

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 317. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13th, 1917.

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Price 2d.

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 GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1915
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

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

To the general public the realms of campanology are, as it were, a sphere apart. They are mystified by its technicalities on the rare occasions that they come in contact with them, and they marvel often at the dogged perseverance of the ringers in ringing hours on end, a task which they imagine to be a laborious and monotonous one. Whenever, therefore, anything is done to enlighten the public upon the interest which attaches to the bells themselves, the fascination which surrounds the mathematical side of the science, and the attraction which holds the devotees of the Art, both for the physical and mental exercise which it provides, nothing but good can result. Such information may be imparted in various ways, and one of the most effective, when it can be arranged, is by means of a lecture. Such lectures are, happily, growing in frequency, and just recently the enthusiastic Hon. Secretary of the Hertfordshire Association has been giving a talk on bells to an interested audience; while a gathering of Wykehamists have been listening to a similar lecture by Mr. L. W. Greenwood. We may be sure that the lecturers did not fail to put in a word in season to gather, if possible, recruits for the Exercise.

It is not everyone, it is true, who has the opportunity, or even the ability, to compile sufficient material for a lecture, or the gift to deliver it. To be successful, it goes without saying, the lecture needs to be not only interesting in substance, but attractive in style. There are many, however, who could read, with full effect, a paper prepared for them; and about eighteen months ago we suggested that the Central Council might have such a paper prepared, accompanied, if possible, by a set of lantern slides, which could be lent out for use. We mentioned at the time that there were men on the Council well qualified to prepare such a lecture, and give it a literary finish, and we have reason to believe that the subject would have come before the Council before this had the Council met. The matter was one which appealed to the late President, and would unquestionably have had his support. The only thing to be said against a general lecture of this kind is that it may lack that local "touch" which is often necessary to success, although, of course, even this could be supplied if the reading was in the hands of someone versed in the subject. Some day or other the matter may be dealt with, but in the meantime, wherever a ringer is capable of rendering a service of this kind, which would serve to enlighten the public, and create an outside interest in church bells and bell ringing, opportunity might well be made to read a paper or give a lecture. It might lead not only to wider interest in ringing, but to securing recruits for the belfries, where they are needed to-day more than ever before.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sir,

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 CHURCH WARDENS unite with me in this expression of opinion. The BELLEINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

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BIRMINGHAM**

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HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Monday, April 2, 1917, in Two Hours and Twenty-three Minutes,

At the SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE ROB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

JAMES HUNT 1-2	FRANK SMITH... .. 5-6
EDGAR WIGHTMAN 3-4	JOSEPH E. SYKES 7-8

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by EDGAR WIGHTMAN.
Umpire: WILLIAM J. NUDDS.

Arranged by the Spitalfields Bell Foundry Guild to oblige Mr. J. E. Sykes.

KILLED IN ACTION.

YOUNG MITCHAM RINGER'S DEATH.

The Mitcham Society recently received the sad news of the death of Pte Stanley Smith, 4th East Surrey Regiment, who, while in action on the 18th March, was instantly killed by a shell.

The only son of Mr. W. S. Smith (who has been a highly respected member of the Mitcham band, and one of the most active ringers in the Surrey Association for more than 25 years), Stanley was elected a member of the Mitcham band in October, 1916, and had but recently reached his 21st birthday. He had taken deep interest and made rapid progress in the art during the short time he was a member, and his genial, kindly disposition and high character gained the esteem and personal regard of all his friends. His loss is severe and real to the Mitcham band, and much sympathy is felt for Mr., Mrs. and Miss Smith in their great sorrow and bereavement.

For evening service, on Sunday, April 1st, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to his memory: A. J. Lambert 1, J. D. Drewett 2, C. Dean 3, G. W. R. Grimwood 4, A. Calver 5, T. Steers 6, W. H. Joiner (conductor) 7, J. Currell 8.

SEVERELY WOUNDED.

News has been received that one of the Southgate (Middlesex) band has been badly wounded. Pte H. B. Balaam, by the explosion of a shell, has lost his right arm, his left leg has been shattered, and he has received several other wounds. Ringers throughout the Exercise will deeply sympathise with this promising ringer, and wish him speedy restoration to health.

ARMY RINGERS AT BLACKPOOL.

There is much coming and going at Blackpool of ringers belonging to the Army. On Sunday evening, March 18th, at St. John's Parish Church, 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung as a farewell to Pte L. W. Jacques, R.A.M.C., on his departure for Mesopotamia: W. Haworth (St. John's) 1, W. Wild (St. John's) 2, J. B. Eckley (St. John's) 3, Pte E. C. Grafton, R.A.M.C. (St. Luke's, Wolverhampton), 4, Pte L. W. Jacques, R.A.M.C. (conductor), Olney, Bucks, 5, Pte J. A. Saunders, R.A.M.C., 6, J. Smith (St. John's) 7, Pte J. H. Cropley, R.A.M.C. (Windsor), 8.

On Thursday afternoon, March 29th, a most impressive service was held, and a tablet unveiled to the memory of the late Lieut. A. Victor Smith, the gallant Blackpool policeman, who lost his life in Gallipoli, by throwing himself upon a live bomb, so saving the lives of his comrades. Prior to the service the church bells rang out a half-muffled quarter-peal of 1274 Grandsire Triples from Holt's Original: E. W. Haworth (St. John's) 1, Pte T. H. Reeves, R.A.M.C. (conductor), Christ Church, West Bromwich, 2, W. Wilkinson (St. John's) 3, Pte E. C. Grafton, R.A.M.C., 4, Cpl. J. Lloyd, R.A.M.C., 5, Pte J. A. Saunders, R.A.M.C., 6, W. Wild (St. John's) 7, Pte J. H. Cropley, R.A.M.C. 8.

The memorial is a handsome and striking work, and beautifully wrought. Surmounting the tablet is a medallion portrait of the late lieutenant, flanked on either side by a copy in repoussé of the V.C. and the Croix de Guerre, whilst beneath is the badge and crest of his battalion. The wording on the tablet in raised letters is as follows: "In remembrance of a gallant soldier, pure in heart and ever loyal to duty, A. Victor Smith, V.C., Lieutenant, of the Blackpool Police, this memorial is dedicated. Less than 25 years, but crowned with the love then which no man hath greater, in the words of his commanding officer: 'He gave his life to save others,' at Fusilier Bluff, Gallipoli Peninsula, and was awarded the V.C. and the Croix de Guerre, for his magnificent act of self-sacrifice which saved many lives." At the foot of the memorial is the borough coat of arms.

Dr. Welldon, D.D., Dean of Manchester, unveiled the memorial, and gave an appropriate address; the full orchestra of the R.A.M.C. was present, and played the "Dead March" in "Saul," and eight bugles sounded the "Last Post." The R.A.M.C. choir led the singing of the hymns, and the congregation were deeply moved by the impressive service.

LANCASHIRE'S OLDEST BELL.

Mr. F. H. Chestham writes: "In my letter of March 31st for Vol. XVI. of the Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, read Vol. LXVI. (i.e., 86)."

ROLL OF HONOUR.

From All Saints' Parish Church, Rotherham:—
Pte Chas. Wright, Royal Field Artillery.
Pte Sydney Briggs, West Yorks Regiment.
From Easton-in-Gordano Somerset:—
Pte G. R. Moore, 4th Reserve Batt. Somerset Light Infantry
now at Sutton Veney.

AUSTRALIAN IN QUARTER PEAL.

At Christ Church, Erith, for Confirmation service on Palm Sunday a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 51 mins. by: R. A. Joynes 1, G. Cullum 2, H. Holden 3, O. L. Twist 4, F. J. Cullum 5, J. Lowrey 6, F. J. Cullum (conductor) 7, E. Martin 8. The ringer of the treble is an Australian from Sydney, and it was his and the tenor man's first quarter-peal.

BACK TO THE BELFRY.

On Palm Sunday, at Milton-next-Gravesend, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung by H. Argent 1, G. A. Jones 2, F. M. Mitchell (conductor) 3, G. Morrall 4, G. Ambrose 5, F. Hayes 6. This 720 was arranged, and rung as a birthday compliment to Fred Mitchell, junr. (15), and to welcome back to the belfry Mr. Fred Hayes, who has been absent since Christmas through a broken leg. His many friends will be glad to hear that, although far from being "fit," he is able to climb the belfry steps, and take part in his favourite Exercise. It is interesting to note that the conductor has now called a 720 of Cambridge Minor from every bell.

LECTURE ON BELLS.

The following paragraph appears in "The Wykehamist," the organ of Winchester School, and it is interesting to find the subject of bells brought in this way to the notice of scholars at this seat of learning, which has given us men well known in the Exercise, including the Rev. F. W. Carpenter and Mr. A. T. King, I.S.O.—to mention only two:—

"On Sunday, March 11th, L. W. Greenwood read a very interesting paper on 'Church Bells.' He started by telling us how they were made, and then went on to describe certain individual bells of interest with their names. He told us a lot of interesting customs concerning the ringing of the curfew (cover-fire) and sanctus, and others. It is interesting to hear that England is the only country in which bells are pealed. He informed us of the excellence of the exercise to be obtained in ringing bells, speaking, as he was, from personal experience."

BIRMINGHAM RINGER DEAD.

Mr. George A. Taylor (late Staff-Sergeant Armourer, 1st Middlesex Regiment) passed away on March 28th, and was interred in the family grave at Witton on April 3rd. Mr. Taylor was 63 years of age, and a member of Bishop Ryder tower. Mr. J. Collett represented the ringers at the funeral.

A muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted on Saturday afternoon last, but failed about half-way, on account of the tenor man missing his rope. A quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (composed and conducted by Mr. James George) was then attempted, but again ended in disappointment, 1-3-2 coming up at the finish.

Mr. Taylor's record of peals was small, but as a service ringer he was most punctual, and his presence could always be depended upon. Men of this kind are sadly missed under the present condition of things.

DODDINGTON STEDMAN MAJOR.

By GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

Plain Course.	5040		
144 Changes.	14	16	18
12345678	—	—	12345
21436587	—	—	31452
124 578	—	—	31245
142 758	—	—	21543
412 785	—	—	21354
421 875	—	—	52431
2416357	—	—	45123
42618375	Repeat four times.		
245 735	The calls are "Steds," made by reversing the		
264 753	hunting order of the three back bells.		
624 573			
642 537			
46281357			
64823175			
684 715			
864 751			
846 571			
486 517			
46832157			

Repeat seven times.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.—On Feb. 17th, on handbells, 336 Grandsire Triples: Lee-Corpl. J. B. Hessey (Chertsey) 1-2, W. Haigh 3-4, F. A. Holden 5-6, L. Page (Titchfield) 7-8. — On Feb. 24th, by the United Services, 448 Bob Major, 336 Stedman Triples: Corpl. E. G. Buesden (Canterbury), Sapper L. Page, A. Elburn (Amersham, Bucks), B. Soden (Northampton), R.E., C. Glenn (Sheffield), Sgt. F. A. Holden, R.M.L.I., B. M. Targett (Gaywood, Norfolk), J. B. Hessey.

ABINGDON, BERKS.—Oxford Guild.—On Feb. 18th, at St. Nicholas' Church, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: F. Juggins 1, J. W. Wilkins 2, Mrs. A. E. Lock 3, A. Fawdry 4, H. Holifield (conductor) 5, P. Barratt 6.—At St. Helen's, for evening service, 340 Stedman Triples: A. Fawdry 1, F. Juggins 2, Mrs. A. E. Lock 3, E. Barratt 4, G. Blay 5, J. Juggins 6, J. W. Wilkins (conductor) 7, P. Dyke 8.

WHITCHURCH, SALOP.—At the Parish Church, on Feb. 18th, for evening service, 336 Grandsire Triples. Also on Sunday, Feb. 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: T. Barker 1, F. Ryder 2, Gnr. W. Welling, R.G.A. (conductor) 3, J. Gibson 4, W. Barron 5, W. Hutchinson 6, T. Barron 7, H. Taylor 8. Arranged for the conductor, who is in camp near Whitechurch.

HALSE, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 40 mins.: W. Crows 1, L. Pole 2, W. Clapp 3, G. Hancock 4, A. Tout (first quarter as conductor) 5, F. Thorne 6.

WHITCHURCH, SALOP.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday evening, Feb. 25th, by the kind permission of the Rector, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: E. Barker 1, F. Ryder 2, Pte W. Welling (conductor) 3, J. Gibson 4, W. Barron 5, W. Hutchinson 6, T. Barron 7, H. Taylor 8. Pte W. Welling, R.G.A., is a member of the Windsor band.

SKIPTON-IN-CRAVEN, YORKS.—On Sunday, March 4th, at Holy Trinity Church, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 30 mins. Rung on the middle six: W. Hull 1, J. Horner 2, Pte W. Neesam (D.L.I.) 2, W. Billows (conductor), 4, A. Lawson (first 720), 5, W. Bailey 6, Pte M. Hibbert (D.L.I.), 7, W. D. Hillary 8.

WEST EALING.—For the evening service, at St. Stephen's Church, on March 4th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Harris (St. Mary's), 1, Staff-Sergt. E. T. Verrels 2, Miss E. Jones 3, J. Hunnisett 4, C. Edwards 5, G. M. Kilby (Willesden), 6, W. Lawrence (conductor), 7, A. Davis 8.

CREWE.—Chester Diocesan Guild.—At Christ Church, on Sunday, March 4th, for evening service, 526 Stedman Caters: W. T. Holding 1, R. Langford 2, H. Overton 3, G. H. Crawley 4, R. D. Langford 5, A. Crawley 6, J. Dentith 7, C. J. B. Cooke 8, R. T. Holding (conductor), 9, G. Harding 10. Rung as a birthday greeting to Miss K. Bowen Cooke, an honorary member of the Guild, and who had come home for a well earned rest, from France.

CHARLWOOD, SURREY.—On Sunday, March 4th, 720 Woodbine: G. Wickens 1, J. Rice 2, A. Wood 3, F. W. Rice 4, B. King 5, A. Ellis (conductor) 6. 720 Oxford Treble Bob: A. Ellis 1, A. Wood 2, J. Rice 3, J. Sherlock 4, B. King 5, F. W. Rice (conductor) 6. 360 College Exercise and 240 Kent Treble Bob, conducted by A. Ellis.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.—At the Parish Church, for evening service, on Sunday, March 4th, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mr. Thos. Lord, of Sharnford: 720 Plain Bob Minor, in 30 mins.: H. Webb (Croft) 1, G. Wood 2, J. Ison 3, E. Chamberlain 4, J. Garratt (Sapcote), conductor, 5, J. Clark (Sapcote) 6. The ringers of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th are local men.

LUTON, BEDS.—On March 4th, at the Parish Church, for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples: F. Hunt 1, C. Rollings 2, B. Wilson 3, L. A. Goodenough 4, J. Rookwood 5, T. Kendall 6, A. King (conductor) 7, H. Shaw 8. Rung as a welcome to Craftsman C. R. Wing, R.F.C., one of the local ringers, who was on leave from France, but was unfortunately unable to participate in the touch.

SKIPTON-IN-CRAVEN, YORKS.—At Holy Trinity Church, on Sunday, March 4th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Hull 1, J. Horner 2, Pte J. Neesam 3, W. Billows (conductor) 4, A. Lawson (first 720) 5, W. Bailey 6, Pte M. F. R. Hibbert 7, W. D. Hillary 8. Rung on the middle six.—On March 11th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Hull 1, J. Horner 2, Pte J. Neesam 3, W. Billows (conductor) 4, A. Lawson 5, J. Robinson 6, Pte M. Hibbert 7, W. D. Hillary 8. Rung on the middle six.—On Sunday, March 18th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1288 changes), in 48 mins.: J. Horner (first quarter-peal) 1, J. Robinson 2, W. U. Birtchistle 3, Pte J. Neesam 4, W. Billows 5, A. P. Jones (conductor) 6, Pte M. Hibbert 7, W. D. Hillary 8.

CARDIFF.—Llandeff Association.—At St. John's Church, for evening service, on March 4th, 1259 Grandsire Caters, in 49 mins., conducted by W. Coombes. For evening service, on March 11th, 239 308 and 432 Grandsire Triples. The following took part in the touches: H. Day, W. Heath, S. Dave, W. Coombes, F. Chamberlain, W. Bolton, A. Rowley, and S. Barker. Conducted by William Bolton, Wm. Coombes, Fred Chamberlain.

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At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

LLANDAFF ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARY.



Mr. J. W. JONES.

The genial and enthusiastic Hon. Secretary of the Llandaff Association, Mr. J. W. Jones, and his good wife have just celebrated their silver wedding, and have been the recipients of congratulations from a large circle of friends both in and out of the Exercise, and a present of silver from the ringers of All Saints' Church, Newport.

Mr. Jones's services to ringing in South Wales have been inestimable. Not only has he worked with the greatest enthusiasm to build up the Llandaff Diocesan Association, but his timely and direct efforts have resulted in the restoration and augmentation of several rings of bells in the two counties which form the diocese. He has displayed much energy in the teaching of new bands, and it is not too much to say that South Wales possesses no keener ringer or one more universally esteemed for the good work he has done in promoting the cause of change-ringing.

When he is able to snatch an hour from the demands of the Llandaff Association, he is to be found in the neighbouring dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol, or even further afield, and, wherever he goes, he is always a welcome visitor.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones will have the good wishes of the whole Exercise for their continued health and happiness.

CARSHALTON, SURREY. — On Thursday evening, March 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): W. Buck 1, G. Heather 2, A. Boxall 3, A. Bundle 4, W. States 5, A. J. Perkins (conductor) 6, F. Holder 7, F. Boulter 8. The above were representatives of four different parishes.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS. A SUGGESTED NEW DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association took place at St. Albans, as usual, on Easter Monday, when there was a very satisfactory muster of ringers, who, during the day, visited the towers of the Cathedral, St. Stephen and St. Michael's Churches, a great variety of touches being rung. There was choral evensong in the choir of the Cathedral at 5 p.m., with an address by the Rev. C. F. Ayerst, Vicar of Watford, who spoke upon the words: "Of every man, according to his ability" (St. Matthew xxv. 15). He drew a forcible simile between the work of the ringers and the variety of duties of every-day life. He referred to ringing as a Christian work requiring to be done by Christian men; and so he rejoiced that all over the land they were beginning to find that kind of man. Let them think how much their work was always connected with the deepest things of life and with the deepest feelings of man. If that were so, they should surely carry the truest motive into their work. The preached foreshadowed the time when they would be ringing for victory and for peace.

Tea was partaken of at the Abbey Institute, and the subsequent business meeting was presided over by the Rev. H. Tyrwhitt Drake (president).

Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Bishop of St. Albans, Canon the Hon. Robert Grimston, the Vicar of St. Stephen's (the Rev. J. B. Booth), Mr. H. J. Tomlinson, Lord Robert Cecil, Canon Mills (Bennington), Pte Chatley (from France), Rifleman Bert Prewett (from the trenches), and Mr. H. G. Rowe (Cheshunt), F. Reeve, junr., G. Hinton, E. Noyce, F. Menall, and F. Waterton (Tring).

The President said in the expression of the hope when he was elected president, that by this time they would have had the joy of ringing for peace, he had been a false prophet. But God grant that before this time next year peace might have come (hear, hear). As they met on that occasion they could not help thinking of their ringing brethren who were in the trenches (hear, hear). There were countless hosts of them. In the midst of their assembly their thoughts went forth to their absent friends. The President said he desired to take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. H. E. Whitbread, one of their members, on his promotion to commissioned rank, an honour, he was quite sure, he had thoroughly deserved (applause). If he made as good and efficient an officer as he was a change ringer, happy the regiment that numbered him in their midst. The President concluded by explaining that they had been unable, at this festival, to ring on the bells of St. Peter's Church on account of serious illness of Lieut. C. Graham Boys.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. Wm. Hart, Walter Gilks, Fredk. Marsh, of Aldenham; George Southey, Kempson; Arthur Mason, Erith, Kent; and Albert Disereus, Sunbury-on-Thames.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In his annual report, the Hon. Secretary said: The hope expressed that the 1917 meeting would be held under conditions of world peace, have not been fulfilled: at the same time it must be nearer, and we can console ourselves that our Church bells have not been put into the melting pot, but are still hanging in their respective belfries waiting for that opportune moment to ring their psalm of joyful praise. Ringing during the year has been carried on intermittently, the lighting and military restrictions stopping practices and evening ringing until quite recently. In many places the full complement of men could not be found to ring the bells for each Sunday service. One thing is certain, that when the war is over there will be many faces missing from the belfries, many having died for their country, others physically defective, and consequently debarred from ringing, and others probably with altered environment. For the moment, many older ringers have returned to tide over the difficulty, and their services have been especially welcome: but this is only a temporary expedient. I am fully convinced that if ringing is to be brought back to the high standard of efficiency prevailing before the war, we must bring into our ranks youths of 15 to 17 years of age. I know that this has been done in many places, yet I would emphasise the point and call upon every band to seek for fresh help from the young life of the Church. Many Associations favour the idea of "grouping bands" in readiness for the declaration of peace, in order that every peal in the land should be rung, and are making necessary preparations. I think such a scheme could be best managed for our county by our district secretaries, who are in touch with the various belfries in their respective areas. When peace is within sight, or even before, enquiries could be made as to whether any help was needed, and arrangements could be made accordingly. So it is up to us who remain at home to use every endeavour to foster interest among our youths, and to assist other bands in ringing, if our help is needed, when God shall again bless this nation and our Allies with peace.

THE CARE OF BELLS.

One of the objects of our Association is Belfry Reform, admittedly a somewhat elastic term, and under this I would like to touch upon the important subject of the care of our bells. It is conceded that the bells of our steeples are valuable possessions, and it seems to my

mind that we are somewhat lax in seeing that proper care and attention is bestowed upon their upkeep, it being usually left to any one of the ringers, who does it with very few thanks, the service being only known to the ringers themselves. "The Ringing World" says: "To our mind the position of steeplekeeper ought to be more generally recognised by the authorities, at least to the same degree as the church caretaker. It is usual, we will admit, for the churchwardens to provide the necessary materials for the upkeep of the bells, but, more often than not, any remuneration which the steeplekeeper receives is provided out of the ringers' own fund. An efficient tower keeper, by the care which he bestows upon his work, saves the Church authorities a great deal of money in the long run. It is time that the proper recognition of the steeplekeeper as one of the custodians of the Church's possessions should be secured far more widely than it is." I fully agree with the Editor's remarks, and I have no doubt that if the ringers brought the matter before their respective clergy, steps would be taken to put things in proper order. But let the steeplekeeper, or whatever you like to call him, be a bell ringer and not a tinker.

THE ROLL CALL.

The mortality amongst ringers during the year has been somewhat heavy, and our Association has suffered accordingly. Corpl. W. S. Inwood, of Aldenham, was killed in action in France, on November 14th. He was a keen ringer, and one who believed in putting "first things first." His Christian character, and enthusiasm for ringing, were valuable assets to the Aldenham band. Mr. Alfred W. Grimes, of London (who was with us last Easter), after enduring a somewhat painful illness, died at the beginning of 1917. "The Ringing World" described him as one of those great ringers who are born, and not made. He was in the very first fight of practical exponents of the art, and no man ever did so much ringing in so short a time as he. The sympathy of all goes out to the wife, who is left with a family of six young children (the oldest nine, and the youngest, four months old).

Mr. Richard Eden Hammond, of the Cathedral Society (also present last Easter), received the Master's summons on Sept. 13th, 1916. On Sunday, Sept. 3rd, he assisted in ringing for evening service at the Cathedral, and no one present anticipated that it would be the last pull with their old friend "Dick." He had been a member of the Cathedral Society for 25 years, and acted up to the time of his death as treasurer. He was a regular attendant at this annual meeting, and was ever ready to help me in my duties during the day. Dick did his ringing from the highest of motives, and his jovial smile and humorous banter which emanated from an inborn kindness of heart, will be missed by his colleagues. Our friends at Tring have suffered loss in the death of Pte Arthur Davey, who was wounded in the Somme Advance last July, and died in King George's Hospital in London on March 10th. By special permission of the Provost Marshal the Tring company were able to ring the bells half-muffled on the day of the funeral.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARIES' WORK.

Our district secretaries have each organised quarterly meetings during the year, in spite of many difficulties. The election of Messrs. Smith and Edwards to the Western side, was a happy selection, fully justified by results, as they have jointly arranged four meetings, viz., at King's Langley, Rickmansworth, Watford and Bushey, with an average attendance of 24. Mr. W. H. Lawrence successfully arranged four meetings, one being a joint meeting of North and East, held at Hitchin. I think the idea of a joint meeting an excellent plan. Mr. Bacon was also able to arrange for two meetings in the Northern Division, with happy results. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for their valuable and indispensable work during the year under review, and this gratitude is shared by every member of the Association. So much depends upon the painstaking and enthusiastic work in the respective divisions of our district secretaries in the success of the Association. The quarterly meeting, besides being a happy meeting ground, is of greatest help to young ringers in making advance in campanology, and arousing in them a determination to become proficient in the science, and also the most useful and practical method of furthering the activities of the Association. Being so convinced that the splitting up of the county into districts or areas is of the utmost importance, I notified the members at our last committee meeting that I would bring the matter forward, with the suggestion that we should form another area, to be called the St. Albans district, which would comprise the parishes, of Halfeld, Essenden, Northaw, Barnet and Elstree, North Mimms, St. Albans, Sandridge, Whetthamstead, Harpenden, Redbourne, and Flamstead. I am convinced this partition would be specially helpful to the Western, and probably also to the Northern, the present areas being unwieldy. This would open up new towers for quarterly meetings, and secure the attendance of many ringers who at present are unable to attend our annual gathering at St. Albans. If we are to keep up our high standard of proficiency we must be more aggressive. Who will volunteer to become its first secretary?

My appeal for filling the photographic album has not met with any response during the year, but I still have hopes of better things. I would make one more suggestion, that is, that all our members on naval and military service should send me their photo for insertion in

our album. When the war is over we hope to have inscribed in our books all the names of our members who have been on active service, and I think a photo of our brave fellows would give additional interest to the book.

Mr. Prewett, our auditor, is away somewhere in France, and at his suggestion his father kindly undertook the auditing of the Association's accounts. We offer him our grateful thanks for stepping into the breach. Since the last meeting a few more contributions have come in towards the Dean Lawrence Memorial, making a total of £6, which has been paid to the treasurer of the fund. In conclusion, grateful thanks are extended to all who have furthered the interests of our Association, both financially and actively, during the past year: may it long continue. To each ringer I would say, put your very best into your ringing, learn your methods outside as well as inside the belfry, and show by regular and punctual attendance both at practice and Sunday ringing that your labours are based upon the truest ideals.

THE FINANCES.

Mr. E. P. Debenham, the hon. treasurer, was absent for reasons of health, and the President stated that he rejoiced that Mr. Debenham was to a certain extent restored to health, after a very serious illness, and expressed the hope, on behalf of the Association, that he would long live to look after their funds.

The balance sheet was presented by the Hon. Secretary, who stated that Mr. Debenham had missed only one annual meeting since 1888. The balance sheet showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £5 6s. 3d. The income for the year was £23 12s. 6d., and the balance at the end of the year was £10 0s. 4d. These figures, said the Hon. Secretary, were very satisfactory for war time. The year was largely attributable to the support which had been rendered by the various towers who had paid the subscriptions of their comrades in the Services. The reserve fund of the Association amounted to £9 12s. 8d., and they also possessed £15 worth of War Loan $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent stock.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. W. H. Lawrence proposed, and Mr. E. Whitbread seconded, the re-election of the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake, as president, and this was unanimously agreed to.

The President, in making an acknowledgment of his re-election, said he had hoped, during the past year, to visit the majority of the belfries but feeling called upon to offer himself for military service, he found it impossible. He could not do worse than he had done as president during the past year, during which he had not entered a single belfry in the county until that day. He would, however, endeavour to do better during the coming year. He endorsed what the hon. secretary had said with regard to the making up of bands to go round and ring for peace when it came. The church bells had been so very silent during the past two and a half years that anyone coming to England could hardly call it "the land of bells." He was sure a great many people had been missing the music of the bells during this sad time. He hoped that the bands to which reference had been made would remain as a permanent part of their constitution; for they were the best means of helping on their young ringers.

Mr. Henry Lewis proposed the re-election of Mr. E. P. Debenham as hon. treasurer, observing that he had rendered splendid service both to the St. Peter's Society and to the County Association for many years past. Mr. Lewis referred to the sale of a bell at an auction in St. Albans Market for the Allies' Farmers' Relief Fund, the price realised being £5 13s. This was much better than using bells for the making of cannon.

The President proposed re-election of Mr. G. W. Cartmel as hon. secretary, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Cartmel when returning thanks, stated that he liked the work, and would continue to do it so long as he had the strength, and so long as the members of the Association cared to elect him. He referred to the district secretaries as the mainstay of the Association, and also expressed his gratification at the fact that Watford had at last become affiliated to the Association, and in no half-hearted way. With such an enthusiastic ringer as the Rev. C. F. Ayerst as Vicar, he believed Watford would make a good ringing centre.

Rifeman B. Prewett was re-elected hon. auditor, and the district secretaries were also re-elected—Messrs. F. R. Bacon (Northern District), W. H. Lawrence (Eastern District), and F. Smith and F. Edwards (Western District).

VOTES OF THANKS.

The thanks of the members were accorded to the Rev. C. F. Ayerst for his address at the service, and to the Dean of St. Albans, and the Vicars of St. Michael's and St. Stephen's Churches for the use of the bells, the second of the latter vote of thanks stating that they always looked forward to the visits of the Association to St. Albans and to the pleasure of ringing upon its beautiful bells.

The votes of thanks were briefly acknowledged by the Rev. C. F. Ayerst and the Dean of St. Albans, the latter pointing out how the church bells express some of the deepest things of life, and were concerned also with its everyday happenings. He spoke with pride of the fact that in the Cathedral tower on Easter morning they had a full band to ring for service at 5.30 by the present clock, or 4.30 by the sun.

NOTICES.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on April 14th. Unveiling ceremony of tablet to the late Mr. Fred Derbyshire by Rev. H. J. Elsee, M.A., at 3.30. Meeting to follow. The bells will be available for ringing afterwards.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society, established 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Hammersmith, on Saturday, 14th April. Ringing from 3.45 to 7.45 p.m., followed by a business meeting at the Devonshire Arms, Queen St. Ringers and friends welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C. (2).

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Wednesbury on Saturday, April 14th. Bells available at 3. Service in Church at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. T. P. H. Hyatt). Tea (1/-) in the Schoolroom at 6.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby St., Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The 19th annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, W.C., on Saturday, April 14th, 1917. The service will be held at 3.15 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Parish Hall, for which a small charge of 6d. each will be made. The President will take the chair at the business meeting about 7 p.m. The following towers will be open for ringing, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 4.15 to 7, except from 6 to 6.30, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, 4.30 to 6. Members are reminded that their subscriptions are now due.—W. H. Oram, 25, Crown St., Harrow, H. C. Chandler, Church Road, Heston, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Moorside on April 21st. Bells ready at 2 o'clock; meeting at 6.30; practise Double Norwich.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 99, Hunter St., Middleton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Dunster on Saturday, April 21st, 1917. Service at the Parish Church at 4 p.m. Tea at the Mill at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Bells available all the afternoon.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, April 21st, 1917. Bells available from 5 to 9.—Thomas B. Worsley, Br. Sec., 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting will be held at Harrietsham on Saturday, April 21st. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock; a short service at 5 p.m. Tea provided in a large room near the church at 5.45. Brakes will leave from near the Cannon, High Street, Maidstone, at 3 o'clock. The Secretary will be glad to know, not later than Monday, April 16th, of any members intending to be present. All are welcome.—Stephen Hayzelden, Dist. Sec.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY of Change-ringers, will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, April 21st, 1917. The Bells of St. Peters, Ashton-under-Lyne, will be available from 4 to 6.30 p.m. Business meeting at 7 o'clock. Business urgent.—Charles Bower, Hon. Sec

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. F. W. A. Wilkinson) at Heston, on Saturday, April 21st. Bells available from 3.30. Tea by invitation at 6. Members please note that subscriptions are now due.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Heston, Hounslow.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, Saturday, April 21st. Ringing from 4 to 7. Meeting afterwards, at which important business dealing with the rules will be brought forward.—H. J. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bisley, Saturday, April 21st.—Rev. A. T. Beeston, Hon. Sec., New Mills.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on April 24th, and for handbell practice on the 19th. There will also be ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Sunday the 15th, at 6 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, April 28th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and address by the Rev. Arthur N. Pickering (Rector), at 5.30 p.m. Tea will be provided by the Rector for those only who send their names to me not later than Tuesday, 24th. Business meeting to follow. I shall be glad to receive all outstanding subscriptions.—T. Groombridge, Hon. District Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Edgbaston Old Church, Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. The Vicar and Churchwardens are kindly providing tea in the Church Room at 5.30, free for those members who advise me *not later than the 24th inst.* of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

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.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BRADFORD.—Yorkshire Association.—A quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (composed by York Green, and published in "The Ringing World" on March 16th: H. C. Buckley 1, J. Hardcastle 2, G. Titterton 3, E. Wheeler (conductor) 4, J. W. Gurdall 5, J. H. Mawson 6, F. Barker 7, J. W. Wright 8.

STOURBRIDGE.—On February 11th, at St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples (1260 changes), for evening service, in 45 mins.: J. Slater 1, C. W. Cooper 2, R. Moors 3, J. Bass 4, G. Poppell 5, A. W. Dodd 6, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 7, W. A. Pugh 8.

STAINES.—Oxford Diocesan Guild.—At St. Peter's Church, on Feb. 15th, Sir Edward Clark's 76th birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandshire Triples, in 44 mins.: A. J. Redman 1, T. S. Smith 2, G. H. Gutteridge 3, W. C. Parker 4, G. Cutts 5, E. T. Hooper (conductor) 6, W. E. Butler 7, A. G. Butler 8. Sir Edward was the donor of the church tower and bells, organ, and the site on which the building stands. It was a farewell touch to the 5th and 7th men, who joined their units the next week.

SLOUGH.—On Feb. 18th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandshire Triples, in 48 mins. (the birthday of the steepleskeeper): A. Leader 1, R. Flaxman 2, W. G. Bedford 3, T. S. Smith 4, G. P. Leader 5, W. H. Fussell 6, E. T. Hooper (conductor) 7, Fred Purdue 8.

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