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A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The letter from Mr. C. T. Coles which we published on November 20th has not brought the amount of comment and criticism which some people quite naturally expected. But that does not mean an absence of interest in the matter on the part of the Exercise generally. On the contrary, among the controversial questions which from time to time occupy the minds of ringers, a National Association has always held a foremost place. Sixty years ago and more the question was debated. It is probable that sixty years hence it will still be debated.

What, however, has happened is that most of our readers evidently think that all that can now profitably be said about the question has been said in the various letters we have published during the last twelve months or so, and that in his very full summing up Mr. Coles has not left much scope for an effective answer. Mr. Coles writes with the authority which properly belongs to a man who has not only long held a prominent position among ringers, but has had the experience which comes to one who for more than a quarter of a century has been the general secretary of a leading territorial association. What he says carries weight.

It is most likely, therefore, that interest in the matter will for the time being die down, but we are strangely at fault in our judgment if it should turn out that the last has been heard of the matter. It will crop up again, not perhaps for some years, but sooner or later.

The reason is that it is intimately connected with a principle which is very essential to the life and well-being of the Exercise. There are two tendencies that for long have been working among us, and both are good and necessary. One is to promote the formation of bands which are definitely attached to particular churches as part of the parochial organisation, and exist for the Sunday service ringing. This tendency carried to its logical conclusions would mean the elimination of the unattached ringer, and also of those loosely connected groups of men who are often called 'cliques.' On the other hand there is the feeling that the Exercise is a body of men with common interests and common aims, and therefore should have a common organisation in which all barriers between bands and societies are swept away.

These tendencies are contrary to each other, but both of them are good and useful. Most good and useful things when pushed too far become obnoxious, and in this particular instance we need both the tendency which would confine a ringer's activity to his own church and belfry and the tendency which would throw open to him

(Continued on page 554.)

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every tower within his reach. One is necessary to balance and correct the other.

We have spoken of what is, we believe, the real motive power behind the demand for a National Association, but of course there are other things naturally and consciously in the minds of its advocates. They think the present organisation of the Exercise is defective and capable of improvement. Mr. Coles has dealt very fully and very ably with that point, and we do not desire now to express any opinion about it. But we do think that suggestions for improving our organisation are worth making and should be carefully and sympathetically considered. Because a thing exists now is no reason why it should go on existing if it can be bettered; and, on the other hand, to change things merely for the sake of change is to court disaster. The true life and development of the Exercise and the art of change ringing mean the due adaptation of everything to changing and altered circumstances. Everything that is valuable in the idea of a National Association can perhaps be attained without any drastic or radical destruction of our present system.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes, AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4	PATRICIA A. SCADDEN (St. Hilda's) 7-8
†WILFRID F. MOREYON (St. John's) ... 9-10	

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.
* First peal on ten bells. Also first peal on ten bells for the society and as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 30, 1942, in Two Hours,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
JOSEPH M. TURNER 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT 42, CLAY LANE,

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

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, December 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

*MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.
* First peal of Stedman on handbells. Fiftieth handbell peal as conductor.

THE BELLS OF ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS.

BY H. V. FROST AND MRS. URSULA FERGUSON.

The existing ring of ten bells at St. Peter's are well known to many ringers, but there can be few men now living who can remember when there were twelve.

St. Peter's has an interesting history, being one of three churches built by Abbot Ulsinus a hundred years or so before the Conquest, the other two being St. Michael's and St. Stephen's, both six-bell towers.

In 1254, during a thunderstorm, the tower, which was the highest point in the city, was struck by lightning, and the top of it destroyed.

No mention is made of bells until in 1552 'Saint Peter's in the town of Saynt Albones' was reported to possess a chime of four bells. Twenty-one years later the churchwarden's account shows a payment 'to the ringers at the Coming of the Queen (Elizabeth) through the town into Gorhambury.'

In the same year Samuel Taylor was paid by the churchwardens for repairing and hanging the great bell. They must have had further trouble with it for Samuel Taylor had another payment for hanging and mending the clapper. Perhaps Queen Elizabeth's arrival had evoked too great enthusiasm among the ringers, and when she came again four years later they were more careful. On this occasion the ringing cost the wardens 8s. when 'the Queen's Majesty came to the Bull,' and later another 5s. 4d. 'for ringing two days at the Queen's Majesty last being here.' One wonders why there is such a marked difference in the rate of pay. The bells must have been an expensive item to the churchwardens in those days. They had to pay for a Joyous peal (amount unstated) on the occasion of the arrest of Anthony Babington in 1587, while the ringing for the Armada cost them 4s. 8d. as well as a sum to 'W. Grimsell, the paritor, for a note by him to ring for our good success against the Spaniards.'

Enthusiasm for ringing was now growing, and it was evidently felt that the time had come to increase the number of bells, for in 1605 a new treble was added at the cost of £7 6s. 8d., the churchwardens having to provide 12d. worth of beer for that occasion. But all this was apparently not very satisfactory, for in 1628 they decided to have the bells recast into five, which was done on the spot. This still did not completely satisfy the requirements, for three years later one of them had to be cast again, and a sixth bell was added.

In 1658 these bells were rung once more at the expense of the parish, at the proclaiming of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell's son, Richard. After this the ringers became an almost annual expense, ringing being paid for when General Monk came through the town the next year and, of course, the following one on the coronation of

Charles II. The churchwardens of those days must have been economical men for, in 1666, they made one peal on the bells do for the two victories against the Dutch. In 1685 they rang to celebrate the defeat of Monmouth, and in 1690 for the Battle of the Boyne.

It would be interesting to know just what happened to the bells at this time for, after ringing to celebrate

Marlborough's victory at Ramillies in 1706, they were in such a bad state, 'being all except one broke, cracked, or otherwise maimed, spoilt or useless,' that the parish decided that 'for the honour & ornament of God's house & the reputation & pleasure of the Parish that they be cast into eight bells & have a proper quantity of metal add'd to make them a compleat & musical sett.' This very laudable object was put forth by the Vicar, Dr. Robert Rumney, who, for 28 years, was the incumbent of the parish. But



THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, ST. ALBANS.

praiseworthy schemes such as these are by no means always easy to achieve. Enthusiasm waned, for exactly a year later the parish decided to moderate the plan and to provide for only 'six new musical bells of the same weight as these, or as near as may be'—moreover, there is a sinister hint of a parish levy to meet the cost. However, the Rev. Dr. Rumney was a persistent man, and at the same vestry got a further order passed enabling him to add two more bells if they could be paid for voluntarily. Dr. Rumney must have been a great lover of bells and thoroughly enjoyed participating in all the plans and arrangements for his new bells. Three of his still remain, the third, sixth and tenor, cast by R. Phelps in 1729. What a Christmas that must have been for him, culminating in a visit by the College Youths on December 27th for a peal of Bob Major 'on the Augmentation of the bells from six to eight.' It was conducted by Benjamin Annable.

In 1756 the parish decided to rebuild the belfry with a higher floor. The work was done, but nearly thirty years later the tower was found to be unsafe. William Agglington, a local carpenter (and a ringer) got the task of repairing it. In 1785 the vestry directed that the estimate for the underpinning of the tower was to include 16 pairs of 'broad timber, 2½ft. x 4ft., and a cross side to every other pair.' Altogether nearly £2,790 was spent, or rather wasted on providing the tower with wooden foundations.

During this period two peals were rung, one of Treble Bob Major by the College Youths on May 23rd, 1763, and the other, exactly two years later, being Grandire Triples by the St. Albans ringers. In 1788 two more

(Continued on next page.)

ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS.

(Continued from previous page.)

bells were added, cast by John Briant, of Hertford. They were given by Mr. Cornelius Nichol, a man who for over a quarter of a century or more played a prominent part in the history of the parish. In that year two peals were rung on them—Bob Royal by the College Youths and Grandsire Caters by the Trinity Youths.

Barely a year went by before it became obvious to any but the most biassed that Mr. Agglington's efforts at tower strengthening were not successful. The Vicar, the Rev. Thomas Doyley (evidently a new-comer and viewing the structure with the cruelly clear eye of a 'fur-reigner'), called the attention of the parish to the danger. Moreover, he called in an expert, a Mr. Norris, whose opinion bore the stamp of authority, for he was surveyor to no less a building than Christ's Hospital, London. His report was a masterpiece of non-commitment. He said that he 'was of the opinion that so long as the timbers used in the body of the piers remain good & sound, the tower may be safe, but should they decay, he doubted the tower's standing, and was sorry to say from the appearance of some of the timbers that were exposed to view should fear they were proceeding to that state.'

The parish demurred. A week later the Vicar took matters into his own hands and informed the parishioners 'that the settlement in Saint Peter's tower, piers, etc., are much spread since Mr. Norris' last report. . . . Under these circumstances he thinks himself obliged, though most reluctantly, to discontinue the performance of divine service in the church until he received notice from the churchwardens that it is in a proper state for the same. He recommends it to the Vestry immediately to take into consideration the securing of the body of the church, the aisles & chancel, by taking down the bells, the top of the tower, etc., before it is too late; he likewise recommends unanimity.'

The vestry, overawed, retired to the White Horse. After due refreshment their courage returned. They temporised. They suggested that it would be a good idea to plaster over the bad parts at once.

This was the beginning of a battle between the Vicar, the vestry and various authorities about the safety of the tower which was to be waged for the next ten years, the vestry yielding ground inch by inch until the question was settled for them by the tower itself, for on November 21st, 1801, the belfry floor collapsed and fell into the church.

When the tower was rebuilt in 1805 the seventh bell was recast by John Briant, of Hertford. Mr. Agglington must have been an old man when he conducted a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1810, forty-seven years after his name first appeared on a peal board.

The years between 1814, when the bells rang for the proclamation of peace, Napoleon being at that moment confined on Elba, and 1867 are blank and dark; nothing is known of what happened at that time. Then the Ancient Society of College Youths held their 230th anniversary in this town on July 1st, 1867, when the following members rang in this steeple a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, comprising 5,000 changes, in three hours and 27 minutes, being the first peal in that method on these bells: Henry Haley treble, William Cooter 2.

Thomas Hattersley 3, Edwin C. Langdon 4, Robert Jameson 5, James Pettit 6, Richard Hopkins 7, Matthew A. Wood 8, Edwin Horrex 9, John M. Hayes tenor. The peal was composed by H. W. Haley.

At this time there lived a man who must have been a real lover of ringing; more than that, he must have had an absorbing enthusiasm. John Lewis lived in the parish and, although a staunch Nonconformist, he rang with the St. Peter's band. In May, 1868, he gave two bells and so increased the ring to twelve. It must have been an exciting day for the old gentleman when the two new trebles made by Warners rang out for the first time. But excitement is not good for old people, and in this case proved too much for Mr. John Lewis, who died a few days later. Thirteen years later the tenth and eleventh were cracked, and in October, 1881, they were recast by Taylors, who took John Lewis' trebles in part payment. Thus the twelve were reduced to ten again to the great disgust of his son Henry Lewis, who was not approached in the matter. No peal of over 5,000 changes was ever rung on the twelve, but a board records that Holt's Original was rung on the large eight and conducted by Henry Haley.

In 1883, a year before the founding of the Herts Association, a joint company of College Youths, Cumberland Youths, and Bennington and St. Albans ringers opened the ten bells after restoration. Five years later the St. James' Society rang a peal of Stedman Caters, conducted by the Rev. C. P. P. Davies. That year, 1888, was a good one for peal ringing in St. Albans, and the names of W. H. L. Buckingham (a descendant of William Agglington), J. C. Mitchell, C. F. Winney, G. W. Cartmel, E. P. Debenham and Henry Lewis often appear. John Cox's 5,021 of Grandsire Caters and a 5,040 Bob Royal by Walter Buckingham seem to have been great favourites with them.

In 1893 Lord Grimthorpe restored the church and tower and added the panelling to the ringing chamber, a fine example of linen fold carving.

In 1929 a peal of Bob Royal, conducted by T. J. Hull, was rung to mark the bi-centenary of the original eight bells. In recent years a Masonic peal of Stedman Caters was rung, conducted by H. Goodenough, of the Cathedral Society, also peals of Oxford, Kent and little Bob Royal called by George Debenham, and Cambridge Royal in 1938 by H. V. Frost.

In 1942 there died another admirer of St. Peter's bells, Mr. L. A. Dorant, who left a legacy of £200 for the improvement of the bells. Of course, under the present conditions it is still too early to say what form this improvement will take. From time to time there have been suggestions that the trebles should be replaced, but as the old twelve did not enjoy a high reputation, and the weight of the tenor (21 cwt.) is somewhat light for that number, views are divided. With modern bell founding and the present-day practice of removing all the bells to the foundry for tuning, no doubt a better twelve would result. As a peal of ten they have a very good reputation, and the tower was a favourite venue of the old London ringers, as the peal boards in the spacious ringing chamber denote.

EVENING—

Though the day be never so longe,
At length the belles ringeth to evensong—
Stephen Hawes (c. 1500).

DEATH OF MR. R. G. KNOWLES.**LOSS TO WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

The Worcestershire Association has suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. R. G. Knowles, of Madresfield, which occurred on September 22nd. He had been in failing health for some time, and his absence from recent committee and general meetings caused concern to his friends, but latest reports were somewhat more assuring. Early in September, however, he suffered bereavement by the death of his wife after 55 years of married life, and 16 days later he passed peacefully away.

The whole of his life had been devoted primarily to the service of his native parish, for in addition to an unbroken membership of the band of ringers at St. Mary's, Madresfield, he had been churchwarden and was formerly clerk to the Parish Council; while for about 30 years he worked at his trade as a carpenter and wheelwright for the Malvern Urban District Council.

But his outlook was very much wider than merely parochial. With Mr. W. Short, he shared the distinction of being the oldest surviving members of the Worcestershire Association, having been elected in 1887, five years after the association's foundation. On the formation of the three branches in 1911, he became the first secretary and treasurer of the Western Branch—an office which he held for 15 years—and his pioneer work in this connection will stand as a memorial to him. Since then he has successively been Master of the association, 1928-32; Central Council representative for nine years, and latterly a lay vice-president. Again he shared the well-deserved honour with Mr. Short. They were the first to be elected as 'freemen' of the association.

Mr. Knowles rang 337 peals, 327 of them for his home association, and he conducted 57. They ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Royal and Stedman Cinques. As a teacher he was particularly painstaking and capable, and although perhaps not exactly brilliant in debate, he yet held very decided ideas and opinions, which always proved of solid worth. Above all, he was lovable as a man, and a constant and sincere friend. He leaves capable pupils to carry on his work, but his passing leaves a gap.

Born and married at Madresfield, he was laid to rest on September 26th in the shadow of the church which he had served so faithfully. Travelling difficulties prevented ringers from distant parts of the county being present, but among other members of the Western Branch at the funeral were Mr. S. T. Holt (Master), Mr. C. Camm (Branch Master), Mr. E. E. Barber (auditor), Mr. W. Ranford and Mr. G. J. Lewis.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the grave, and wreaths were sent from the association and the Western Branch.

THE OLDEST RINGER.

Dear Sir,—It would be interesting to know the age of the oldest ringer who rang the victory bells on Sunday.

Mr. John Brunt, who rang the treble to touches of Bob Doubles at St. Mary's Church, Broughton Astley, is 85 years of age. He has rung here for 70 years, commencing as a lad 15 years of age, having during that time rung the bells on all notable occasions, such as Jubilees, Coronations, Mafeking and victory peals. He is captain of the ringers an honorary life member of the Midland Counties Association and has been parish clerk since 1899.

Our ringers wish with your co-operation to congratulate Miss Jill Poole, the accomplished daughter of our esteemed police inspector, on her remarkable handbell ringing performance.

Also our very best thanks to 'The Ringing World' for an increasingly interesting paper and every good wish for its future.

H. BIRD.

Station Road, Broughton Astley, Leicester.

MR. JAMES GEORGE'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have received so many congratulations on my 89th birthday that it is impossible to acknowledge them each personally. Will those who sent me such nice wishes kindly accept my thanks sincerely. I consider your two last leading articles are much beyond expectation.

JAMES GEORGE.

Summer Hill Homes, Summer Hill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

MINOR AND DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From time to time we see published in 'The Ringing World' details of peals rung by past and present members of the Exercise.

Rarely do we see in the lists any peals of Minor or Doubles.

I have often noticed and wondered why at practices and meetings the 'experts' will spend a lot of time getting a touch of London or Cambridge, but when asked to assist with a touch on six for the novices before the bells are lowered, there is always a train to catch or someone is waiting outside.

Is it undignified to ring or have in your records anything less than eight-bell performances?

'QUERIST.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among the London churches ruined in the air raids was St. Mary's, Islington. The body of the building was completely destroyed, but the tower was left standing, and many ringers have wondered if the bells are safe. These doubts were set at rest on Victory Sunday, when it was possible to chime hymn tunes on the bells. Whether it will be safe to ring them is, of course, uncertain. St. Mary's belfry holds an honourable position in the history of change ringing.

Last Wednesday, Mrs. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, reached her 70th birthday. She took up ringing at the outbreak of the last war and was the eldest of the band of ladies to ring at the Armistice. During 21 years she has not missed ringing for a single Sunday service except when on holiday.

Fifty years ago the first peal of London Surprise Major in the Oxford Diocese was rung at Hughenden, Bucks. It was rung after about 40 practices and attempts, and was a very creditable performance by all the band. The present survivors are J. Evans (conductor), S. T. Goodchild, Fred Biggs, of High Wycombe, and W. E. Yates, Marlow.

On December 6th, 1731, the second peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich.

Squire Proctor's men rang 6,048 changes of London Surprise Major at Bennington on December 6th, 1870, and on the same date in 1951 Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of Reverse Dublin Surprise Major at Ewell.

James Barham's band rang 10,080 Double Bob at Harrietsham on December 8th, 1746.

On December 8th, 1885, the College Youths rang 11,111 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Fulham. It was the record length in the method at the time.

The first peal of Darlaston Bob Caters was rung at St. Philip's, Birmingham, on December 8th, 1894, and the first peal of Edinburgh Surprise Major at Leiston on December 8th, 1923.

The Ipswich men rang the first peal of New Cambridge Surprise Maximus on December 8th, 1928.

John Cox, one of the best known ringers of the nineteenth century, was born on December 9th, 1813.

On the same date in 1833, the Painswick men rang 10,224 Kept Treble Bob Maximus; and in 1924 the Willesden band rang the first peal of Winchester Bob Major.

George Gross called the first peal of Real Double Bob Caters with a band of Cumberland Youths at St. Magnus' on December 10th, 1770.

The first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung on December 10th, 1881.

The Cumberlands rang 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on December 11th, 1841; the first peal of Aston Royal was rung at Aston on December 11th, 1909; and on the same date in 1926 Mr. C. T. Coles called at Walthamstow a peal of Spliced Erin, Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

IMPORTANT.

Christmas Greetings for publication in the Notice Column of our Christmas issue must be sent to us during the next few days.

ST. ANDREW'S, PLYMOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was delighted to see in 'The Ringing World' the account of the ringing at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, as I had been informed by several persons that these bells, a fine ring of 10, had been destroyed by enemy action. It was most gratifying to me to know it was not so, as we rang the first peal on them on one of our ringing tours (arranged by the late Rev. M. Kelly) on Monday, October 5th, 1903. Amongst those of the band who have passed on are the Revs. F. E. Robinson and C. W. O. Jenkyn, Messrs. J. W. Taylor, H. Baker and W. W. Gifford. Those still with us are myself, A. W. Brighton, G. N. Price, C. R. Lilley and Canon Coleridge.

I was always very interested in this peal, having been staying the week-end with Mr. Gifford after the usual peal at St. Martin's, Salisbury, on the Saturday, where I had it dinned over to me by my host. 'Now, George, this is one of my life's ambitions to ring a peal on St. Andrew's, Plymouth, bells.' And a very fine peal we rang. Canon Coleridge rang the tenor behind in his most perfect style. Other peals rung during the week were Superlative at St. Austell, Stedman Triples and Superlative at Cardynham, Double Norwich and Stedman Triples at Lanhydrock, Stedman Triples at Liskeard, Superlative at Stonehouse, and Treble Bob Royal at Charles Church, Plymouth.

In this peal I and Canon Coleridge changed ends, described by a local during the week as 'the little 'un on the big 'un, and big 'un on the little 'un.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

WILL IT BE LIFTED?

There is still a persistent and widespread demand that the ban on the use of church bells should be modified or removed altogether. In the House of Commons on Tuesday in last week, Mr. A. P. Herbert (Ind., Oxford University) asked the War Minister whether in the light of recent events he would reconsider the decision to use church bells as a military signal and adopt some arrangement which would not deprive the community of the bells.

In reply, Sir James Grigg said the question was now being considered.

Later in the week Mr. Atlee informed Mr. Driberg (Ind., Maldon) that the question of permitting bells to be rung on Christmas morning was being considered.

Asked how soon consideration was likely to be, he replied, 'I cannot say.'

Mr. Stokes (Labour): 'In view of the fact that in many parts of the country the bells are not heard at all, and that they are of no use as invasion signals, why not use the sirens as invasion signals and allow the bells to be used normally?' (cheers).

The Dean of Winchester, preaching in his Cathedral, said: 'We can look forward to the time when the bells will ring again. I confess that I wish the Government would think out some fresh method for giving notice of attempted invasion—it surely cannot be beyond the wit of man—and let us ring our church bells every Sunday, and I am sure that the bellringers of England would say the same. I believe it would be of great benefit to public morale and religion, and remind us that we had entered on a new phase of our struggle; and I wish the Church authorities would concern themselves with making representations to this effect.'

PRISONERS OF WAR.

We are glad to hear that official information has been received that Mr. Dennis Brock and Mr. Kenneth Spackman, previously reported missing, are now prisoners of war in Italian hands.

Mr. Dennis Brock is a member of the band at Sunbury-on-Thames, and Mr. Kenneth Spackman a member of the band at Radbourne Cheney, Swindon.

HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' for November 13th, 1942, in the leading article History, paragraph 2, you say that there was only one period in the history of the people and the Church of England when change ringing could have appeared. I should much like to see this developed and explained.

Also the paragraph on top of page 510 in the same article about the alienation of change ringing from church services and its restoration. (Rev.) E. W. BLYTH.

Northrepps Rectory, Cromer, Norfolk.

[The rise of change ringing and the relations of the Exercise to the Church during the centuries form a most fascinating study for the historian of change ringing. It would need a full book to deal adequately with it, but we will keep Mr. Blyth's request in mind.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

RINGING TUNES.

AND OTHER MATTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have not found opportunity before to reply to a query raised about an extract from the churchwardens' accounts at Sefton, Lancs. I confess that I was quoting from memory something read nearly 40 years ago, and though I thought that my recollection was correct, I should be quite prepared to learn that it was inaccurate in some detail. Unless I am mistaken, the extract in question appeared in 'The Liverpool Diocesan Gazette'—or whatever its official title was at that period—between June, 1902, and April, 1906. If any of your readers have the opportunity or the curiosity to search through those back numbers it will be interesting to know the result.

While I am writing, I ask leave to comment briefly on two other points arising out of your correspondence columns.

With regard to ringing tunes on bells, some years ago three of us here—or occasionally four—used to ring tunes on our five bells. As there are few sacred melodies on five notes except chants, it was generally chants that we rang. In the last war, when ringing at night was prohibited, we rang 'Now the day is over' at sunset on New Year's Eve.

A clerical neighbour asked me the same question that was put to Mr. E. V. Cox. My reply was that, as bellringing was a form of church music, our patron would be St. Cecilia. All the same, I like Mr. Cox's suggestion of St. Dunstan. In the one case ringers would share their patron saint with the Goldsmiths' Company, in the other with the Company of Musicians.

I may add that on the same ground—that ringers are performers on musical instruments—I do not think the word 'sport' any more applicable to ringing than it would be to playing a cornet or beating a drum. 'Recreation' appears a more appropriate term.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

IS UNIFORMITY DESIRABLE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a contribution to the discussion on the possibilities of forming a National Association, which Mr. Coles has reopened, hoping that no one will assume I am strongly pro- or anti-anything? The subject is an interesting one, which, if it achieves nothing else, may focus some attention on a few of the failings of our present system.

In the first place, there seems to be a tendency to regard the National Association idea as a sort of revolution to overthrow the present system lock, stock and barrel. This conception of a National Association is, to my mind, quite wrong. I assume that those responsible for putting forward the idea of a National Association have one object in view, namely, the improvement of ringing organisation, with a view to increasing our efficiency both in quantity and quality.

The fundamental principle of a National Association is surely uniformity. I cannot recall seeing this point discussed at any length before, and yet as I see it this is the whole kernel of the National Association argument.

Is uniformity desirable? Before we can discuss a National Association we have to answer that question. Unfortunately, it is not easy to decide by speculation what sort of uniformity we should get with a National Association. If it is uniformly bad, then obviously there is no argument. We have to assume, therefore, that a National Association will produce a uniformity, which will mean improvement in the quantity and quality of ringing, in those places where it is at present not very high, up to something like the standard of the best under our present system.

The question which naturally follows is how is this uniformity to be achieved? It is, perhaps, dangerous to make comparisons, but we have to face the fact that there is a very considerable difference in the efficiencies of our various organisations, and if the pooled experience of all societies were applied to the whole country uniformly, ringing would probably benefit. If this is the idea behind a National Association it is worthy of our serious consideration and possibly our support.

To many ringers the measure of an association's success seems to be under the heading, 'Total worth of the society,' in the balance sheet. Naturally the National Association idea causes considerable anxiety lest this item should disappear into a common pool. If by uniformity all societies have the same organisation they should all become financially sound, although it might be necessary for the more prosperous ones to give the less fortunate ones a little assistance at first.

'The Ringing World' is a problem which has been brought very forcibly to our notice by the lamented passing of Mr. Goldsmith. The circulation of the paper is the keynote of success or failure of any scheme which is put forward to ensure its continuity.

Could a National Association bring about an improvement in the circulation of 'The Ringing World'? By making the paper an official weekly journal it is quite possible it could. There are quite a number of ringers who regard 'The Ringing World' as a sort of luxury for the experts, not intended for the ordinary ringer. Nothing could be further from the truth, of course, but it is quite possible that these men would take more kindly to the ringing paper if they knew it was the official journal of an organisation of which they were members.

A full-time paid secretary and a host of paid officials seem to be an essential feature of a National Association according to many, but I fail to see that this is at all necessary.

Ringing is not a life or death, minute-to-minute commercial proposition, demanding a man on the spot, and I feel sure there are many ringers who could quite adequately undertake the duties of secretary to a National Association in their leisure time.

Presumably ringers and ringing will still be the same under any system. There can be no question of sweeping away the organisations, which have taken half a century or more to build up, and replacing them with a National Association.

All that concerns us is which way our enthusiasm for ringing can best be harnessed to produce the greatest efficiency.

Is the formation of a National Association from our present societies the answer?

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

DETACHED TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the correspondence in this week's issue, November 27th, of our journal, 'The Ringing World,' regarding detached towers and dual parishes. There is a very fine detached tower at Ledbury Church, Herefordshire, and a finer one, 'The Campanile,' at Evesham.

The peculiar thing about this tower is it stands in the same churchyard as do two separate churches, All Saints' and St. Lawrence's. I've no doubt that some of our Worcester Guild brethren—especially that stalwart worthy, Alderman James Hemming, 'father' of the Worcester Guild, or at least one of them, could tell us some history of this unusual happening.

W. FRANK STENSON.

142, Minshull New Road, Crewe.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 548.)

The study of the composition of Stedman Triples is to some extent complicated by the way peals and touches are written out. In ordinary methods we prick compositions by the lead-ends and course-ends. We imagine we do the same thing in Stedman, but we do not do so really. In Stedman we prick by six-ends, but the equivalent of a lead of Plain Bob or Grandsire is not a six but a twelve, and a twelve consists of the twelve rows from the backstroke blow of the whole pull on the lead of one quick bell until the handstroke of the whole pull on the lead of the next quick bell.

This is the real unit of a course of Stedman Triples. There would have been many advantages if the plan had been adopted of pricking the method by the rows when the quick bells are leading and of taking as the course-ends the backstroke row of the observation bell's whole pull when it is quick. There are obvious practical reasons why our present plan was adopted, and there is no sufficient reason to change it now, but when we try to bring Stedman into line with other methods, we must recognise that the custom is really only a makeshift. The very early composers did look on the twelve as the proper unit, and so did Fabian Stedman, which accounts for the particular way in which the method starts. This has been somewhat of a puzzle to composers, who consider the method as consisting of alternate quick and slow sixes much in the same way as a Spliced course might consist of the alternate leads of two separate methods. C. D. P. Davies, for instance (who knew a lot about Stedman), says, 'For some reason best known to himself—probably in order to make the first three rows identical with those in Grandsire—Fabian Stedman, the inventor of the method, caused rounds to occupy the position' of the fourth row of a quick six. Stedman, however, was theoretically correct and was following the proper rule.

Last week we pointed out that when we are composing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan our material consists not of 60 independent natural courses or P Blocks, but of twelve independent round blocks, each block consisting of five courses, and every course with bobs at S and H. The first thing, therefore, we must do is to set down the twelve blocks correctly. This can be done quite easily. (We use the fourth row of the six as the course-end.)

A 123456	B 432156
234516	543216
345126	154326
451236	215436
512346	321546

We first set down 123456 as the natural course-end of the plain course. We then transpose the first five bells cyclically giving us the Group A. Then we transpose each of these natural course-ends by 43215, which gives us the group B. Notice that the rows in B are in cyclical relationship, but in the reverse order to those in A.

If from each of these natural course-ends we prick a 5-course block, each course being called S.H., we shall have fifty courses; but the whole peal contains sixty, and

in none of these fifty is the 6th in fourth's place. We need, therefore, two more 5-course blocks. They are:—

		S.	H.
C 152643	D 125634	x	x
324615	453612	x	x
541632	231645	x	x
213654	514623	x	x
435621	342651	x	x

The sixty natural course-ends we have now produced are what are called Hudson's course-ends. They get their name because they first appeared in a peal composed by William Hudson, of Sheffield, in the year 1832.

123456 S. H.

635412	x	x
152643	D x	x
423165	D x	x
536142	x	x
264153	x	x
345126	x	x
652134	x	x
324615	D x	x
145362	D x	x
256314	x	x
461325	x	x
512346	x	x

The peal is in ten equal parts, and we have given two parts to show clearly the construction. By means of in-course singles (or doubles as they are in this instance called) to each one of the blocks in the group A is added one of the courses in block C, which has the effect of joining together the five 5-course blocks A and the 5-course block C. A similar process joins together the five 5-course blocks B and the 5-course block D; and two extra in-course singles join the two big blocks into one.

This plan of joining together five separate round blocks by splicing into each one member of a single 5-course block by means of singles, is a device which has been much used in Stedman Triples.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION OF OVERLAPPING.

Dear Sir,—Many people will value greatly the most able vindication by Mr. C. T. Coles of the existing organisation of the Exercise. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the master mind of some dictator could not have decided about 70 years ago that territorial associations should all be diocesan or all county, but in the absence of an applicable decision in this matter we must accept the organisation as it exists, with perhaps slight modifications to be adopted locally by mutual agreement where territories overlap.

Presumably the worst example of overlapping is in the London area, where to my mind the pin-pricking to which Mr. Coles refers exists far more between individuals (in fact, a very few individuals) than it does between associations. Recent 'straws in the wind' have indicated that a far better atmosphere can be brought about in London ringing circles by a continued application of the goodwill which has been more apparent since the war began. Certainly of the younger generation generally I believe it can be said that there is little desire to perpetuate the feuds of our elders and betters.

The experience of Sunday, November 15th, 1942, tends to indicate that there has been a general exaggeration of the possibility of organised opposition to ringing greater than existed in 1939. Where there is a good deal of fuss by neighbours about ringing it is usually because the bells are too noisy, and if it is too much trouble for ringers to see about blocking up the louvres they deserve to get complaints, and if I lived near a noisy tower I would be one of the loudest complainants. Therefore, this supposed chief function of the National Association (to deal with opposition to ringing) may possibly be superfluous, and if it is not, an active Central Council could fulfil the function equally well. Those who are dissatisfied with the Central Council have the remedy in their own hands.

Rathmore, High Street, Sutton.

P. A. CORBY.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 549.)

Bedfordshire's other example of a detached tower is at Woburn. The Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin was pulled down in 1868, and a mortuary chapel erected on its site with the materials, but the tower remains. This is an embattled structure of two stages, standing at a distance of six yards from the site of the north aisle of the former church, and is about 92ft. high, with pinnacles at the angles, and an open cupola with a cross and vane. The tower was built or rebuilt in the 17th century by Sir Francis Staunton, Kt., with the materials of the Parish Church of Birchmore, and in 1830 it was again rebuilt by John, 6th Duke of Bedford, K.G., under the direction of Mr. E. Blore, and contains a ring of eight bells, two of which were given by the ninth Duke; four were recast in 1664 and a fifth in 1724. The back six are all by T. Mears, 1829, and two trebles by Mears and Stainbank, 1877. The tenor is 12 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb. In 1829, when the church tower was being rebuilt, and the five bells taken down to be recast, the saints' bell mentioned in the 1651 inventory, and which hung in an 'open cupola supported by eight pilasters' on top of the tower, was removed—with the five bells from the old Town Hall—to the Park Farm, from which it was subsequently stolen. The bells hang in two tiers, 3, 5, 7, 8 below and others above. The belfry is well preserved.

At Theale, Berkshire, Holy Trinity Church has a semi-detached tower containing a clock and six bells. The west front of this church is a much reduced copy of Salisbury Cathedral, and the tower to some extent reproduced from the old bell tower in Salisbury Close. It was erected in 1822. The Rector states that the tower is joined to the rest of the church by a large room which is called the 'Library' why, he does not know, as there are certainly no books there. The tower stands to the south of the church—rather to south-east, and was added after the rest of the church was built, and since then an apse has been added.

Although not in England, I have included Bronllys, near Talgarth, Brecon. Here are six bells, augmented and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1939. This detached tower is about six feet away from the north-east end of the church, and is 50ft. high by 13ft. square inside, and is a plain building with sloping roof. It was restored about two centuries ago, the bells at that time having been removed from the decayed tower and left for several years lying under the yew tree in the churchyard. The bells now form a ring of six with a tenor 7 cwt. 21 lb.

Tydd St. Giles, Cambridgeshire, has a detached embattled tower containing six bells. The tower stands many yards from the south-east angle of the chancel. Its two lower stages are decorated, and its upper stage Per-

pendicular styles of architecture. In 1888 Mears and Stainbank added a treble in memory of Canon Scott, and at the same time recast the old five bells. The tower was restored and reopened June 4th, 1888, the weight of the new ring of six being 34 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

At Astbury, Cheshire, the semi-detached tower and spire have a ring of six bells. It is stated to be 'a source of wonder to visitors because it stands almost apart from the building like a campanile.' It is the original Norman tower, since refaced and adorned with a string course and buttresses, and it owes its isolated position to the fact that when the Norman nave and chancel were demolished, the builders of the Early English church moved over towards the south, leaving only a narrow aisle on the site of the Norman nave, and this process was repeated by the 15th century builders, who deserted the Norman site altogether, and thus left the tower standing alone with narrow passage between it and the church. At a later date this space was roofed over and incorporated in the church, thus linking the two together again. There were bells here in pre-Reformation days, and a certificate of the Sheriff of Cheshire, 1548, states that there were four bells at Astbury. During the first half of the 17th century they were recast by Paul Hutton, the Congleton bellfounder. They were again recast in 1925 when two additional bells were added. At the same end of the church on the opposite side is a small tower, actually forming the west entrance, with two rooms above it, formerly used by villagers as Peel or refuge chambers for the women and children during cattle raids by the Welsh. The cattle were driven to the moated Peel Farm, about half a mile from the church. The spiral stairway, by which these chambers are approached, also gives access to the almost flat-leaded roof of the nave, so that refugees were not cramped into the tiny space of two rooms, but were able to roam all over the large area of the roof.

BEENHAM, BERKS.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—December 1st is the fifty-fourth anniversary of the first recorded peal at Beenham, Berkshire. It was in 1888. A peal of Minor in seven plain methods and rung at the first attempt. The ringers were George Webb treble, Hubert Hatts 2, Arthur Richardson 3, Thomas Bidmead 4, Joseph Hatts (my father) 5, Joseph Richardson (conductor) tenor. He also made and inscribed the peal board. A really good peal.

I well remember Canon Coleridge coming to Beenham with his band two or three years before and showing how it was done. Five were in the choir. Arthur Richardson went to Canada many years ago. I trust that he is still living. Heartly Christmas greetings to all ringing friends when the time comes.

HUBERT HATTS.

100, Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, November 14th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major, 1,260 changes, in 44 minutes: H. Wingrove 1-2, D. Fletcher 3-4, V. Look 5-6, W. Lee (conductor) 7-8. First quarter-peal as conductor on handbells.

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VICTORY BELLS.

ALDERSHOT.—Twenty-one ringers took part in touches of Grand-sire Triples and Plain Bob Major and a good course of Kent Treble Bob Major. Among them were the Misses A. Fisher, H. Mills, E. Southby, F. Stewart, Mrs. A. G. Ghey, Mrs. P. L. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hodgson, Mr. J. Amos, Mr. W. Viggers, Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A., Miss R. Lovegrove, Mr. D. Scott, Sergt. E. Aldridge, Royal Marines, L.-Corpl. L. Fox, Pioneer Corps, Mr. H. Hobden, Private E. J. Taylor, R.A.S.C., and Mr. Marsh.

ARELEY KINGS, STOURPORT.—Grandsire Doubles was rung by J. Martin 1, J. Webster 2, R. Lucas 3, T. Elcox 4, E. Coley (conductor) 5, G. Lewis tenor. Mr. Elcox, who is 87 years old, began his connection with the church as organ blower; for many years tolled the bell for funerals and the 8 a.m. service; and graduated to change ringing after two years as 'refreshment boy' to the band. Since those early days he has seen the church rebuilt and the bells twice rehung.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—The bells were rung to 120's of Grand-sire Doubles from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. by P. Alderman, S. Alderman, J. Bristow, S. M. Bristow, D. C. Enticott, J. H. Manning and W. Stevens. Some of the ringing was up to peace-time standard. The bells of other churches in the district were either chimed or rung.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—Twelve ringers attended, some giving up their day duties for nights to enable them to be present. Rounds and call changes were first rung on the ten, then a touch of Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Caters. The striking was excellent.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—At St. Mary's Church several touches of Grandsire Triples by A. Crane, J. Marks, R. Pearson, H. Pearson, H. Morris, R. Sear, F. Sear, T. Clare, S. Smith, with H. Sear (conductor). Gunner Fairhead, of Egham, Surrey, also assisted.

BRONLLYS.—Seven ringers turned up and call changes were rung until 11 o'clock.

BURLESCOMBE, DEVON.—The bells were rung to rounds and call changes from 9.45 to 11 a.m. The bells of neighbouring churches were also rung.

CURDRIDGE.—Grandsire Triples rung by J. D. Barker (Curdridge), Admiral J. W. Carrington, O.B.E., D.S.O. (Curdridge), T. Hall (Curdridge), R. Ryves (Shedfield), E. Whiteman (Bishop's Waltham), L. Davis (Bishop's Waltham), W. Ryves (Curdridge) and W. C. Gates (Bishop's Waltham). Mr. Alfred Pook, one of the oldest ringers at Curdridge, 'stood in' to help ring the rounds.

DEDDINGTON, OXFORD.—A good muster turned up, the bells were raised in peal, and some well-struck touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung, as well as rounds for the younger members.

DUNMOW, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's, two 360's of Plain Bob, with 6.8 covering, by G. Pitts, F. Harrington, G. Schleister, G. Saunders, T. Goodey, W. Smith (conductor), A. T. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT.—At Lea a good 720 of Bob Minor was rung by George L. A. Lunn 1, J. A. Lunn 2, Mrs. E. Gray 3, J. Dixon 4, N. B. Thurlby 5, H. Morgan (conductor) 6. The same band and several others rang Bob Major and Grandsire Triples at All Saints', Gainsborough, for 30 minutes, and then went to Willingham, where Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor were rung. Stow, Corringham, Upton, Springthorpe, Blyton, Bigg, Messingham, Haxey, Owston Ferry and Epworth bells were rung by their local bands as well as the numerous rings of one, two, three and four bell's in the district.

HENSINGHAM.—Rounds, call changes and firing by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Gibson, J. E. Brown, J. R. Eilbeck, J. F. Hartley, H. Forsyth, R. Johnstone, W. Bramwell and J. Boadle.

HEREFORD.—At the Cathedral the back eight were raised in peal, rounds were rung on the ten, a touch of Triples and the ten ceased in peal. It was all fairly good ringing. The ringers taking part were four of the old band, Mr. Davies, Mr. Hurcomb, Mr. Gibbling and Mr. Symonds, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Williams, of the new band, Mr. Cousins and Mr. Cave, a visitor to Hereford and three airmen from Credenhill.

HILLINGTON.—At St. John's Church, 14 ringers took part, including Mr. J. J. Pratt, captain, and Mr. W. Honor, who have been ringers at Hillington for over 50 years. Mrs. G. Goodfellow, the only lady member of the band, also rang, and Mr. F. Smith, steeple-keeper, who was congratulated on the 'go' of the bells.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—At St. Mary's, touches of Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire Triples by A. F. Symonds, L. Fidler, C. Hare, G. Wolfe, T. Castle, T. R. Scott, E. W. Day, H. Else, E. Winters and Miss Hartell, also C. Howard, of Barley. Mr. C. Cannon, an old ringer, was also present.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY.—Although four of the ringers are now serving and one has died on active service, a band of old hands was mustered on November 15th. One of them was Mrs. A. Rust, wife of Canon A. Rust, who is president of the Bedfordshire Association and who also assisted. Mrs. Rust had not touched a bell rope for 20 years, but did her job well in a belfry not too easy to ring in.

ISLEWORTH.—Call changes and Queens were rung on six and eight bells by the Misses K. Brooks, P. Peck and J. Unwin and Messrs. H. Brooks, G. Dodds, P. and A. Thirst, D. Salvage, E. and M. Shelock, D. Chamberlain and F. Bishop. Miss J. Unwin and Messrs. P. and A. Thirst heard their bells for the first time.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—Great enthusiasm was shown by the ringers in the Isle of Wight, and most of the bells were rung, including those at Ryde, Godshill, Arreton and Brading. The combined bands of Carisbrooke and Newport, numbering 15 in all, rang Grandsire and Stedman Triples at the former church at 9 a.m. and repeated the performance at Newport Parish Church for the service at 10 a.m.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—Short touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich were rung by S. H., M. T. and D. A. S. Symonds, W. R. J. Poulson, W. Faiers, F. Boreham, F. F. Mortlock, A. F. Turner, W. Jarvis, L. Pryke and I. Offord. The striking was exceptionally good. Just before the thanksgiving service in the afternoon a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by W. Jarvis, M. T. Symonds, S. H. Symonds and D. A. S. Symonds.

LUTON, BEDS.—Touches of Stedman Triples by Messrs. L. A. Goodenough, A. J. Smith, J. Herbert, A. Rushton, H. Wood, A. Rookwood, D. Newman, J. Kendall and A. King, of the local band, and Messrs. H. Burton, R. Kendall and F. Harris, visitors.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.—One of the local band, Mr. T. Gale, a man within a year or two of 80, travelled from Bath (40 miles) that morning on purpose to ring and returned there again after the ringing. Other ringers taking part were H. B. Perrot, F. Strickland, W. Gould, A. Dyer, F. Farrant and J. Jetten.

NORBURY, HAZEL GROVE.—A touch of Bob Major and a course of Kent Treble Bob by J. Dean, W. Shaw, Mrs. J. Fernley, Pte. J. Fernley, A.C.C., H. Langley, R. E. Jones, J. W. Hartley, W. Fernley and E. Bennett.

PINNER.—A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, followed by several extents of Grandsire Doubles, with 4.6.8 and 7.6.8 covering. The ringing was quite good. Ringers present were R. Colver 1, Cpl. E. Coward 2, — Smithson 3, Cpl. K. Arthur 4, M. Pendry 5, — Ware 6, T. Collins 7, H. Straiford 8. Also present were Messrs. E. Ware, H. Culverwell and Harris. At 9.45 some of the band left for Ruiship, leaving the remainder with others to ring call changes for the 11 o'clock service.

RHYL, NORTH WALES.—Grandsire Doubles (4.8 behind) and Grandsire Triples interspersed with Queens, Whittington, Tittums and firing by Messrs. Evans, Clarke, Collis, Bailey, T. Evans, Griffith, G. Wilson, J. Wilson, Mrs. A. Osborne and Miss L. Chorlton.

RICKMANSWORTH.—Grandsire Triples was rung on the back eight, and rounds and call changes on the ten by Messrs. J. E., H. H. and J. A. Jones, A. E. Millett, E. Hookham, W. A. Howlett, J. Smedley, E. Nobbs, J. Good, T. Gander, T. Reeves, C. Lord and F. W. Elliott. Mr. Charles Lord, who is 86, was one who took part in ringing for the Relief of Mafeking. With one exception, through illness, the whole male strength was present in the belfry.

SELSTON, NOTTS.—Grandsire and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob by J. Dobbs, C. Cottam, G. Rawson, L. Rawson, F. Cooke, L. Jaques, M. Jaques, T. Hand and W. Dobbs. The bells were in fairly good order.

SEFTON, NEAR LIVERPOOL.—The bells of St. Helen's were rung one hour before service and a short time after by W. Thorley, S. Flint, R. Guy, G. Smith, A. Williams, W. Deacon and G. Skelland. The ringing included a 720 Plain Bob Minor and several touches of Kent Treble Bob.

SHEFFIELD.—Every member turned up at the Cathedral. The ringing commenced with 'firing' and rounds, followed by Grandsire Cinques. Being Lord Mayor's Day, thousands of people congregated in and around the Cathedral. Numerous congratulations were received and public interest was most marked.

SHEDFIELD.—The Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge and Shedfield bands amalgamated and rang at the three towers between 9 and 11 a.m., a conveyance being provided. All three are in an area of about ten miles. The Shedfield bells were rung for the first time since being augmented to eight and rehung.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—Touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major by I. Cavill, W. Prior, T. Waits, H. Watts, G. Jordan, T. Jordan, A. Jordan, F. W. Thurby and F. P. Morton.

STANMORE.—Touches of Grandsire Triples by George A. Hughes, sen., W.O. George A. Hughes, jun., R.A.F., E. Leversuch, H. Moxom, G. Cheshire, W. Wenban, C. Wenban, D. Cattell, Mrs. G. Savill and Mr. F. Bullock, of Watford.

STORRINGTON.—The Storrington band went to Thakeham and rang rounds and call changes for the 10 o'clock service. They returned to Storrington and rang five 120's Grandsire Doubles for the 11 o'clock service. The ringing was very good and was much appreciated.

SUDBURY.—At St. Peter's, touches of Bob Major by G. Dixon, G. Gridley, H. Herbert, R. Felton, A. Fitch, A. Haynes, L. Johnson, C. Clark, G. Howell and D. Elliott.

TILEHURST, READING.—At St. Michael's, short touches of Grandsire Triples by the local band: H. Bower, A. Barnes, E. Chapman, Miss E. Collins, H. Green, A. Haines, H. Hunt, E. Langley, J. Lewendon, D. Sellar and R. N. Runham (conductor). Regret was felt that Mr. H. Goodger, the veteran ex-captain, was unable to be present owing to ill-health.

(Continued on next page.)

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

TERRINGTON ST. JOHN, NORFOLK.—720 Bob Minor: G. Hockley 1, T. Bunting 2, C. Utteridge 3, G. Bunting 4, W. Cousins (conductor) 5, C. Cousins 6. Other short touches were rung, including 360, in which the treble was rung by J. W. Rodwell.

TRING.—The bells were rung in rounds, call changes and Grandsire Doubles by the old members and visitors, including two members of the R.A.F. and two ladies. The Doubles were rung on the back six with 1,2 leading: F. J. Reeve 1, H. Bull 2, E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council, conductor) 3, a member of the R.A.F. 4, H. Heley 5, N. Brackley tenor.

TRURO.—At the Cathedral the bells were rung from 9 to 10 a.m., and from 10.30 to 11 a.m. The ringing consisted of Grandsire Triples and rounds. The striking was very good, the ringers having had a three hours practice the day previous with clapper stays on. As the bells have been raised and lowered each week the 'go' was excellent. Twenty-two ringers were found and all turned up ready to start on the stroke of nine. At 9.45 ten ringers left the Cathedral to ring at Kenwyn from 10.15 to 11 a.m.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—The Tunstall band were at their post in the belfry by 9.30, and after two and a half years without practice on the ropes rang changes in various methods without a hitch. The following members were present: Mrs. Freda Bushel, Mrs. G. H. Spice, Miss B. Spice, Messrs. W. Spice, sen., W. Spice, jun., G. Webb, G. Kenward and G. H. Spice.

TWINEHAM.—A quarter-peal (1,260) of Grandsire Doubles by G. A. Packham treble, E. Willey 2, E. F. Packham 3, C. H. Wickens 4, G. Packham, sen., tenor.

WADHURST, SUSSEX.—Only four service ringers were left, but by the help of two old ringers and a visitor the bells were raised and lowered in peal and rung to rounds and call changes.

WALKDEN, LANCS.—Two touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, 504 and 336, as well as Queens. The following took part: John Denner, Miss A. Potter, Mrs. M. Brundritt, J. Boyer, R.A.O.C., B. Welsby, James Denner, A. Burton, J. Potter (conductor), H. Prescott (Kearsley) and J. Kershaw (Pendlebury).

WEST GRINSTEAD.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles on the front five by W. Weaver, V. Turrell, F. Turrell, C. Longhurst and W. Denman. The bells were lowered in peal.

WEST WICKHAM, KENT.—For the morning service at the Parish Church the six bells were rung by R. Holton, P. Davis, R. W. Parker, W. A. Hughes, H. Mackinder and W. Hollamby. The ringing drew many appreciative comments from the congregation, although it was confined to call changes.

WHITBOURNE, HEREFORDSHIRE.—A few six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by the following members of the local band: J. H. Griffiths, F. Davis, C. Davis, George Jones (conductor), S. Lewis, E. Jones and R. J. Caswell.

WILLESDEN.—Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lankester, Messrs. A. Cutler, F. Barrett, G. Chalkley, H. Kilby and E. H. Kilby.

WINCHESTER.—The Cathedral band met at 9 o'clock, and the bells were fired three times (three 21's) with Queen's changes between, followed by a touch of Grandsire Triples. The ringers then went across to St. Maurice's Church, where touches of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor were rung until 10 o'clock. A return was then made to the Cathedral, where a touch of Grandsire Caters was rung from 10.16 until 11 o'clock. The Dean visited the ringing chamber and welcomed the ringers. He congratulated Mr. Andrews on his 50 years of service.

WINFARTHING, NORFOLK.—Touches were rung on the bells of St. Mary's Church from 9.15 a.m. till 10 a.m., including a 360 of Bob Minor by H. Woodrow treble, C. Ashford 2, A. Elsey 3, C. Baker 4, G. Kemp 5, W. Elsey (conductor) tenor.

WORCESTER.—Members of the Cathedral band and many visitors met at 9 a.m. The bells were raised and ringing continued until 9.45 a.m. Attempts were made for Grandsire Caters, which did not meet with much success. After a short service further ringing took place until 11 a.m., when several ringers left for St. John's tower, while others visited St. Swithin's and brought round a short touch of Treble Bob Minor.

YATTON.—All the local ringers, thirteen in number, were present. The bells were raised in peal, and Grandsire Doubles and Triples were rung, also Queens and firing until 11 o'clock.

YEOVIL.—Grandsire and Stedman were rung by J. E. Baker, E. Norman, S. Ricketts, E. Barrington, H. Hurst, C. Jeans, T. Marks, T. Setter, F. Smith and three visitors. Mr. Norman is 81 years of age and has been a ringer for 60 years.

NOTICES.

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

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NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8, silent once more, alas!) 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea in the Cosin Room, Stuart Hall, near St. Andrew's Church, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 12th. Tower of St. Peter's open from 2.30 p.m., where eight silent bells are available. Service at 4 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A practice meeting will be held at Daybrook, Notts, on Saturday, December 12th, at 3 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available.—F. Salter, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Institute, Bushey, Saturday, December 19th. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.—Tower bells (silent) Saturday, December 19th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Change ringers and beginners welcome.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, at 3 p.m., on December 19th. Tower bells (silent), together with handbells. This being the annual, please do your best to be present. Tea at 4.15 p.m. A card by the 16th will greatly help for tea arrangements.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 19, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

SILVER WEDDING.

At St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, on Saturday, December 8th, 1917, by the Rev. C. C. (now Canon) Marshall, M.A., Percy John Johnson to Annie Flockton. Present address, 53, Shire Oak Road, Leeds 6.

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