

No. 351. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1917.

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

Price 2d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

## BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

### A LIBEL ON RINGERS.



Although belfry reform has advanced so far in these days that the old disreputable practices have long since disappeared, there still remains among some sections of the public the idea that the conduct associated with ringers in the distant past, and which the ringing organisations throughout the country have been so successful in removing, continues to prevail. A striking instance of this occurred in an influential daily paper only last week. In an advertisement for somebody's brand of beer was depicted a scene in a belfry, under the heading of "The Bells of Victory." The sketch showed three or four men hanging on to ropes and in the centre another individual with a basket full of bottles, the contents of one of which he had poured into a glass and handed to the nearest ringer.

Such a caricature is not only misleading, it is an insult to the large body of ringers throughout the country and indirectly to the Church itself. There is no more truth in the suggestion contained in the picture that drinking goes on in the belfry than that the brewers control the bishops. It is a libel on the Exercise, which ringers will resent, and one which would never have been committed had the artist (?) made the most cursory inquiries. The least that could be done by the firm who sought to increase the sale of their products by this scurrilous sketch is, as a correspondent points out, to destroy the block and refrain from the publication of any such unfortunate class of advertisement again.

This instance of the crass ignorance which prevails in some directions as to matters relating to the belfry, only goes to prove that there is still great necessity for educating the public. Ringers have progressed, but the public information has by no means kept pace with this advance. This may be due to the fact that ringers are very exclusive in their affairs, and the public have little opportunity of gaining knowledge, and to that extent it is the fault of the Exercise. It has always been our view that much more might be done to enlighten the public as to ringing matters. It is not necessary, even if it were possible, to endeavour to get them to understand more widely the technical side of the matter, but they might with advantage be initiated more fully into the practices and customs of the belfry. At present the vast majority are astonishingly ignorant, and much might certainly be done if ringers themselves were a less exclusive circle than they are. Lectures and papers on the various sides of bells and bell ringing, given before church and other societies, are an excellent way of extending to the outside public the knowledge we would have them acquire, and in numerous places this has been done with excellent results.

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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MISSIE GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918.  
Boutlemen.

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 gives 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.

# 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 quite wish me in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. KEMMONS,  
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**

## BELLS

**FOR CHURCHES,  
SINGLY,  
OR IN PEALS.**

**CHIMES FOR CLOCKS**

PEALS AUGMENTED,  
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

## FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,  
STEEL OR IRON.

**Chiming Machines**

Best Workmanship and  
Satisfaction Guaranteed

## FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON  
BRACKETS.**

WALLABLE IRON BRACKETS  
BEST BELL ROPES.  
REPAIRS AND REHANGING  
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect  
and report on Bells and Towers.

**SEND FOR CATALOGUE**

ESTABLISHED 1780.

# JOHN NICOLL,

**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope  
Manufacturer.**

**60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.**

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway.

Late 155, Keeton's Road, Hermondsey.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BIDDENDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 24, 1917, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

PARKER'S SIX-PART. Tenor 25 cwt.

WILLIAM H. LAMBERT ... Treble	CHARLES TRIEBE ... .. 5
ROBERT EDWARDS ... .. 2	PHILIP HODGKIN ... .. 6
JAMES ARTHURS ... .. 3	CHARLES W. PLAYER ... 7
WALTER H. PERRY ... .. 4	GEORGE JOHNSON ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. PLAYER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of Pte. George Honess, R.G.A., one of the local ringers, who was killed in action in France. Messrs. James Arthurs and Walter H. Perry were elected members of the Association before starting. Both were formerly members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild.

CRANLEIGH, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(GUILDFORD DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 1, 1917, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

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

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt.

PERCY H. DOICK ... .. Treble	ALWYN CHARMAN ... .. 5
MRS. R. WHITTINGTON ... 2	ARTHUR J. BARTLEY ... 6
CHARLES HAZELDEN ... .. 3	WILLIAM CHARMAN ... 7
ROBERT WHITTINGTON ... 4	THOMAS WORSFOLD ... Tenor

Conducted by W. CHARMAN.

Rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittington. P. H. Doick hails from Pulborough, C. Hazelden from Guildford, and A. J. Bartley from Chiddingfold.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

SCARBOROUGH, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 26, 1917, in One Hour and Forty-two Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF J. R. BARTON, 71, CALEDONIA STREET.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;**

Being seven 720's, each called differently.

JOHN R. BARTON ... .. 1-2	PTE. GEORGE NAYLOR ... 3-4
HARRY GIBSON ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by J. R. BARTON.

Witness: MRS. M. E. BARTON.

First peal in the method by the ringer of 3-4, who is stationed at Scarborough, and hails from Lightcliffe, near Halifax. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. William Rock Small, of Tipton, Birmingham.

## THE PEAL AT SHIFNAL.

The peal of Bob Major, at Shifnal, Salop, rung on November 3rd, was a composition by Mr. John Bradney, which was got out by the aid of Mr. John Carter's formula, or sliding scale, and is the first and only peal composed by this means by anyone except the inventor himself.

The footnote to the peal also mentioned that it was the first peal of Bob Major on the bells since May 6th, 1809. The record of this early peal is contained in the St. Laurence's peal book in the following terms:—

5040 of Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 12 mins., and was completed with scarcely a bad blow:—

Richard Cross ..... Treble	Thomas Parker ..... 5
James Davey ..... 2	Charles Biggs ..... 6
John Hartshorn ..... 3	Richard Wilding ..... 7
William Bull ..... 4	Samuel Lawrence ..... Tenor

The above peal was called by S. Lawrence, and completed at the first attempt, and is termed in the ringing world Cropping a Peal, a party having made attempts two or three times a fortnight for several months previous thereto.

The above paragraph relating to the composition of the peal on Nov. 3rd was omitted from the footnote, and in writing to call attention to its absence, Mr. Bradney says, "give credit to whom credit is due," and points out that the composition, although rung now for the first time, was composed in 1806.

**A BIRMINGHAM PARTY.****MR. GEORGE'S 64TH BIRTHDAY.**

"And the best of all ways  
To lengthen our days,  
Is to steal a few hours from the night."—Moore.

A very enjoyable evening was spent on Wednesday of last week when Mr. James George invited a few of his friends to take tea with him, the occasion being his 64th birthday. At 5.30, a goodly company had assembled in the Schoolroom attached to Bishop Ryder's Church, and for the first time in the writer's experience of ringer's gatherings, the fair sex outnumbered the mere males. We are getting on! The Vicar of Bishop Ryder's (the Rev. G. E. Badger) presided at the tea, and amongst those present were Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild; Rev. R. A. Ellis (curate), Mr. W. N. Currod, whom everyone was delighted to see again after his long illness; Pte. J. Frank Smallwood, on leave from the front, and the wife of him; Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Woodcock, and the following "lady strings":—Mrs. Ethel Reading, Miss Flora Bowen, Miss Gerlie Fello, Miss May Gaffey, Miss Cissie Griffiths, and Miss Iris Edwards. Also Mr. W. Gee, Miss Jones, Mr. A. Paddon Smith; and last, but by no means least, HIMSELF. Later the company was reinforced by Messrs. T. J. Bratton, W. Kent, J. B. Collett, and Morris J. Morris.

The ladies had done the catering, Himself only being responsible for the paying, and they had done it remarkably well. Here was no Sunday School style of tea, but two kinds of bread and butter—yes, butter!—sandwiches galore, good solid pork pies, and various cakes. For a while conversation lagged, while the rattle of knives and forks proceeded apace.

After tea, the Rev. G. E. Badger congratulated Mr. George on having attained his 64th birthday, while retaining much, if not all, of his youthful vigour. They of Bishop Ryder's ought also to congratulate themselves on having such an enthusiastic and capable Ringing Master, who, in the comparatively short time he had been with them had done so wonderfully well in their belfry. He was now busily engaged, two or three evenings a week instructing a band of ladies, and he had confidence in Mr. George's ability to turn them into proficient ringers. He then presented Mr. George with a birthday gift from the ladies, which took the very useful form of a pair of slippers.

Some irreverent person here suggested that perhaps the idea was to induce him to stay at home a bit, but the ladies indignantly repudiated the suggestion.

Alderman Pritchett also added his congratulations on behalf of the visitors, and read out some of the letters, etc., "He" had received on the auspicious occasion. Two birthday cards bore some very charming verses, and had evidently been carefully selected. They were signed respectively "Ethel" and "May." Yes, we are certainly getting on.

Mr. George thanked everybody for their congratulations, the ladies for the present, and said how much he appreciated the presence of all of them that evening. He had no doubt at all about making good ringers of his pupils, and if they stuck by him, he would stick by them, even if they had to ring "stone" for twelve months for Sunday services.

Then followed half an hour's ringing on the tower bells, when touches of Grandsire and Stedman were called by Messrs. George and Smallwood, and "call changes" were rung by six of the gentler sex, assisted by two mere men. We hope an alderman does not object to being called a mere man! This reminds us that at this stage someone—no, we will not divulge who—was overheard to remark that she would like to hug someone else, he was "such a dear old thing."

Back to the schoolroom, where one girl was quickly at the piano, and in the twinkling of an eye others were "tripping the glad toe" up and down to the popular airs of the day.

Ah! Billy! We had almost forgotten little Billy, the pet, and at the same time apparently the terror of the tower. He is a likely boy of about thirteen who is also learning the art, and who has already learned artfulness. Alderman Pritchett was announcing that Mr. George had a present for the ladies, which was now in his—the alderman's—pocket, and they were invited to guess what it was. Some guessed a lump of sugar, others a quarter of butter, this latter rather a "hazardable" guess seeing that whatever it was was in the back pocket of the alderman's tail coat. However, while this was going on, Billy got surreptitiously to the rear, had a peep in the pocket, and suddenly piped up, "It's a box of —." He had no time to get further, and it was only because of his marvellous agility that he missed the full weight of the alderman's boot. Of course it was chocolates.

The handbells were pressed into service, touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Caters being rung by Messrs. Bratton, George, Kent, Morris, Pritchett and Smith, the calling being shared by Messrs. Kent and George.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely, and it is to be hoped that "He" will not have to keep us waiting twelve months before he can find another excuse to ask us all to tea again.

"Our pleasures much grace, fair ladies."—Simon of Athens, l. 2.

A. P. S.

**LADIES' UNITED PRACTICE.**

It had been arranged that a joint meeting with the lady ringers of Smethwick, Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham, and Erdington, should be held at the Parish Church of St. Barnabas, Erdington, for combined practice on Saturday last. Unfortunately, through the serious illness of Miss Pigott, the Smethwick band were prevented from being present. Several of the Bishop Ryder's ringers, including the Ringing Master, turned up at 3.30 p.m., and were met at the church by Mr. J. Preston, a member of the Erdington ringers, including Miss Salter, and the bells were soon set going.

An adjournment was made at 5.30 p.m. for tea, and at 6 p.m. the remaining ladies from Bishop Ryder's came on the scene in full force. At 6.30 p.m. ringing was again indulged, and continued until 8 p.m., and all felt satisfied that the meeting had been a success. Whilst the ringing was in progress, Pte. J. F. Smallwood and J. H. White, of Coventry, put in an appearance. Everyone wishes to thank Mr. J. Preston for making arrangements for the tower, and also for joining with Mr. Mears and others in the ringing.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT WEST BALING.**

The meeting at St. Stephen's, on Saturday last, was attended by members from Acton, Brockley, Camberwell, Chalfont St. Peter, Erith, Fulmer, Harrow, Hershaw, Hillingdon, Isleworth, Stoke Poges, Ventnor, Willesden, and some of the local band. A variety of touches was rung in the methods up to Double Norwich Major. In the absence of the Vicar, an excellent address was given at the service by the Rev. J. Nankiville, and the "Ringers' Hymn," the National Anthem, and other music was sung, accompanied, on the powerful organ, by one of the local ringers, assisted by Miss G. Feltham from Hillingdon, one of the nine lady ringers present.

A very enjoyable tea was served by Host Bance in the coffee room of the "Bell" Hotel, and the generous supply of everything on the tables was equalled by the large and homely fire in the grate.

A short meeting was then held, but no minutes of the last meeting were read, for neither the district hon. secretary nor the assistant secretary was able to be present, but the members had the pleasure of the company of Mr. W. H. Oram (hon. secretary for the North and East district), who had thoughtfully provided the printed leaflets of the special hymn used in the service.

The District Master (Mr. T. Beadle) proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. Stephen's for the use of the bells, and to the Rev. J. Nankiville for conducting the service and giving an address, more especially so as he came at the last moment as the representative of the Vicar.

Mr. Wm. Shepherd said the best thanks of all present were due to Mr. Wm. Lawrence for making all the arrangement for the tea and meeting, and for presiding at the organ at the service.

Some good handbell ringing was then done, one touch of Stedman Caters especially calling for mention, the ringers being: G. M. Kilby 1-2, W. Hewett 3-4, W. Shepherd 5-6, C. Horton 7-8, A. Mason 9-10, Miss B. K. McKrell "Tommy Major," and Mr. J. Bruce-Williamson came from Chalfont St. Peter, the latter taking part in the handbell ringing. The President (Mr. A. T. King) sent word that he was unable to be present, and wrote, "I hope you will have as happy an evening with the handbells as we had here at our meeting."

**HUSBAND AND WIFE IN SILVER WEDDING PEAL.**

Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittington, of Cranleigh, Surrey, who achieved the distinction of being the first to ring a tower bell peal together as husband and wife, have now added another unique achievement to their record. On Saturday last they rang a peal in celebration of their silver wedding, and the congratulations of the Exercise will go out to them, with good wishes for continued health and happiness. The success of Saturday followed upon two unsuccessful attempts, one made on February 24th (Mr. and Mrs. Whittington's wedding day falling on Sunday, the 25th), when 1,500 changes were rung, and the second on September 15th, failing after ringing 2 hrs. 25 mins. Last Saturday, however, the effort culminated in success as will be seen from the record in another column. It was Mrs. Whittington's first peal with a bob bell, and when the party came down from the tower they were met by the Rector of Cranleigh, who congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Whittington upon attaining their ambition, and the ringers generally upon their success. Mr. and Mrs. Whittington rang their first peal together on February 29th, 1912, at Cranleigh, and since then have rung seven other peals together, and have taken part in service and practice ringing in about 200 towers in different parts of the country.

**CORRECTION.**

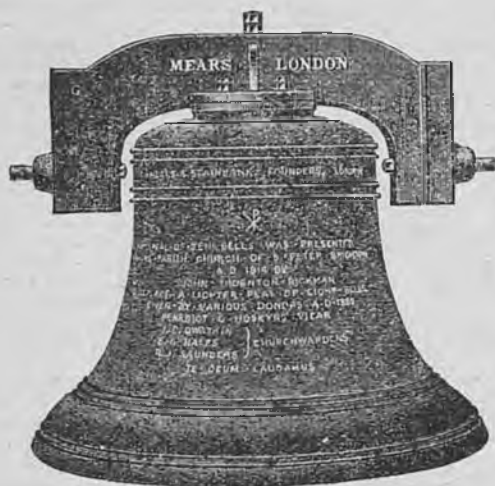
The conductor of the peal at Lindley, the report of which was published in our last issue, was Charles H. Craven, whose first peal as conductor it was. The composition was by S. Wood.



# MEARS & STAINBANK,

*Bellfounders & Bellhangers,*

**32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,  
LONDON, E.**



**Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring  
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.**

## ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rebanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

*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*

**Foundry  
Established  
A.D. 1570.**

## RINGING AFTER DARK.

THE NORTHERN COMMAND ORDER.

As stated in our issue a fortnight ago, the Higher Military Authority have considered the general question of ringing after dark, and we have received the following important information relating to the towers situated in the Northern Command:—

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose for your information a copy of an Order which has been made by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, with reference to the ringing and chiming of church bells within the Northern Command.

I am further directed to say, that the amount of extension to be allowed for the ringing of church bells has been very carefully considered by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and that applications to deal specially with individual cases just over any particular border line drawn cannot be entertained, inasmuch as wherever a line is drawn hard or anomalous cases must necessarily arise and the granting of such special privileges would merely create a fresh crop of anomalies.—Yours truly,

**E. KENNET BROWN, Second-Lieut.**

General Staff, Intelligence Officer, Northern Command, York.

The Order referred to, issued by Lieut.-General the Right Hon. Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, G.C.B., states that "special permission is hereby granted (until the same is withdrawn) for the ringing or chiming (where otherwise legal) of the bells of any Church, or other place of Divine Worship, within the respective areas specified in the Schedule hereto up to and not later than the respective times set opposite thereto in the Schedule, provided always that nothing herein contained shall authorise: (a) The causing of any nuisance or the interference with or infringement of any legal right, or (b) the making of any noise prohibited or restricted for the time being by order of a Secretary of State, under Regulation 12d, of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, with a view to preventing the disturbance of members of His Majesty's Forces suffering from wounds, accidents, or sickness, or (c) the ringing or chiming of any bell between the time when warning has been given of the approach of hostile aircraft, and the receipt by the Police of the notification "All clear," or (d) the ringing of any bell, which has at any time during the present War been used or publicly declared to be intended to be used as an alarm or signal of fire, approach of hostile aircraft, or other emergency, or the ringing of any bell in such a manner as to cause alarm to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, provided also that nothing herein contained shall be construed as imposing any restriction or prohibition on the ringing or chiming of bells, which is not imposed by the Defence of the Realm Regulations for the time being in force."

The permission came into force on the 21st November.

The Schedule includes two areas.

In Area A, comprising the Counties of Derby, Leicester, Rutland and all such portion of the County of Nottingham and of the West Riding of Yorkshire as is situate on the West Side of the Main Line of the Great Northern and North Eastern Railways from Grantham to Selby, or within two miles thereof in an easterly direction, ringing is permitted until one and a half hours after sunset, or 9 p.m., whichever time shall be the earlier.

In Area B, comprising the County of Stafford, ringing is permitted until two hours after sunset, or 9 p.m., whichever time shall be the earlier.

A note to the Order points out, that the joint effect of Defence of the Realm Regulation No. 12b, the Lights (England and Wales) Order of the 22nd July, 1916, and the above Order, as regards the ringing and chiming of Church bells is that, in addition to and apart from the special circumstances above mentioned, the ringing and chiming of such bells audible at such a distance as to be capable of serving as a guide for hostile aircraft, is prohibited during the following hours in the various areas of the Northern Command:—

1. The Counties of Northumberland and Durham, the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, and the County of Lincoln, from half an hour after sunset till half an hour before sunrise.

2. All such portion of the West Riding of Yorkshire and of the County of Nottingham as is situate more than two miles to the East of the Main Line of the Great Northern and North Eastern Railways from Grantham to Selby from one hour after sunset till one hour before sunrise.

3. The Counties of Derby, Leicester, and Rutland, and all such portion of the West Riding of Yorkshire and of the County of Nottingham as is situate to the West of the said Main Line of the Great Northern and North Eastern Railways from Grantham to Selby, or within two miles thereof in an easterly direction, from one and a half hours after sunset, or 9 p.m. (whichever time shall be the earlier) until one hour before sunrise; when, however, sunset is later than 8 p.m. the prohibition does not apply until one hour after sunset.

4. The County of Stafford, from two hours after sunset, or 9 p.m. (whichever time shall be the earlier) until one hour and a half before sunrise; when, however, sunset is later than 7.30 p.m. the prohibition does not apply until one and a half hours after sunset.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

### ITS FAILINGS AND THE REMEDIES.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

VI.

Should the Council debate "scientific" subjects, or should it confine itself to what are called "practical" matters? Before we attempt to answer this there are one or two points to note.

1. It is certainly the fact that the majority of the members have not the necessary knowledge to follow some of these scientific debates, and, therefore, have no interest. I myself am interested in most of them, but I can easily realise how utterly wearying it must be to others to listen for a couple of hours or so to a discussion which is to them meaningless and trivial. These gentlemen, however, have had their revenge. It is due to them entirely that the "experts" are so reviled. The outside ringers do not object to these scientific discussions. They have not to be bored to death by listening to them.

2. But if you are going to confine yourself to "practical" matters, what exactly do you mean by practical? I have been at some pains to try and find the answer to this question, and the truth seems to be that when a man talks about a practical thing in this connection, he usually means a thing which is interesting to himself. A very natural, if rather selfish opinion. Now, if this be so, it is evident that there are many standards of what is practical.

To the beginner the practical thing is how to ring Grandsire Doubles; rules for calling Double Norwich are quite unpractical and "scientific" to him. To the vast body of ringers how to ring Stedman and Treble Bob are practical things; rules for ringing London Surprise are unpractical, because useless. To the man who knows a little about composition, the In and Out of Course of the changes is a practical matter; the laws which govern the production of seven-part peals of Stedman are unpractical and "ultra-scientific." To a man like Sir Arthur Heywood the construction of Stedman is a problem worthy of the closest investigation; the construction of methods is wholly unpractical and rather to be treated with good-natured contempt.

Or if you mean by "practical" matters which the whole body of the Exercise understands, and which directly affect every ringer, what are these subjects? Is the proposal to decorate every ringer with a badge a practical subject? Or is the proposal to turn the Council into a benefit society a practical question? I am not saying it is not, but I do say that the principal object of the Council is the advancement of change ringing, and other things are secondary.

Much of the confusion of thought on this matter is due to the fact that most men have a rather restricted view of what the end of change ringing is. To some men the one thing in change ringing is peal ringing; everything in it is of value only so far as it helps a man to pile up peals. The last three years may have altered this opinion somewhat, but that many men, reputed among the first of ringers, held it cannot be doubted. Other men look on ringing as part of the ritual of the Church's service. To them peals are only of value, so far as they help to improve the quality of service ringing. To other men the problems which theoretic ringing presents are far more interesting than anything else.

I do not say which of these opinions is the right one. No one by itself, probably. But they are held, and this makes it impossible to lay down any standard by which you can test what is practical or not. A thing is not necessarily unpractical because it does not interest you.

3. It is a mistake to suppose that interest in scientific subjects is confined to the few. Almost every keen ringer interests himself to a greater or less degree in the problems of theoretic ringing. Some aspire to be composers; others are content if they know enough to choose a good peal to call or to be able to prove its truth. There is just as much variety of ability among the "theoretic" ringers as among the "practical" ringers. But here is a difference. You don't find men who can just ring Treble Bob sneering at men who can ring London Surprise for doing an unpractical thing not worth the trouble it takes. But you do find men—many of them—who know a little about theoretic ringing sneering at men who are at pains to solve problems the nature of which even the others do not understand.

4. "But," say men, "when you have solved these problems what good is it? What is the use of taking all this trouble? Is anyone a penny the better or the worse?" What use is it? No use at all. No more use than it is to try and weigh the sun or to measure the planets, or to search among rusty manuscripts hoping to reconstruct the history of the past. No more use than a hundred other things that men, esteemed learned, delight to do. And yet the mind of man is such that people will go on taking this trouble, and without asking what the use is. Not every scientific man looks to gain a fortune as the result of his discoveries. Be sure of this, that that mocking question, "What is the use of it?" is of the spirit of the very devil, and if pushed to its logical conclusion would reduce the mind of man to the level of the beasts of the field.

No. When we try to solve these questions we are not thinking of what use they will be. We do it because the labour is its own reward.

That may be. But the fact that I and others are interested in these matters does not justify us in boring to death the people who are not interested. I think we may say that nothing justifies that. But still I think that these subjects cannot be excluded from the Council for the following reason. Ringing is not only an art to be practised in the tower. It is also a highly complex science. If you ignore the science you ignore half of ringing, and, perhaps, the greater half—greater in quality, I mean.

I am convinced of this from deep study, that the scientific side of ringing created the practical, developed it and keeps it alive. When the scientific side is "worked out" and becomes neglected, then the art will have passed its best and its decay will set in. After all, there have been "experts" all along, and I dare say they have been "reviled" just as the modern ones are. You don't suppose Fabian Stedman was understood in his time by the ordinary ringer! Why, the ordinary ringer, nay, the advanced ringer, does not understand him now—has not reached nearly to his level in understanding the science of ringing.

A few years ago a leading composer referred to the "Tintinnologia" as being for the greater part merely "stoncy." Much that leading composer knew about it!

Change ringing like all other sciences which are really abstract sciences, requires a specially trained mind to understand, and those comparatively few who do understand it must necessarily be rather lonely and misunderstood. But it is our science. We did not create it. We inherited it, and must take it as it is. We shall not understand it by pretending it is something different to what it is.

(To be continued.)

### THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT.

To the Editor

Sir,—As one who has sat upon the Central Council, at first representing a county association, and then as an honorary member, almost from the beginning, I accept on the whole Mr. Trollope's diagnosis of its failings; which failings, however, I regard as due not less (perhaps even more) to indifference and lack of support from the Exercise generally, than to our own inefficiency. I also agree with him that "reform should start at the top," and that the office of President should not in future be, as it has been, "the personal right of any one man." That it has been so was due, unavoidably due, to a combination of circumstances not likely to recur: nor do I think that in the early years of the Council the autocratic rule of our late President was any disadvantage to it, or to the Exercise. That things should not be so in the future is, I think equally clear. But Mr. Trollope's drastic remedy of a change of President for every meeting surely overshoots the mark. This would reduce the President to an annual scarehead, and give the real power to the secretary or other more permanent officials—a substitution of "King Log" for "King Stork" that would hardly benefit the community affected by it.

As things are, the President is chosen afresh for each period of three years. Let this continue, but let re-election for a further period of three years be a special privilege for a specially popular and efficient President, and let no one be re-elected for a third term of office. In no case must re-election become a mere form; and the Council should feel perfectly free, at each triennial vacancy, to suggest a fresh candidate or candidates for the office.—Yours faithfully,

AN OLD MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

### CLAPTON'S THIRD LOSS.

On Saturday last, in the ringing room of St. Matthew's, Clapton, ringers from various parishes of London assembled to show respect to a late member of the St. Matthew's Society, Leonard G. Hicks (aged 26 years), who gave his life in France on November 14th.—After a short appreciation and prayer by the Vicar (the Rev. O. R. Dawson), the bells were rung half-muffled for the whole-peal and stand, and in several touches, those taking part being: Miss Grace Adams, Messrs. H. C. Alford, O. L. Twist, W. T. Powell, J. Barry, A. S. Pettett, J. Hunt, H. F. Hull, H. T. Scarlett and S. S. Dunwell. A 630 of Grandsire Triples was rung by: H. T. Scarlett 1, H. C. Alford 2, Jas. Barry 3, W. T. Powell 4, Jas. Hunt (conductor) 5, O. L. Twist 6, H. F. Hull 7, A. S. Pettett 8.

St. Matthew's has now lost three of its ringing members out of eight serving with the colours in this war, the late esteemed Master, Capt. H. J. Sudell, having died of wounds received in the Dardanelles on August 27th, 1915, and the equally respected treasurer, Pte. G. H. Orford, from wounds received in France, June 24th, 1916.

At Tring, Herts, permission has been given by the Competent Military Authority for permission to ring for Sunday evening service between 6 and 7 o'clock, subject to the condition that bells must be immediately stopped on notification by the police of an impending air raid.

Permission has been obtained of the Competent Military Authority to ring for Sunday evening service at Merstham, Surrey.

**WINCHESTER GUILD.****BASINGSTOKE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.**

Forty-five ringers foregathered at the annual meeting of the Basingstoke District, which was held at Basingstoke on Saturday week. The district was represented by men from Basingstoke, Oakley, Overton, Bramley, Sheffield, and they were joined by friends from Reading, Caversham, Stomham, Bishopstoke, Southampton, Swindon, and London. The attraction was no doubt the fine peal of nine recently given to the new Church of All Saints, and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. They were set going soon after three o'clock, and went like fiddles. Good, clean touches were brought round, in Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major. A pretty touch, though somewhat weird, of Stedman Triples was rung on the front eight (which are in the Minor scale); and a fine 216 of Grandsire Caters on the whole peal.

Ringing was also enjoyed at the Parish Church, where service at 5.30, was attended by the large body of ringers. The tea, provided with his usual care by Caterer Philpott, was, by kind permission of the Vicar, served in St. John's Schools; and the business meeting followed.

The officers were re-elected as follows: President, Dr. Bonstead; hon. secretary and treasurer, Rev. F. G. Hume; representative on Central Committee, Miss Alice White; and auditor, Mr. Henry White.

Quarterly meetings are to be arranged at Oakley, Bramley, and Overton; and the annual meeting is fixed for Saturday, Nov. 29th, 1918, and to be held at Basingstoke.

Pleasant features of the gathering included the presence, at the tea and meeting, of the whole staff of the Basingstoke clergy; and a formal and very sincere vote of thanks to Colonel May the generous donor of the bells of the Church of All Saints, which contributed so much to the success of this annual meeting.

**A MEMORIAL PEAL AT BIDDENDEN.**

One of the most promising of the local ringers of Biddenden, Kent, has made the supreme sacrifice for his King and country, leaving a young wife and widowed mother to deeply mourn their loss. Several members of the Kent County Association met at Biddenden tower on Saturday, November 24th, and rang a half-muffled peal to his memory.

The bells were sadly out of order for a great many years, but about three years ago the treble and second and seventh were recast, and the whole rehung by Mr. Alfred Howell, of Ipswich, who fully deserved the meed of praise accorded to him by the performers, after the peal, and also by those outside who had listened to the ringing, whose words were "more like a monster musical box than anything I have heard." The bells are undoubtedly a fine peal, both in tone and "go." It is believed to be nearly 50 years since the last peal was rung on them.

It has been decided to place a tablet in the tower, on which will be inscribed the names of any other local ringers who are called to lay down their lives in Freedom's cause.

Mrs. Gatehouse, who is a life and performing member of the Association, and who is now residing at Biddenden, very kindly entertained the ringers to tea after the peal, and her hospitality, needless to say, was very greatly appreciated. To her and also to Mr. Churchwarden Jones for his kind permission to ring the peal, the band tender their best thanks.

In Biddenden tower can be seen several peal records of 5,000 to 6,000 changes of Bob and Kentish Bob Major, rung as far back as the late "seventeens" and early "eighteens," and no doubt rung by local bands. Will the present generation ever see the interest in change ringing exist as it flourished in Kentish Wealden towers a century ago, as recorded on the ancient peal boards? One can but live in hope that the spirit of our forefathers will return at the conclusion of the present European catastrophe.

**A VISIT TO LONDON.**

On Saturday, November 17th, Mr. W. Grimes, of Debenham, Suffolk, the father of the much lamented Mr. A. W. Grimes, paid a week-end visit to London, where he was met by many of his brother ringers. On the Saturday evening, a handbell party took place at the residence of Mr. Walter Keay, when touches of Stedman Triples and a course of Grandsire Caters were rung upon handbells kindly lent by Mr. A. S. Pettitt. Mr. and Mrs. T. Walker, together with Mr. Barker, played some well-rendered tunes, which were much appreciated.

On the Sunday morning, for Divine service, no less than twenty ringers attended at St. Botolph's, including several of the St. Paul's Cathedral Band, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Treble Bob Major, were rung, Mr. Grimes taking part.

On Monday, a visit was paid to the celebrated bell foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, when Mr. A. A. Hughes very kindly explained all about the bells being cast there. The party, which consisted of Mr. Grimes, Mr. A. S. Pettitt, and Mr. W. A. Alps, on leaving, thanked Mr. Hughes, and the visit was brought to a close.

While in London, Mr. Grimes was made the recipient of a large framed photograph of the group taken at the opening of the peal of twelve at Saffron Walden, and in which the late Mr. A. W. Grimes figures.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

A united practice, held at Denham, on Saturday week proved to be an enjoyable one. Amongst the various touches rung were Stedman Triples and Double Norwich, conducted by W. Hewett, and Kent Treble Bob by A. Mason, the heavy tenor being turned in by J. Bruce Williamson. "Tommy Major" piloted the treble through Grandsire Triples in promising style, and the ladies showed that the long draught of rope did not prevent them from ringing methods. At the close of the practice, the Rev. J. Fraser Amies (Chalfont St. Peter) said the "belfry office," and an adjournment was made for tea.

The teapot—a huge earthenware one—was skillfully managed by Miss E. Jones, although, from sheer weight it sometimes showed a tendency to "change-course," but not for once did it "dodge the wrong way," and everyone was satisfied. Fearing shortage, someone had brought a pot of jam; shall it be said that it was very "nutty" (naughty) of him to do so?

After the tea a peal of ten handbells, cast in a Wiltshire village in 1788, was produced. The fragrant weed was lighted, and meanwhile a good touch of Stedman was rung by: Geo. M. Kilby 1-2, W. Hewett 3-4, J. Bruce Williamson 5-6, W. Lawrence (conductor) 7-8. Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Bob Major, with F. Pike and G. Gutteridge, followed. The other ringers present were the Misses Bateman, Cooper, Gudgeon, and Williams; and Messrs. Honley, Bateman, and Honor. W. J.

**NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.**

The quarterly meeting of North Bucks Branch was held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday last, when the following towers were represented: Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Olney, and the local ringers. Several friends put in an appearance, including Messrs. Wilford and Lawrence, of Northampton; Miss Steele, of Bedford, and an unexpected member of the Bletchley St. Mary's band, in the person of Gunner W. Pether, R.G.A., who had come home on leave straight from the last "Push" on the Cambrai front, his presence being greatly welcomed. The bells were going all the afternoon up to the restriction hour of ringing, and various methods were rung, including Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob, Stedman and Grandsire Triples. The service followed, which was conducted by the Rev. F. B. Gurnery, Vicar of Newport Pagnell, who gave a very interesting address, which was much appreciated.—The usual business meeting then took place, the chair being taken by the President of the branch (the Rev. J. R. Vincent).

**BELLS OF VICTORY.**

The ringing for the victory on the Cambrai front included the following:—

At the Church of St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, on Sunday, November 25th, before morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins.: A. Riley 1, J. Barry 2, F. G. Symonds 3, M. Fenson 4, H. Franks 5, G. Smith 6, Spr. R. F. Deal, R.E. (conductor), 7, A. A. Hughes 8. The bells were also fired.

At Dorking, on November 22nd, rounds and call changes were rung at the Parish Church, the following ladies taking part: Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. James, Misses Cottrell, Adams, Reeves, Webber, Fuller, Fisher, and Washington.

The bells at Tring were rung on November 23rd.

On November 24th, the bands of All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, and St. Barnabas', Linlade, united and rang touches at St. Barnabas' in the afternoon, and at All Saints' in the evening.

At Reading, Berks, on Wednesday, November 21st, to celebrate the gallantry of our men in France, and the skill of their leaders, the Caversham ringers visited St. Lawrence's tower, and rang 504 Grandsire Caters: W. Newell 1, A. W. Osborne 2, W. Hibbert 3, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, C.F., 4, A. Wiggins 5, H. Smith 6, H. Egby 7, E. W. Menday 8, R. T. Hibbert 9, H. Simmonds 10. Also 880 Kent Treble Bob Royal: H. Simmonds 1, W. Hibbert 2, A. Wiggins 3, A. W. Osborne 4, C. Pullen 5, H. Smith 6, G. Essex 7, E. W. Menday 8, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn 9, R. T. Hibbert 10. The ringers take this opportunity of thanking "Father" W. Newell for having everything in readiness for them.

**THE LATE MR. HENRY SPRINGALL.**

The funeral of the late Mr. Henry Springall took place at Ilford Cemetery on Saturday afternoon, and was attended by a number of London ringers. The bells of St. Giles' Church, Camberwell S.E., were, by permission of the Vicar and churchwardens, rung half-muffled to the whole pull and stand as a token of respect for the deceased by the following: H. Flower (conductor) 1, E. Gibbs 2, H. H. Peters 3, A. Morsh 4, G. Harmer 5, H. Flower junr. 6, F. Edwards 7, H. Gummer 8, T. Coledge 9, T. Coxhead 10.

The College Youths will ring the "whole pull and stand" as a token of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Springall, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Saturday, Dec. 8th at two o'clock.

**DALTON-IN-FURNESS.**—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Nov. 4th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: T. R. Jackson 1, Miss E. M. Stuart 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson (conductor) 4, J. Huddleston 5, W. S. Forshaw 6, J. Burrows 8 (cover).



**NOTICES.**

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Diocesan Branch.—A meeting will be held at Garston on Saturday, Dec. 8th. Bells ready at 3. Service at 6, meeting 6.30. Members intending being present please send word.—Rev. E. C. Collier, Walter Hughes, Secs.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION** (late St. James' Society. Estab. 1824).—A meeting for handbell practice and social intercourse will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, 8th December, at Headquarters Room, "The Edinburgh," Milford Lane, Strand, W.C. Ringers and friends invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A Branch meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, Dec. 15th, 1917. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Ringing till 7 p.m. Report now ready.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccles Parish Church on Saturday, Dec. 15th. Peals available from 3.30 to 7 p.m. Meeting immediately after ringing.—W.W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Horsham, Saturday, Dec. 15th. Bells available during the afternoon. All members intending being present please advise me not later than Dec. 12th.—A. W. Groves, 9, Sugden Road, Worthing.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A quarterly meeting will be held at Currey Rivel on Saturday, Dec. 15th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting at 4.30.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., "Dunkery," Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business, on December 18th, and for handbell practice on the 13th and 27th, all at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1/8, which entitles members who have not attended twenty meetings in the past year, to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

**THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The annual District Meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at Bishop's Stortford on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th, 1917. Bells available from 1 o'clock. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting will be held at the Chequers Hotel at 4.45 p.m. Members 6d. each; non-members 1/- each. All those that require tea please let me know by Friday, Dec. 21st. No ringing after dark.—Wm. Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

**WANTED,** good reliable Watch and Clock Jobber, for old established firm, good change ringer, and over military age.—Robinson & Co., The Square, Shrewsbury, Salop.

**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.

# Clewellins

## & James, Ltd.



**CHURCH BELLS SINGLY OR  
IN RINGS.**

**Bell Frames in Cast Iron, Steel  
and Oak.**

**Bells tuned on the latest im-  
proved principles initiated by  
the late Canon Simpson.**

**CASTLE GREEN,**

**BRISTOL.**

# JAMES BARWELL,

LIMITED,

**Church Bell Founders**

— AND —

**Church Bell Hangers,**

**GREAT HAMPTON STREET,  
BIRMINGHAM.**

Towers and Campaniles Inspected and  
Estimates Furnished to cover every  
Expense.

Musical Handbells, in any size and number,  
for Tune or Change-ringing, in Guaranteed  
Quality.

## The Jasper Snowdon Series.

- ROPE-SIGHT. 1s. 6d.; sixth ed. 150 pages; treats Plain Bob, commencing on three bells.
- GRANDSIRE. 2s. 6d.; second ed.; 284 pages; commencing on five bells; complete with the Thompson Charts, etc., etc.
- STANDARD METHODS 6th Edition Now Ready, 2s. 6d.
- STEDMAN. 2s. 6d.; 275 pages, by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., with an appendix by Sir Arthur Hoywood, Bart., etc., etc.
- TREBLE BOB. Part I. 1s. 6d.; second ed.; with appendix; 100 closely printed pages. Part II., suited for Conductors only; very scarce; 2s. 1½d.; 258 pages.
- DOUBLE NORWICH C. B. Major. At present out of print.
- SURPRISE PEALS. Cambridge, Superlative and London; compiling.
- All post free, on receipt of postal order, from  
Mrs. LAURA SNOWDON, Cartmel, Lancashire.

## ALFRED BOWELL,

**CHURCH BELL FOUNDER,  
IPSWICH.**

## JOHN SMITH & SONS

Midland Clock Works,

**DERBY**

Telegraphic Address—  
"Clocks, Derby."  
Tel. No. 569

**CHURCH & PUBLIC CLOCKS**

MAKERS OF CLOCKS AND  
CHIMES for S. Paul's Cathedral  
Beverley Minster, Selby Abbey, Truro  
Cathedral, Thurles Cathedral, Trinity College, Cam-  
bridge, Belfast Assembly Hall, Magdalen College, Oxford,  
and many others to Lord Grimthorpe's designs. In 1897,  
writing to the Vicar of Minchinhampton, Lord Grimthorpe said:—"Smith  
& Sons will clock you in the best way and as near sternity as possible."

## "The World's Best Bellropes"

PROVED IN THE RINGING OF THE  
WORLD'S RECORD PEAL.

THE SAME EXCELLENT QUALITY AS  
BEFORE THE WAR, AND PRICES VERY  
LITTLE HIGHER.

*Splicing and Repairs*

**JOHN PRITCHARD,**

Swan Street,

**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

Price List  
of the  
Sole Maker.

Established over a HUNDRED YEARS.

## UNIQUE FOR PRESENTATION.

An Inkstand in the design of a Well-shaped Bell



This charming model in Solid Hall Marked Silver  
will make a most appropriate and useful Gift.

It can be supplied in the following sizes:—

Diameter	2½in.	2¾in.	3¼in.	3½in.	4in.	4¾in.	5in.
Price	12/6	17/6	22/6	28/6	36/-	46/-	60/-

Monogram or Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges.

**J. COMBER,** Goldsmith and  
Silversmith,  
**WOKING**  
(MAKER OF THE RINGERS' BADGE.)

**THOMAS DOBLE & SON,** Church Bell-  
Hangers, TAUNTON.—Bells Hung on the  
most approved principles Old Bells Re-cast,  
New Bells supplied, Ropes of the best make.  
Ellacombe's Chiming Apparatus fixed, Hand-  
bells in sets, Chromatic or Diatonic.

## THE BADGE OF THE CRAFT

A Beautifully Executed

## RINGERS' PENDANT

In Gold, Silver or Bronze.  
Specially Suitable for Gifts.

Prices, Gold (9 carat) 28/-, Silver 5/-  
Bronze 2/9 (post free).



**J. COMBER,** Goldsmith and Jeweller,

TELEPHONE 171 WOKING.

**WOKING**

Printed for the Proprietors by the WOODBRIDGE PRESS, LTD.,  
Guildford, and Published by Messrs. W.M. DAWSON & SONS  
LTD., Cannon House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.