meant that he took an equal share with the others in all moneys received, and only mounted the steps if wanted to make a band of ten or twelve. Kit Isles was the last old pensioner to stand at the tower entrance and count the men up.

Mr. Whitaker is not well known to the present generation of ringers,

but it is as well they should be reminded how much we owe to men of his stamp.

He was contemporary with such ringers as the late Henry Hubbard, a man of fine character, who came to Leeds from Norwich before 1867, and many interesting stories could be told of this worthy old gentleman. Mr. Whitaker was a friend also of the late Jasper Snowden, James Lockwood, Tom Lockwood, and other Leeds worthies.

In conjunction with these men and the brothers Hattersley, of Sheffield, Mr. Howard, Mr. Tuke, Mr. Bolland and others, Mr. Whitaker found time during a very strenuous business career to manage the clerical work in connection with the foundation and early years of the Yorkshire Association. He stood shoulder to shoulder for many years with that veritable giant of the Exercise and man of sterling worth, the late Mr. Jasper Snowden. These two men and Mr. Tuke were as brothers, and to hear Mr. Whitaker speak of Jasper, as he still calls him, is to know that a very intimate feeling existed between them. They worked together and put forth their whole energy in the common cause, and it is men such as those we should think of with pride in connection with the great Yorkshire Association.

Mr. Whitaker is Lancashire born, being a native of Padiham, near Burnley. In his young days he found many difficulties in the way of learning the art of ringing, and to learn to ring Bob Minor, he walked regularly to the neighbouring town of Accrington, five miles away. In 1867 he removed to Leeds, and soon became a member of the Parish Church company, and remained in connection during the whole of his active ringing career.

Characteristic of the man was his desire to impart the knowledge he had gained to his ringing friends at Padiham. At his own expense he journeyed there often, and had the great satisfaction of hearing the bells in the church tower of his native village rung scientifically as the result of his labours, and the art has flourished there continually since.

His fourteen years' service as hon. secretary to the Yorkshire Association was handsomely recognised by the members on his retirement in 1889. A beautiful epergne on plinth was presented to him at Pudsey in October of that year, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. Wm. Whitaker by the members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers as a mark of esteem and in recognition of his valuable services as honorary secretary for fourteen years. (October 12th, 1889.)"

It is needless to add that Mr. Whitaker values very highly this kind gift, knowing, as he does, that it was the outward form of expression of goodwill and thanks from his fellow members for work well done.

During Mr. Whitaker's long connection with the Parish Church, his high ideals of churchmanship gained for him the esteem of several Vicars, notably Dr. Jayn, now Bishop of Chester, and also the late Dr. Gott, and others. A man's work and worth to his fellows is not always to be measured by the number of times his name appears attached to peal performances, etc., but more by his work and sacrifice of self for others, and it is no doubt the practice of this virtue which has built up the sterling character so well seen in the subject of these few words.

MONK'S ELEIGH BELLS

AN APPEAL.
To the Editor.

Sir,—All those who know the church at Monk's Eleigh, in Suffolk, and its bells, will be sorry to hear that since last October this beautiful peal of six has been silent, owing to the fact that the tower was in urgent need of repair.

These repairs are now being carried out, and as secretary of this district, I have received a request to make an appeal to all those who have rung in this tower, to ask if any will send donations, small or great, towards the cost of securing the structure upon which the bells rest.

If any ringers are willing to help this work will they either send direct to the "Rector, Monk's Eleigh, Bildeston, Suffolk," or to me at "The Red House, Hadleigh, Suffolk."

REV. R. L. GARDNER,
Hon. Secretary, Sudbury District, Ely D.A.R.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.

The above society held a meeting at Rye, Sussex, on Saturday, Apple-dore, Hawkhurst, Fairfield, Stone-in-Oxney, Tenterden and the local tower being represented, while one ringer, residing at Hastings, but not associated with any tower in that town, also attended. The welcome "that's all" was found to a touch or two of Grandsire Triples, and a six-score of Doubles in the same method also came home.

At the business meeting the company resolved to assemble for their next practice at Rolvenden on the first Saturday in June.—A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar (the Rev. A. P. Howes) for the use of the bells, and to the Rye ringers for showing a friendly and brotherly spirit in allowing the Guild to meet again in the ancient town.

Ringers in the Rye district, especially the members of the Romney Marsh Guild, sympathise greatly with the energetic hon. secretary of that society, Mr. G. J. Youngs and his wife in the trial and anxiety which has just been their unfortunate lot to experience. They have had some troops billeted at their residence, and one of the "Tommys" was stricken with pneumonia, to which he succumbed.

ON THE HANTS AND SUSSEX BORDER.

Concluding the narrative of an Easter Monday cycle tour on the Hants and Sussex border, Mr. Whittington writes:—

The next tower on the programme was Milland, where there is a nice ring of six. Here the party were joined by Pte F. W. Elliott, late of Frensham, now serving in the King's Royal Rifles, and stationed at Hindhead. The bells were raised in peal, and after several touches had been rung, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob was brought round, by: H. Chaffey 1, Pte Albert Croucher 2, C. Edwards (conductor) 3, E. Newell 4, R. Whittington 5, Pte F. W. Elliott 6. The character of the country side and the views between the towers of Liss, Rogate and Milland are amongst the prettiest in the South of England; indeed so nice is it between Rogate and Milland that about half of the party very promptly got themselves lost in it, and I was told (on the quiet, of course), that they had to wait until they heard the other half of the party raising Milland bells in peal before they could again find their bearings. Milland Church occupies a very secluded position, although it almost adjoins the main Portsmouth Road. It is a comparatively new building, erected only about 30 years ago, but the little ancient original chapel it still standing close by, with its quaint old box pews still to be seen. It is interesting to note that Milland was the 650th tower that Mr. C. Edwards has rung in. The time was now 5 o'clock, and several of the party were making inquiries for "the cup that cheers but not inebriates," which looked like being somewhat of a problem, there being nothing in the nature of a house of refreshment within about a mile of Milland Church. Some of the party, however, were sent forward to try and fix up arrangements, and the good lady of "The Black Fox" Inn nearly did a faint when she was asked if she could supply tea for 15 ringers in about 15 minutes' time. However, she "fitted us out" beautifully, and, considering the way she was pounced on, put on a tea that for promptness and quality would have done credit to many a larger and better equipped establishment. Needless to say, it was a very jovial party that sat down, and not by any means the least enjoyed item on the day's programme, Mrs. Whittington being kept very busy indeed at the tea-pot.

The next and last tower on the programme to be visited was back over the Hants border—Bramshott, where we were due at 6 o'clock. Here the party were joined by Mr. T. Maek, of Haslemere, whose jovial face is very rarely absent from any meeting of ringers within reasonable distance of Guildford. The bells were raised in peal, and several touches rung. This tower, however, was to supply the inevitable "fly in the ointment." A 720 of Oxford Treble Bob was attempted, but failed after about 400 changes had been rung, and was the only 720 lost during the day. Touches of Woodbine, Double Oxford and Cambridge Surprise brought the ringing for the day to a close.

We were met and welcomed at each tower by one or more of the local bands, and at Milland and Bramshott by the clergy also, who took the trouble to come personally to the tower to give us their welcome. We wish, through the medium of "The Ringing World," to thank all the clergy who very readily gave their permission to use their bells, and to the local bands for so kindly having everything in readiness and meeting us. The party was composed of three from Farnham, three from Aldershot, two from Frensham, two from Seale, one from Busted, two from Cranleigh, and two unattached. I hear that the Farnham men made a tour of exactly 40 miles of it, but, by the time we had reached Cranleigh again, my cyclometer showed that we had ridden 63 miles during the day.

MEMBER OF LADIES' GUILD MARRIED.

On Tuesday, April 20th, at Portishead Parish Church, the marriage took place of the Rev. H. S. Briggs, curate of the parish, and Miss M. E. N. Jukes, second daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Jukes, of Portishead Rectory. The bride has been a member of the Portishead band of ringers for the past seven years. She took part in the ladies' peal rung at Cubitt Town in 1912, and rang the tenor in the first peal for the Ladies' Guild at Portishead in January last. The Rev. H. S. Briggs also does a little ringing, and as they are not leaving the parish, it is hoped that they will long continue to assist in the belfry. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of a large number of presents, including a gong of eight tubular bells from the Portishead ringers.

ANOTHER RINGER-CHURCHWARDEN.

At the Easter Vestry meeting at St. George's Church, Clun, Shropshire, Mr. W. Mead, captain of the recently formed band of ringers, was unanimously elected one of the churchwardens, and the Vicar (the Rev. R. D. Machen) spoke of the valuable services Mr. Mead had rendered on the Tower and Bells Restoration Committee. This is the first time in the history of Clun Parish Church that a member of the belfry has been elected warden. Clun Church now joins the few churches where some of the clergy and wardens take their places in the belfry regularly. Clun is the parish which gave their new bells such a charming public welcome last summer, of which we gave some illustrations in our pages.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Thankoffering Sunday, April 11th, at Bishop Ityder's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 42 mins.: S. Coley 1, W. E. Stratford 2, A. T. Scrivens 3, J. B. Collett (conductor) 4, J. T. Perry 5, W. H. Carrod 6, G. A. Taylor 7, S. Price 8

RINGERS AND THE WAR.

SUGGESTED ROLL OF HONOUR CERTIFICATE

To the Editor.

Sir,—In a few weeks, the Central Council will assemble—unless suspended—to transact its and our business. Since the last meeting, events in our national life have occurred which have thrown ringing—and rightly so—into the background of our thoughts. Events that have sent the blood leaping through our veins, that have made us burn with passion; and has sent a call to every fit man to shoulder a rifle for his country and for humanity—or else carry for ever the conscience of a coward.

How that call has been answered we know full well. From the ranks of ringers numbers have gone cheerfully, and are still going, although I venture to think that many who remain might have put their love of bells second to their country's hour of need. Yet for those who have gone forth we all must feel a thrill of pride as we read their names, and that is why I write.

The Central Council is the hub, presumably, upon which our various organisations revolve. It has considerable funds, with no immediate object of expenditure. What I beg to suggest will, I hope, meet with the approval of most whose eyes are on the battlefield of Europe. It is that the Council rise to the occasion and issue a "Roll of Honour" certificate to those lowers whose ringers are playing the manly part and serving the colours. Such ornamental certificate should be issued under the Central Council auspices to all affiliated associations who required them in the first place. A space could be reserved for the name of the association and the picture of the tower; with the names of the ringers and their regiments inserted by each association. Although there are such certificates of honour used by firms already, and I have a specimen which could be adapted for ringers before me as I write, such a one specially prepared could be obtained by the Council at a low figure after the initial outlay of a few pounds for a litho stone, and, being purchased in bulk, would be more economical than if bought by separate associations. Many societies will during the war be upon a low expenditure, though apart from that, we owe something at least, to our fellow ringers who are taking their lives in their hands. Most ringers feel proud of seeing their names upon tablets in the tower. I would rather my name were upon a "Roll of Honour" in this world war than on a hundred peal boards.

If the men return, theirs is the glory, and if they fall! well, greater love hath no man than this, and in Macaulay's prophetic words:—

How can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temples of his gods.

I should like some abler pen than mine to take this matter up.

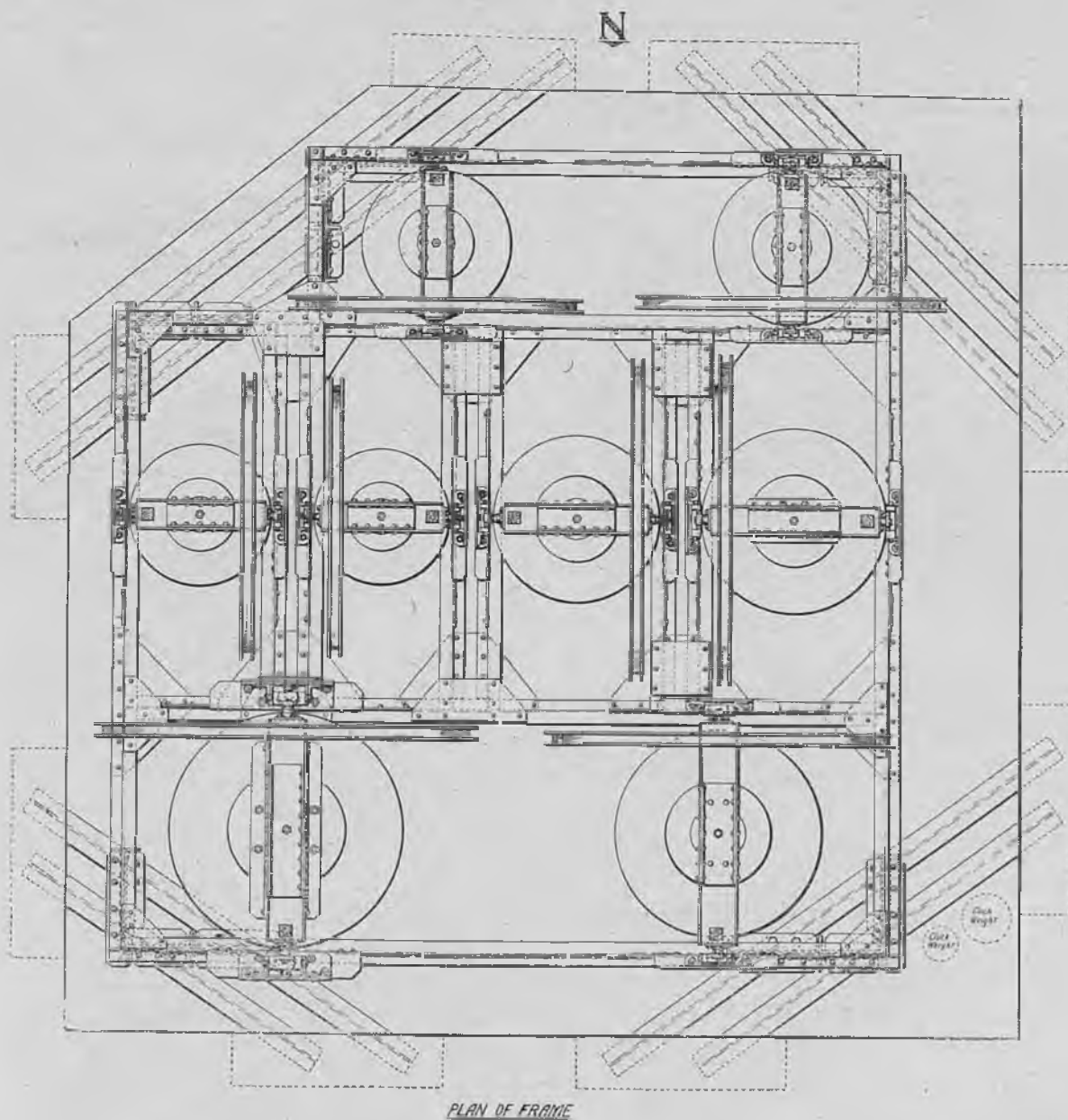
WILLIAM WILLSON.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

A typical ringer's wedding of more than local interest took place on Saturday week at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Wordsley, when Mr. John Bass was married to Miss Ada E. Rudge, Mr. R. Matthews acting as best man and Miss S. Pigott as bridesmaid. The Rector having granted permission to ring, the following ringers assembled to do honour to the occasion, and after the usual rounds and firing, rang a 720 of Plain Bob: C. E. Perkins 1, T. Heathcock 2, G. Poppiell 3, H. Jones 4, W. Short (conductor) 5, C. H. Woodberry 6. Other ringers had now arrived, and touches were rung, in which J. Pigott, J. Smith and W. J. Bretherton took part. After falling the bells, the ringers adjourned to 22, Stewkins, for tea, when the health of the bride and bridegroom was drunk, and best wishes were expressed for their happy and prosperous future. The handbells were then brought into use, and touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob Major and Grandsire Caters were rung, interspersed with tunes, and altogether a happy evening was spent. On the following Tuesday, at Wollaston, an attempt was made for a peal of Minor, when after ringing six 720's and being well in the Plain Bob, the tenor rope broke, and thus brought the peal to grief much to the regret of the following ringers: J. H. Parsons 1, C. E. Perkins 2, J. Bass 3, J. Pigott 4, W. Short 5, R. Matthews 6.

BENENDEN RINGER'S MARRIAGE

On Saturday week the marriage took place at Benenden Church, Kent, between Mr. Horace Henry Coley, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. George Coley, of Iden Green, Benenden, and Mrs. Ellen Mabel Holyer, widow of the late Mr. Charles Holyer, of Appledore, and eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Holdstock, of Tenderden. The bridegroom is a ringer at Benenden, and bell ringing has met with favour in the bride's family circle, Mr. Henry Holdstock, of Tenderden, who used to ring at Tenderden, and who has a number of peals to his credit, being one of her near relatives. The bells were rung immediately after the ceremony and in the evening, when a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was brought round, by: F. Judge 1, T. Ashenden 2, W. H. Lambert 3, J. Blake 4, F. G. Burden 5, G. Billenness 6, A. H. Wollard 7, F. Chapman 8. The ringer of the third belongs to Benenden, those on the treble and fifth to Rolvenden, and the remainder to Hawkhurst.—Messrs. F. C. Clark, R. Williamson, G. Hurl and S. Johnson (Benenden), and A. Blackman (Rolvenden) also rang, the first-named ringing his first 120 of Grandsire Doubles.



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NOTICES.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Ringing for Divine service at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637. — Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell ringing on May 20th, and for business on May 11th and 25th, all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m. — William T. Cockerill, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—**ALTERATION OF DATE.**—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Deptford, S.E., on Saturday, May 8th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and Address by the Rev. W. F. Jepson (Vicar) at 5.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Whidbourne Institute. — T. Groombridge, Hon. District Secretary, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, May 8th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Tea by invitation of J. F. Stilwell, Esq.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Secretary, Heston, Hounslow.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at East Retford on Saturday, May 8th. Service in Parish Church 4.30 p.m. Tea at Baker's Cannon Cafe 5 p.m., 9d. to members, 1s. to non-residents, and 1s. 3d. to others. Ordsall and West Retford bells (6) will be available during the afternoon and evening, and East Retford (10) from 2 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., after which the general business meeting will be held.—H. Haigh, Honorary Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chipping on Saturday, May 8th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock.—A. E. Woodhouse, Hon. Secretary.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at Bromham on Saturday, May 8th, 1915, at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. The bells at Rowde will also be available. Intending visitors please advise early. All are welcome. — H. Brownlee West, Honorary Secretary, Avalon, Devizes.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Congresbury on Saturday, May 8th. Service at 4.30. Tea 5.15. Meeting to follow. Bells from 2 p.m.—J. Harris, Branch Secretary, Burnham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting to-morrow, May 8th, at Pavilion Creamery, Castle Square, Brighton. Meat tea at 4.30. St. Peter's bells open 3 to 4 and 7 to 8. Half fares allowed to members resident in the county; also 1s. towards cost of tea, as announced last week.—G. Watson, Honorary General Secretary, Vale Road, St. Leonards.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Bolton Branch).—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Horwich, on Saturday, May 8th. Bells available from 4 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—E. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—Meeting at Weybridge on Saturday, May

15th. Bells available 4 to 4.50 p.m., and 7.30 to 8.45 p.m. Tea, etc., in the Parish Hall, 5.30 p.m. Service in church 5 p.m. All ringers heartily welcomed.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society).—Established 1824. — Northern District.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of St. John at Jerusalem, South Hackney, on Saturday, May 15th, 1915. There will be ringing from 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., after which a business meeting will be held at 8.30 p.m. in the "Earl of Derby." All ringers will be welcome.—L. B. Porter, Honorary Secretary, 1, Canonbury Mansion, Canonbury, N.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Middleton on Saturday, May 15th. By kind permission of the authorities the bells of St. Leonard's Church will be available from 3.30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Schools at 5.30 p.m.—W. H. Shuker and J. H. Banks, Honorary Secretaries.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Canterbury on Saturday, May 15th. The bells of the Cathedral (10) will be available from 2 till 2.40 p.m., and after the tea S. Stephen's (8), S. Alphege (6), and S. Dunstan's (6), from 2 till 8 p.m. Divine Service at 4.30 p.m. in S. Alphege Church. Tea at Gaywood's Restaurant, High Street, at 5 p.m., for which a charge of 6d. per head will be made. Business meeting after the tea. All subscriptions should be paid before this meeting. Will all those who intend being present kindly let me know by Tuesday, May 11th.—E. Trendell, Hon. Dist. Sec., Boughton, Faversham.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Luton, on Saturday, May 15th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—A. King, Honorary Secretary, Luton District, 6, Tavistock Crescent, Luton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Ann's, Stamford Hill, on Saturday, May 15th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock, 6d. each. Meeting to follow. Members and friends cordially invited.—C. T. Coles, Honorary Secretary, 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Alveston (6 bells) on Saturday, May 15th. Bells open 3.30 p.m. Service, by the Vicar, 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting follow service. Please kindly notify how many present for tea not later than Monday, May 10th. Almondsbury tower (8 bells) open 6.30 p.m. Visitors very heartily welcome. 'Bus leaves Felton 3 p.m.—G. Tomkins, Branch Secretary, 5, Chelsea Park, Easton, Bristol.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—By kind permission of the Rev. B. S. Batty, a meeting will be held at St. John of Jerusalem's Church, South Hackney, on May 22nd. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea free to those who notify me by May 18th. — H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch, E.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Portishead on Saturday, May 22nd. Bells available 4 o'clock. Tea at the Cafe, High Street, at 5.30. Meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Secretary.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit-Monday, May 24th, 1915. The bells of St. Giles', St. Edmund's and St. Peter's will be available from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Service in St. Giles' Church at 12 noon. Luncheon, at the Peacock Hotel, at 1 o'clock, members 1s. each, non-members 2s. Business meeting to follow. The bells of All Saints', St. Giles' and St. Sepulchre's will be available after the meeting from 4 to 7 p.m.—Fred Wilford, General Secretary, 149. Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —A meeting of the above will be held at Wye on Whit-Monday, May 24th. Ringing to commence at 2 o'clock, and a special service in the church at 4.30. An allowance of one penny per mile (single journey), maximum 2s., will be paid to all members attending, provided their subscriptions have been paid for this year. Arrangements for tea will be notified later.—C. Tribe, Hon. District Secretary, British School Villas, Tenterden.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The next meeting of the Eastern Division of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Market Weighton on Whit-Monday, May 24th, 1915. Bells available all day. Tea at 4.30 for all who notify me by Tuesday, May 18th, 1915 (1s. each).—Thos. Smith, Hon. District Secretary.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Whit-Monday at Chelmsford. Divine service at the Cathedral, with address by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, at 11.30; business meeting in the Vestry Hall at 12.30; lunch in the Boys' Schoolroom at 1.30. Members intending to be present must, without fail, notify me before Wednesday, May 19th.—Henry T. W. Eyre, Hon. Secretary, Great Totham.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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THE SALOP GUILD.

A meeting of the Salop Archidiaconal Guild was held at Church Stretton on Saturday afternoon, when, in spite of the wet weather, there was a good attendance of members, the following towers being represented: St. Chad's, Shrewsbury; Coalbrookdale, Crewe, Whitchurch, Malinslee, Dawley, Little Wenlock, and Stockton. The bells (a light ring of eight, tenor about 11½ cwt., going fairly well, but striking false) were raised in peal, followed by 560 Bob Major by the following: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brookes 3, W. Saunders 4, G. Jones 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples followed.

The meeting was held, with the Rector (the Rev. S. C. Woods) in the chair, the chief object of discussion being the date of the next annual meeting.

Afterwards the members adjourned to the Stretton Cafe for tea. Ringing was then again indulged in, but the members from Coalbrookdale and Malinslee had to leave hurriedly to catch their train. In this they were just successful, but some of the Shrewsbury band who also went to the station were too late. They returned to the tower again and rang two touches of Stedman Triples, the last being a 420, two of the local men ringing the tenor behind (Messrs. Griffiths and Whiting), and this being their first touch.

Owing to pressure on our space we are unavoidably compelled to hold over several items of news and miscellaneous touches

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