

# THE RINGING WORLD

No. 320. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MAY 4th, 1917.

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

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 GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1913  
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.

### DEVON AND BELFRY REFORM.

The letters which we publish this week go to prove that the sweeping statement, made by a correspondent in the "Church Times" to which we have already referred, is, to say the least, an exaggeration, as we suggested that it must be. It is easy to make a general indictment based upon an isolated instance or two, and it is just as absurd to suggest that "bell ringing scandals are one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual progress in Devonshire villages," from a bad example which may have been discovered here or there, as to say that because some clergyman has lapsed from the path of moral rectitude, the whole energies of the Church in that man's diocese are hindered and thwarted. Mr. Marsh's letter, elsewhere in this issue, shows us something of what has been done in those parts of Devon where the influence of the Guild has reached; and if it has not penetrated into every nook and corner of the county, it has not been due entirely to want of energy or initiation on the part of the responsible officers. There are features of difficulty in organising Devonshire for change ringing purposes, which few other counties present: one of the chief being lack of means of intercommunication, and another a cast-iron prejudice against half-pull ringers. These have made the task of the Guild a formidable one.

The movement for raising the tone of the belfries throughout the land came, generally speaking, not from the outside through the clergy, but from inside through the ringers themselves; but now that a high standard has been reached almost everywhere, and incumbents have at their hand the organisation that is ready to help, there is no excuse for those responsible at these "unreformed" places if they permit a state of things to exist which they feel are "a hindrance to spiritual progress." Example, we are told, is better than precept, and if in the cases that give rise to such accusations as that made in the "Church Times," the clergy will take their place among the ringers, or at any rate show sympathy with them in their work, and let them see that they recognise the belfry as a place not apart from the church by visiting it as often as possible, anything in the nature of "scandals" would quickly disappear. As Devonshire has been singled out for attack in regard to the general conduct of its belfries, could not the Devon Guild, in justice to its members, take some action to refute such a comprehensive indictment, which casts an unjustifiable slur upon a body of loyal and devoted church workers, and to point the way by which Incumbents, whose work is being hindered by the behaviour of their ringers, might best effect that reformation which they desire to see?

# CHARLES CARR, 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 BELLINGERS 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.

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

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## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DEPTFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Friday, April 27, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 14 cwt.

HARRY WARNETT, SEHR. ... <i>Treble</i>	FREDERICK W. RICHARDSON ... 5
CHARLES H. WALKER ... 2	ERNEST B. CROWDER ... 6
PTE. WILLOUGHBY E.	WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES ... 7
MAULDEN, A.S.C. 3	GEORGE H. GOODMAN ... <i>Tenor</i>
JOSEPH LAW ... .. 4	

Conducted by ERNEST B. CROWDER.

Rung to celebrate Mr. J. Law's 75th birthday.

HIGHGATE.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Saturday, April 28, 1917, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANNE,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ERNEST BONFIELD ... .. <i>Treble</i>	EDWARD F. COLE ... .. 5
CHARLES PRYOR... .. 2	ERNEST YOUNG ... .. 6
WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... .. 3	JOSEPH E. SYKES ... .. 7
RICHARD BEVAN ... .. 4	FRANK SMITH ... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by the late H. DAINS, and

Conducted by FRANK SMITH.

Rung half-muffled (the first time the bells were available) in memory of the late Mr. Albert E. Brightman. The deceased's last peal was rung upon these bells, and the above was the same method and the same composition as upon that occasion.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tuesday, April 24, 1917, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH HOUSE, MOOR STREET,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;**

Tenor, 17 size in B flat.

THOMAS RUSSAM ... .. 1-2	JAMES E. GROVES ... .. 7-8
WILLIAM KENT ... .. 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 9-10
ALBERT WALKER ... .. 5-6	*JOHN NEAL ... .. 11-12

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES, and

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

Referee: MR. JAMES GEORGE.

\*First peal on handbells. This was Mr. Kent's second peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells, his first having been rung on April 28th, 1888. Five of the above ringers are members of the Sunday band at St. Martin's.

## BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MANY NEW LADY MEMBERS.

A quarterly meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Dunster on Saturday week, when twelve towers were represented by 26 members, the visitors including Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, and several lady members from Bridgwater. The bells were raised soon after 3 p.m., and touches of Grandsire and Stedman rung until 4 p.m., when a short service was held, the Rev. Prob. Hancock, Vicar of Dunster, officiating. After the service a move was made to the Mill, where it had been arranged to have tea and hold the meeting. In the unavoidable absence of the Master, on account of the train service, Prob. Hancock presided.

Eighteen new members, of whom twelve were ladies, were elected. It was announced that the next meeting would be the annual festival, and it was left to the committee to decide where this should be held.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Prob. Hancock for the very kind way in which he had received the members, for arranging the service, for the use of the bells, and for presiding at the meeting.—In reply, he urged on the members the necessity of preserving the many beautiful old bells which were scattered over Somerset, and which were now very valuable, and should never go into the melting pot unless absolutely necessary.

This concluded the business, and some returned to the tower, others preferring to stroll round the town and inspect some of the places of interest, of which the old Yarn Market is one of the principal.

**ROLL OF HONOUR.**

From Flore, Northants:—  
Pte W. C. Starmer, 12th Royal West Kent Regt.  
From Hinton, Wexham:—  
Spr. Joseph D. Johnson, Royal Engineers.

**KILLED IN ACTION.****BROMLEY RINGER FALLEN IN GREAT ADVANCE.**

The Bromley Youths, the society attached to the old Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, have sustained a great loss by the death of Pte Alfred James, Royal West Kent Regiment, who had been one of their members for about twelve years. His father had been a ringer at the church before him for a great many years, and he also has a son a member of the band, but who is now in France with the R.F.A.

Pte James was ordered to join H.M. Forces last October, or go to the North to work in a shipyard, but being an old volunteer, and, notwithstanding that he was in his 40th year (he was 40 on March 31st) he preferred to go in the army. He was attached to the Royal West Kent Regiment, and, after training at Tunbridge Wells, where he often rang with the St. Peter's band, who will doubtless be deeply grieved to hear of his death, he was drafted to France on December 31st, and was sent almost immediately to the firing line. All went well with him till the great advance on Easter Monday morning, when he was badly wounded in the shoulder, and, despite his comrades' efforts to staunch the flow of blood, the poor fellow bled to death. His comrades were unable to get him back to a dressing station, so they got him into a dug-out, and there he passed away. One of those who were with him was his own nephew, and another, a lad, a next-door neighbour at home.

The deceased leaves a wife and seven children to mourn their loss and the greatest sympathy is felt with them. His place at home cannot, of course, ever be filled, and his place in the belfry will be filled only with difficulty. He was a capital ringer and striker, always bright and cheerful, always ready to go anywhere or do anything. His happy, jovial face will be missed in Bromley town, in the belfry, and at the meetings of the Kent County Association, of which he had been a member for years, and the meetings of which he always made a point of attending.

He had rung 26 peals of Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major, and one of Double Norwich on the treble, to which the late Mr. A. W. Grimes rung the tenor. Now alas! both are gone from us for ever. R.I.P.

On Tuesday week, an attempt for a half-muffled peal of Stedman to the memory of the deceased came to grief, the quarter-peal part not failing to come up correctly. However, a capital quarter was afterwards rung by: P. J. Spice 1, G. Durling 2, A. E. Newick 3, G. Huxley 4, J. Emery (conductor) 5, A. Dygrave 6, T. Groombridge 7, C. Austin 8. The bells were also rung half-muffled for the services on Sunday last.

**COALBROOKDALE'S LOSS.****A SECOND MEMBER KILLED.**

Coalbrookdale has lost a second member of the belfry in the war, Lance-Corpl. William Onions, of the K.S.L.I., having been killed in action on April 8th. He had been a member of the local band for some time, and took part in the ringing for the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary. Coalbrookdale has seven other ringers serving in various parts of the world.

For morning service, at Holy Trinity Church, on Sunday, April 29th, with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect to Lance-Corpl. Onions, a touch of 1302 Grandsire Triples, composed by John Carter, was rung in 54 mins., by: William Boden 1, Walter Crawford 2, Thomas Abbott 3, Leonard Howitt 4, Richard Jones 5, William Saunders (conductor) 6, Walter Lago 7, Jack Aston 8.

**TWICE WOUNDED.**

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for evening service on Sunday, at Norton, Derbyshire, in which Pte A. Rose, H.L.I., took part. Pte Rose was leaving, after ten days' leave, and going again to France, where he has been twice wounded. He joined the army in September, 1914, and spent both his 21st and 22nd birthdays in hospital. The quarter-peal was rung by: E. Simpson 1, E. James 2, A. James 3, Pte A. Rose 4, E. Allen 5, W. Biggin (conductor) 6, G. Smith 7, T. Lee 8.

Two other members of the Norton company are also in France; Pte G. Rose, Coldstream Guards, who was in the retreat from Mons, and Sergt. H. Smith, H.L.I., while Pte H. Beardslaw, who joined in 1915, is in India. Miss Elsie Smith took her brother's place at the ropes, and is making good progress, while Miss Allen, sister of another ringer, is also master of a bell. The Norton band contains six members of military age, who are doing their bit in munitions, but the call for other duty may come soon. There are four old ringers in the village, who left the tower through a split some years ago, and who could fill further gaps if they would.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.****GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT MEETING.**

A meeting of the Gainsborough District of the Northern Branch was held at Corringham, on Saturday last, and proved most successful, a good number of members being present from Gainsborough, Kirtou Lindsey, Scotter, Willingham, Bigby, and Worksop, in addition to some of the local company. The bells were available during the afternoon and evening, and were utilised in practising Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob. At five o'clock, in response to an invitation from the Rev. R. Thornton (Vicar) and Mrs. Thornton, the members adjourned to the Schoolroom, where tea awaited them, and was very much appreciated by all.

The business meeting followed, and was presided over by the Vicar, who gave a most hearty welcome to the Guild, of which, later on, he was duly elected a honorary member.—Two new performing members (Messrs. Fred Smith and William Naylor), both of Scotter, were also elected.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and also to him and Mrs. Thornton for their very kind hospitality, as well as to the ladies who had so kindly waited at the tables.—These were proposed and seconded by Messrs. J. C. Tinker, Gainsborough, and H. Haigh, Worksop, respectively, carried unanimously, and duly responded to by the Rev. R. Thornton.

This concluded the business, after which the members returned to the tower, where further ringing was indulged in until about 7.30, when the bells were lowered, thus bringing to a close another successful and enjoyable meeting, which will for many days to come be looked upon with pleasant recollections by those who were present.

**BOTTESFORD (LEICESTER) RINGER'S DEATH.****KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Samuel Baker, captain of the Bottesford Church company, which took place under very sad circumstances on the morning of Tuesday, April 24th. He was a foreman platelayer on the G.N.R., and on the morning in question had started out to inspect his length of line, when, in avoiding one train, he stepped in front of another, the near approach of which he had not noticed, and was instantly cut to pieces. He will be sadly missed by a large circle of friends, and Bottesford belfry for many a long day will not seem the same without his genial and kindly presence.

Although Mr. Baker was not a great peal ringer, having taken part in some seven or eight peals of Triples and Minor, yet he was a good and safe ringer, and, above all, was most regular in his attendance at service and practice ringing, rarely being absent on either occasion. He was of a warm-hearted and unselfish disposition, always ready to extend a hearty welcome to visitors, and to do his utmost in helping on young beginners. He leaves behind him a widow and three married daughters, with whom the utmost sympathy is felt in their most sudden and unexpected bereavement.

The funeral took place on the following Thursday, and was attended by a large number of parishioners and friends, who assembled to pay their last token of respect to one so highly esteemed and respected. At the conclusion of the ceremony the bells were rung, muffled, by members of the Framland Society of Ringers, of which society the deceased had been for many years a member.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.****FIFTEEN YEARS' WORK RECOGNISED.**

A very successful meeting of the Bolton Branch was held at Walkden on Saturday week, over 30 members attending from Deane, Bolton Parish, and St. George's, Leigh, Tyldesley, Pandleton, Chorley, and members of the local company. Mr. W. Pasmore (of London), R.F.C., who is stationed at Bolton, was a visitor. There were good touches of Grandsire Stedman, Bob Major, Double Norwich, and Kent Treble Bob Major rung during the day. The business meeting, with the president (the Rev. H. J. Elsau) in the chair, brought two new members.

A pleasing incident then took place, Mr. Elsau presenting to the late branch secretary (Mr. G. Pincott), a walking stick and a pipe, subscribed for by the ringers in the branch.—The President spoke of the good work, and the long service (15 years) which Mr. Pincott had given to the Bolton Branch, and which had only been terminated by pressing business claims.—Mr. Pincott suitably acknowledged the gift.

The next meeting will be held at Horwich, on May 19th.

**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.****To the Editor.**

Sir,—Sunday, 6th May, will be the anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne of this realm. Ringers will then have a great opportunity of giving expression to the loyal sentiments of the nation, and a brief reminder in your columns may be of service in stimulating all brethren of the Exercise to rise to the occasion.—Yours truly,

F. L. EDWARDS.

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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.*

## BELFRY CONDITIONS IN DEVON. A RINGER'S REPLY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to reply to your leading article, re Belfry conditions in Devon? As I am assistant secretary to the Devon Guild for the Archdeaconry of Totnes, also a member of that Guild since its inception, and leader of Charles' Church ringers, Plymouth, it will at once be seen that your article hit me pretty badly. First, let me dispose of Sir Robert Harvey's offer. I was present at the induction service of our Vicar of Charles (the Rev. J. P. Baker) by the then Archdeacon of Totnes (the Rev. C. Wilkinson), at which he most emphatically stated, and took infinite pains to instil it into the minds of the congregation, that the Vicar, legally, had exclusive authority over the bells. If this be true, Sir Robert Harvey is out of court, as the Vicar of Harberton cannot give away his successor's rights. In the local papers it is stated the Vicar has stopped the bells, as he will not allow ringers to ring them and not stay to service. This is a mistake on his part. Does the churchwarden never stay away, the Sunday School teacher, the choirman, etc.? They, by so doing, do not stop the work, but if a ringer stays away, more often than not, he does. Service time is like train time, it must go on, and all honour to the man who aims to give the church the best he can. If the minister were to go among his ringers with an encouraging word and sympathetic enquiries, he would not have the least difficulty in getting his ringers to attend service once on Sunday, which works much better than a hard and fast line. At the same time, ringers would do well to remember a little advice, given to me by Mr. Russell, of Slough. When ringers leave the church, after ringing, they should not stand at the church gate, light their pipes, spit about, and engage in loud conversation, but go right away, otherwise it gives them a bad name.

Now for the "Church Times" accusation. I have been engaged in propaganda work for over 40 years, have rung 50 peals for the Devon Guild, have taken bands in all the villages around Harberton, also in Totnes town, and practically all over Devon, leaving ringing literature behind, and heaps of pressing invites, and yet in all this time, I can honestly say, I have never come across one case of swearing or bad language, smoking, or drinking in the belfry. Mine is not an isolated experience. In our band here we have a Reclabite, a keen ringer of long standing, who vowed to me yesterday he had never seen or heard such thing. It may well be asked, What is the Devon Guild doing? My reply is "A noble work." In the 40 odd years I have just quoted, that noble work has been going on. Col. Tvoyle, William Banister, Rev. Maitland Kelly, and a host of others, sowed the seed which has produced several bands in Exeter, also at Exmouth, at Tiverton, and Plymouth, who can ring the standard methods, and have proved themselves good members of the Church of England. Take, for instance, the case of Ferris Shepherd (now of Hershaw). He, single handed, converted several of the stoutest opponents of half-pull ringing to good ringers in the standard methods, which they are now ringing to-day in their extreme old age. Devon and Cornwall have always been strongholds of raising and falling in peal and round ringing, just as Yorkshire, we will say, has been with "tenor in," which makes our task very difficult. Has the reader ever heard it well done? I have, and shall never forget it; so has the Rev. Maitland Kelly, who, if possible, is keener on it than I am. Here is the gist of the whole matter. The minister has exclusive authority over the bells, he should show no lethargy, and should not leave it to Bumblebum, but rout out belfry and bells, put himself in connection with Diocesan Guild who will give him advice and help. When once started, above all things, show a sympathetic and encouraging spirit to the ringers, and be often among them.—Yours faithfully,

8, Channel View Terrace, Plymouth.

WALTER HY. MARSH.

P.S.—May I say that while the boys are away, I myself chime every Sunday morn, sing in the choir at two services, and ring at 5.45 for evening service, when I can get a band. Will the Tommies in training, and others, come along and help?

## LADY RINGER'S TRIBUTE.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the article re "Bell Ringing Scandals in Devonshire Belfries," which appeared in "The Church Times" for April 13th, and to which you referred in the "Ringing World" of April 20th, I should like to say that I have rung in 75 different towers and in only one—and there the company were members of the Guild of Devonshire ringers—was there a prayer said before commencing to ring for the Sunday services. I simply mention this in justice to the kind brother ringers I met in Devonshire. Many more belfries might imitate them in regarding ringing as an offering to God, and as part of the service of His House.—Yours truly,

(Mrs.) MAUD M. GATEHOUSE

The Vicarage, Hendeorn.

STRATFORD—On Easter Day, at St. Mary's Church, Bow, Stratford, for evening service, 1312 Kent Trouble Bob Major, in 48 mins.: A. Scrambley 1. T. Cranfield 2. R. J. Turner 3. Y. Green (conductor) 4. E. Hall 5. J. Scholes 6. R. Sanders 7. H. Torble 8.

### LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARY. POLICEMAN, RINGER AND CHURCHWARDEN.

The honour which has come to Mr. Thomas Walker, hon. secretary of the London County Association, in his unanimous election as churchwarden of St. Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, with which he has for many years been connected, is a source of congratulation. He was appointed at the Vestry meeting, on Easter Monday, and we feel sure that when his year of office expires St. Botolph's will find that it made a happy choice.

Ringling owes a good deal to such men as Mr. Walker, who bring perseverance and energy to bear in all that they do, and unostentatiously make success certain. Mr. Walker has already rendered good service to St. Botolph's by organising the ringing arrangements there, and the London County Association has never had a more painstaking and efficient secretary.

Born 28th April, 1873, at Marlesford, Suffolk, Mr. Walker removed to Hadleigh at the age of 13, and there it was that he learned to handle a bell. At the age of 17 he took up a position in the well-known firm of Spencer Turner and Bolders, Lisson Grove, N.W., but



MR. THOMAS WALKER.

grew tired of the drapery business, and joined the City of London Police in September, 1894, and for many years was attached to the chief office, in Old Jewry.

He did not take up change ringing seriously until 1899, and since then has rung about 25 peals, consisting of Stedman Triples and Caters, Treble Bob Major and Royal, Plain Bob Major, and the treble to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. He rang the tenor to the 7,777 Stedman Caters, at Beddington, Surrey, on Easter Monday, 1914, conducted by F. E. Dawe.

He became hon. secretary of the London County Association, in April, 1916, and by his energy has kept the organisation going most successful during this very difficult period. He is also a member of the College Youths.

A keen supporter of Sunday ringing, he has, while custodian of the bells at St. Botolph's, done much to secure the regular ringing of this peal for Sunday services. He was formerly a sidesman at the church, and his election to the office of churchwarden at the Easter Vestry this year, after many years' residence in the parish, was a unanimous one.

### DARTFORD'S NEW PEAL.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have in hand the recasting of the peal of eight at Dartford, tenor 18½ cwt. The bells are to be rehung in the present frame, with entirely new fittings, and it is hoped to have them finished in about two months' time.

### THE LATE SIR A. HEYWOOD'S RINGING BOOKS. GIFTS TO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD AND COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At a meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on April 24th, Mr. J. Bruce Williamson informed the members present that according to the will of the late Sir Arthur Heywood, Bart., the Cambridge University Guild had received the whole of that gentleman's valuable collection of books on ringing. When they were being looked through, the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey came across a manuscript book, which had been the property of the late Mr. H. W. Haley, on the inside cover of which Sir Arthur had written a request that this book should be handed to the College Youths.

Acting on this request, the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey wrote to the Master, Mr. A. A. Hughes, presenting the book, which was handed over at this meeting by Mr. Bruce Williamson, and received with the society's most grateful thanks as a very valuable addition to its collection of ringing matter.

The book appears to be a record of peals rung by Mr. Haley, and a collection of peals composed by that famous author.

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT FINCHLEY.

A very pleasant and successful meeting of the North and East District was held at Finchley on Saturday last, 32 members and friends being present. Many short fouches were rung, the methods practised including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Major. Tea was served at the Church Hall adjoining, and in the service which followed all were heartily able to join. Of the three hymns sung, one was the composition of the Rector. In a very helpful address the Rev. W. St. Hill Bourne (Rector) said how pleased he was to see the Association meeting at Finchley once again. He went on to point out that the sound of the bells was for the summoning of people to the service of God, and warned those who did this work that it was a high calling, and one in which those who call should also attend. He was glad to think that things were much improved nowadays, but still isolated cases were heard of, and it was for all to work to remove noticeable instances of that sort.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. A. T. King, I.S.O. (President of the Association), who was supported by Mr. J. A. Milne (vice-president).—Five new members were elected, and St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, was suggested as the place for the next meeting, in June, it being left with the hon. secretary to make necessary arrangements.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the President to the Rev. W. St. Hill Bourne for the kind welcome extended to the Association, for the use of the bells, the service, and helpful address given.—This was seconded by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. Oram), who stated that the additional cost of the tea was being paid by the Rector. To the vote was also added the name of Mr. W. E. Farr and the Finchley band, and the organist, who had all given such splendid help to make the meeting such a success.

The business over, the tower was again visited until 9 p.m., and the handbells were also brought into use.

### ILLUSTRATED LECTURES ON BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir.—Your leader on "Educating the Public," in your issue of 14th April last, has a good ring to it, for it brings before ringers as a body the good that may be done by means of lectures in educating the public to appreciate good bell ringing. Now I am fully convinced that scattered up and down the country there are many practical ringers quite able to give a most interesting lecture on bells, bell ringing and bell ringers. Doubtless this is already done much more frequently than many are aware of. But how much more interesting such lectures would be to a non-ringing audience if they could be suitably illustrated. Lantern slides of interesting bells—ancient, modern and historical—different classes of inscriptions and lettering; the various ways bells are hung; and views of famous bell towers would certainly add much to the subject matter given.

Then again it is well nigh impossible to get a party of change ringers in many a country district who are able to illustrate the fascination of well-struck changes on handbells. That being the case, why not have a number of gramophone records, each reproducing a short, complete touch on various numbers of bells, and in various methods?

Now it could not be expected that an amateur lecturer should go to the expense of procuring such a set (or sets) of slides as I have indicated, or even the records. But for the sake of ringing in general it ought to be done, and in what more practical way could the Central Council devote some of its energies and time? They ought to be able to secure such slides and records, and by letting them out on hire at the usual rates, partly, if not wholly, recover the initial expense, while at the same time they would be conferring a boon to many. Of course there may be already in existence slides or records such as I have referred to—but can one have them on hire, and if so, who are the fortunate owners?—Yours truly,

Bradpole.

T. HERVEY BEAMS.

**WILTSHIRE RINGERS' EXCURSION.**

On Saturday, April 14th, a company of bell ringers from Swindon, Wanborough and Wootton Bassett visited Purton, Wilts, and, with the kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. R. B. Harrison), had the privilege of testing the fine ring of five bells at the Parish Church. They were met at the tower by Capt. A. P. Richardson and the local ringers, who were greatly interested in the proceedings. After the visitors had raised the bells and rung the "twenty-fours," several six-scores of Grandsire and Bob Doubles were successfully accomplished, everyone who took part expressing admiration for the beautiful tone of the bells. After the bells had been lowered the party went over to Lydiard Millicent, and, permission being readily granted by the Rev. D. P. Harrison, the church bells were soon raised and set going in the same methods that were rung at Purton. Lydiard Tregeze Church was the next place visited. The bells here go rather heavily, but after a little preliminary attention the visitors had the pleasure of satisfactorily repeating their ringing programme. Afterwards, accompanied by Viscountess Bolingbroke, they inspected the beautiful old church, where they greatly admired the handsome monuments of the Bolingbroke family, the famous east window, filled with painted glass by Van Eyck, of the time of Charles II., representing St. John the Baptist and the Evangelists and a genealogical tree of the Bolingbroke and St. John family, together with a view of the splendidly illuminated pedigree of the same family from the Conquest. A further tour of inspection through the old mansion and a view of the ancient paintings, the famous white Carvara marble fire-place (which was critically examined) and other objects of historic interest were also greatly appreciated. Before departing Viscountess Bolingbroke very kindly provided the visitors with refreshments, which were gratefully acknowledged, and everyone agreed that a most pleasant day had been spent.

H.

**WELL-KNOWN OLDHAM RINGER DEAD.**

It is with deep regret that the St. Mary's Church company, Oldham, have to announce the death of an old and esteemed member, in the person of Mr. James Priestley, who passed away at the age of 65 years, the sad event occurring at Oldham on April 6th, after a protracted illness.

The deceased was one of the oldest ringers in the district, and was a member of the Lancashire Association. Always steady and reliable, he was ever ready to help and encourage any young ringer with untiring devotion, and was never more happy than when instructing beginners. He had rung over 100 peals in various methods, but unfortunately no correct record seems to have been kept. He rang his first peal as far back as Whit-Sunday, 1872, at Leesfield Church, and he was a member of the Oldham Church company for 20 years.

The interment took place at Lees Cemetery, on April 11th, when the handbells were rung at the graveside by the following old friends: S. Stott, E. B. Shaw, C. Marsland and J. Schofield. The bells of Oldham Church were rung, muffled, in the evening, and on the following Sunday.

**WINCHESTER GUILD.**

A very successful meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester Guild was held at St. Thomas', Portsmouth, on Saturday, when, by kind permission of the Vicar, the bells were placed at the members' disposal. During the afternoon ringers attended from Southampton, North Stoneham, Bishop's Waltham, Swanmore, Fareham, Gosport, Newport, Wickham, Curdridge, Brighton, Portsea, and the local band, while the Forces were represented by members from the Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Barracks, Royal Marines, and Oxford and Bucks Regiment. Many touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich Major, were rung, and the ringers, who had not heard the grand peal before, expressed much pleasure at the "go" and beauty of the tone of the bells. In the evening the ringers adjourned to Madden's Temperance Hotel, where ample justice was done to a knife and fork tea.

**FIGURES FROM A DUG-OUT.**

The following compositions have come to hand from a dug-out in France. The author is Q.-M.-S. W. A. Cuvo, of Bristol, and the first has been composed in the hope that opportunity may occur to utilise it as a fitting "peace" touch.

1917 Stedman Caters.		1260 Stedman Triples.			
231456	5 16	231456	S	H	L Q
315462 *		345281		x	x
314265	2	125346		x	x
412365	2	215364		x	
215364	3	132654	x	x	x
514362	3	312645		x	
415263	1				
413265	1 S				
312465	2				
214365	2				

Round at hand by 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13s.

\* 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18.

**NOTICES.**

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on May 17th and 31st, for handbell practice, and on the 8th and 22nd for general business; all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Sunday the 13th, at 6 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

**SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in the Parish Room at 6 o'clock.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

**BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Mark on Saturday, May 5th. Service, 5 o'clock; tea and meeting to follow. Bells (6), afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—A meeting of the above will be held at Wye on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. The usual evensong will be held in the church at 7 o'clock, at which all members will be welcomed. The usual travelling allowance will be paid to all members attending, providing their subscription for 1917 has been paid. Owing to a difficulty in catering members will make their own arrangements for tea on arrival.—C. Tribe, Hon. Dist. Sec., British School Villas, Tenterden.

**BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available, 3.30. Divine service, 5 o'clock. Tea in the Church Hall at 5.30. Business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Llanfrechfa, Mon. (Pontheir Station), on Saturday, May 5th, at 4 o'clock. Bells (6) available. Tea provided.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., J. W. Jones, Hon. Secs., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rossendale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Thomas', Helmsshore, on Saturday, May 5th. Bells ready at 2.30 till dusk. Meeting at 7. Subscriptions are due. Annual reports to hand. A good attendance is requested.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary, 31, St. Paul's St., Ramsbottom.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available at 5. Meeting at 7. W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION** (late St. James' Society, Estd. 1824).—A meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Wells St., Oxford St., W., on Saturday, May 12th. Bells available at 4 p.m. Business meeting to follow at headquarters, the "Edinburgh," Milford Lane, Strand, at 8 p.m. All ringers welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Bitton on Saturday, 12th May. Bells (6) available from 5 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Ringing after. Kindly notify Chas. J. Walton, 4, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—It has been decided by the Committee that in view of present difficulties the Annual Meeting be postponed indefinitely, but that the Master and Secretary be empowered to convene such a meeting at their discretion: all officers to retain their posts until such meeting be held.—F. Ll. Edwards, Secretary.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—THE WILLIAM SNOWDON MEMORIAL.**—Subscribers and those interested are asked to note that the Committee have decided to postpone the opening ceremony of the above until after the war.—H. Williams, Hon. Gen. Sec., *pro tem.*

**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.**

**RINGERS** and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

**SOLDIERS INVITED.**

Any ringer stationed at Park Royal Camp, London, N., will be heartily welcomed at St. Mary's Parish Church, Acton, which is the nearest peal to the camp. Wednesday, practices 7 to 8; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.**

**CALVERTON.** — At All Saints' Church, for evening service, on Easter Day, 720 Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins.: J. Tompkins, junr. 1, W. G. Edwards (conductor) 2, J. Taylor 3, H. Tompkins 4, R. Underwood 5, R. Tompkins 6.

**DALTON-IN-FURNESS.**—At the Parish Church, on Easter Day, for morning service, 560 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Stuart 1, J. Huddleston 2, T. Stuart 3, T. Watson 4, W. H. Dennison 5, T. R. Jackson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. For evening service, 600 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Stuart 1, Miss A. Lindsay 2, Miss A. Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, T. Stuart 5, T. R. Jackson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, F. Burrows (conductor) 8.

**GARGRAVE.**—Yorkshire Association.—At St. Andrew's Church, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major, for Easter morning service: C. Langstroth 1, W. H. Birtwhistle 2, W. Bradley 3, H. Birtwhistle 4, J. Langstroth 5, G. Wane 6, J. Wane 7, A. R. Jones (conductor) 8. Also 1260 Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins., for evening service, by the following: C. Langstroth 1, W. H. Birtwhistle 2, J. H. Loffhouse 3, W. Bradley 4, J. Langstroth 5, G. Wane 6, A. R. Jones (conductor) 7, H. Birtwhistle 8.

**BRAINTREE.**—Essex Association.—On Easter Day, for evensong, at the Parish Church, 800 Bob Major: F. J. Fuller 1, H. J. Collins 2, W. H. Hammond 3, H. E. Hammond 4, W. Lindridge 5, C. H. Howard (conductor) 6, H. Coote 7, E. F. Slade 8.

**OLDSWINFORD.**—On Easter Day, at St. Mary's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): C. W. Cooper 1, R. Moors 2, J. G. Orford 3, A. W. Dodd 4, J. Smith 5, T. Heathcock 6, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 7, T. Whitehouse 8.

**BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTER.**—On Easter Day, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): H. E. Gillett 1, W. Stratford 2, H. Gillett 3, T. Banning 4, J. Collett 5, F. Pitts 6, W. Large (conductor) 7, J. Buttler 8.

**SHARNBROOK, BEDS.** — On Easter Monday, 720 Bob Minor: A. Robinson 1, W. A. Norman 2, H. Gayton (conductor) 3, W. Stock 4, G. Bell 5, E. P. Duffield 6. Also 720 Oxford Bob and 180 Canterbury Pleasure: C. Allen 1, W. A. Norman 2, H. Gayton 3, W. Stock 4, H. Robinson 5, E. P. Duffield (conductor) 6. The above touches were rung with the bells deeply muffled, in memory of Pte Harry W. Barcock, a chorister, and eldest son of Mr. A. J. Barcock, a sidesman and ringer at St. Peter's Church. Deceased, who was only 18 years of age, and died of spotted fever, was buried at Dover on the above date. He had not completed quite one month's service in the army, and much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Barcock in their sad loss.

**READING, BERKS.**—At St. Giles' Church, on March 30th, 504 Grandsire Triples: G. Cook 1, G. Boddington 2, N. Cox 3, Miss E. Goodship 4, W. Hibbert 5, A. Wiggins 6, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 7, Corp'l. W. Heal, D.C.L.I., 8. For evensong, on April 1st, 504 in the same method, with Second Air-Mechanic F. Gilbert ringing 3rd. For evensong, on Easter Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 50 mins.: G. Cook 1, G. Boddington 2, Corp'l. E. Haynes 3, N. Cox 4, Miss E. Goodship 5, H. Neighbour 6, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 7, L. Leach 8.

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Printed for the Proprietors by the WOODBRIDGE PRESS, LTD.,  
Guildford, and Published by Messrs. Wm. Dawson & Sons  
LTD., Cannon House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.