

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise ; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 989.—VOL. XIX.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

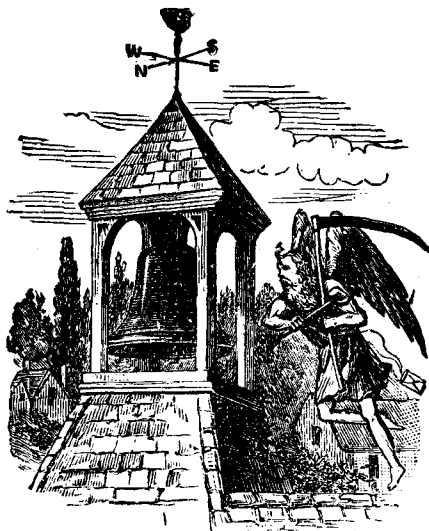
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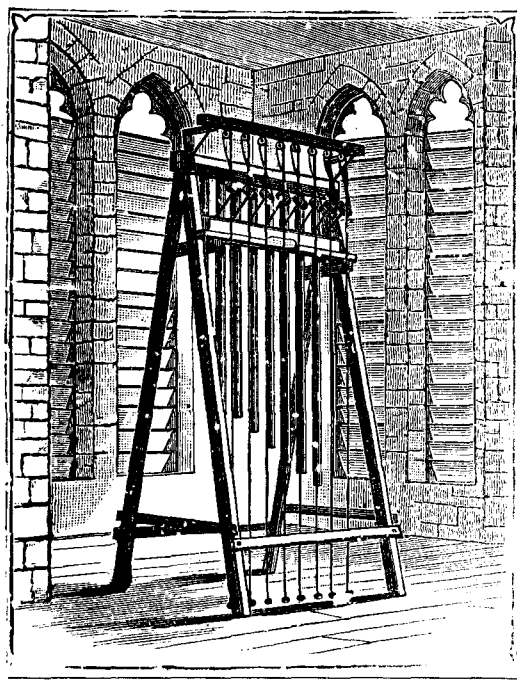
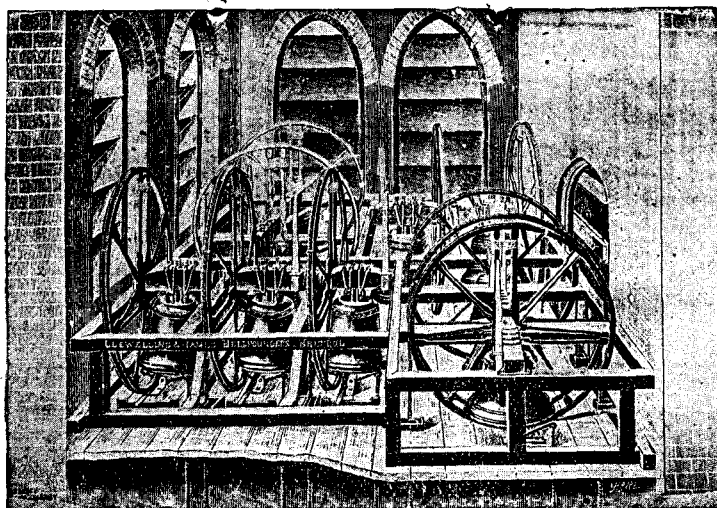
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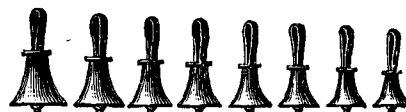
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 989.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

[Vol. XIX.]

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEWES.

A divisional meeting at Southover, Lewes, is always an attraction to the members of the above Association, and the fixture for Saturday, March 9th, was no exception to the rule. Representatives from Aldrington, Brighton (St. Peter's and St. Nicolas), Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Heene, Hastings, Lindfield, Lewes, Pevensey and Rye, were present, and, but for one fact, the meeting could not have been more completely successful or enjoyable. Since the present Rector (the Rev. D. Lee Elliott) came into this parish, he has ever evidenced a keen interest in the ringers and ringing, and it was therefore the one point of regret that, owing to the death of his wife's much respected father, he was unable to be present at the first meeting which the Association had arranged at his church. The rev. gentleman very considerably set aside personal feeling, and refrained from postponing the meeting at the last minute, but as a mark of respect the bells were rung half-muffled.

During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung by the earlier arrivals, and at five o'clock a short, but bright and hearty service was held. A shortened form of evensong was used, and the hymns were sung, in addition to the organ, to a cornet accompaniment. An address suitable to the occasion, was delivered by the Rev. F. Gmelin, who drew from the parable of the labourers in the vineyard the lesson that it was possible for everyone, if only in some small manner, to labour for the Lord in the furtherance of His kingdom. Every Christian, whether holding an official position in the Church or not, was as much a labourer in the vineyard as any of those who had been specially set apart for the ministry. The ringers to whom he especially addressed himself that afternoon were labourers in the Lord's vineyard, because it was through them that the Lord's people were called together to the House of Prayer. It was through the solemn sound of the bells that their minds were prepared for Divine Service. Therefore they should not think lightly of the occupation, they should not forget that whilst ringing the bells they were really and truly doing good work for the Lord in His vineyard.

After the service the visitors were entertained to tea by the Rector, between thirty and forty sitting down in the Mission Hall. The Rev. F. Gmelin presided, and among those present were Mr. J. Hambrook, Mr. G. F. Attree (Master of the Association), Mr. G. Williams (Central Divisional Secretary), Mr. H. Evans (Western Divisional Secretary), etc. At the opening of the business meeting which followed, the Rev. F. Gmelin expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity of presiding over the gathering, although he very much regretted the cause which kept Mr. Elliott away.

A letter was read from the Rev. Lee Elliott, in which he stated that owing to the death of Mr. Willett, his

father-in-law, he was unable to be present at the meeting. He extended to the visitors a warm welcome to the church and parish, and expressed his hearty good wishes for the success and welfare of the Association.

On the motion of Mr. Attree, seconded by Mr. Williams, a vote of condolence was passed with the Rector and Mrs. Elliott in the sad bereavement they had sustained.

The Rev. D. Lee Elliott was elected an honorary member of the Association, and twenty-two active members were also elected. After the transaction of other formal business a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for his kind hospitality, and for granting the use of the bells and arranging the service.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Rev. F. Gmelin for his address and for presiding at the meeting.

After the meeting the visitors returned to the church where further touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, in addition to which touches of Bob Major and Treble Bob Major, and two courses of Bristol Surprise and London Surprise were brought round. Several of the ringers also took the opportunity of visiting the newly-opened parochial club, where they participated in the various games that are there provided.

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

The usual quarterly meeting of this division was held at Heene, Worthing, on Saturday, March 2nd. The tower was open at 3 o'clock, only five members putting in an appearance at the beginning. A 120 of Grandsire Doubles was first rung, and on the arrival of three more from Steyning, a 504 of Grandsire Triples was brought round, Mr. T. Stroud, of Midhurst, ringing the 5th, this being his first attempt at Triples. A course of Bob Major, and two more short touches of Triples, brought 5 o'clock, the hour appointed for tea. By this time a good muster had assembled, and a move was made to the church room, where Mr. Hales, the caterer, had a good tea in readiness. Those present were; the Rector, Rev. J. P. Fellows, Rev. G. R. Leefe, Vicar of Goring, Mr. Bishopp-Smith, Churchwarden, Mr. Tompkins, Treasurer, Messrs. Williams and Evans, divisional Secretaries, and representatives from the following towers, Angmering, Brighton (St. Peter's and St. Nicolas), Goring, Heene, Midhurst, and Steyning, numbering 23. Mr. Bennett, the Hon. Sec., having to leave early for Brighton, on the business of the Association. Justice having been done to the good things provided, Mr. Tompkins proposed that the Rector take the chair, and business followed. The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed. The Chairman then rose, and made a very pleasing surprise, and said he was pleased to welcome the members of the Association to Heene, and if they would allow him, he was willing to defray the cost of the tea. With regard to the "Challenge Bell," he supposed the time would soon come when they must part with it. He hoped at some future time his band might be fortunate enough to win it again. The rev. gentleman here remarked that he must leave, as he had to conduct a service, and Mr. Tompkins was voted to the

chair. It may be mentioned that during the past year the "Challenge Bell" has been placed in a conspicuous part of the church, and has raised much curiosity. The following new members were then proposed and elected; Bolney, H. Courage, life member; Goring, Rev. G. A. Leefe, hon. member; and the following active members; Heene, T. Greenyer, H. Meetens, and H. Tulett; Midhurst, Rev. A. H. Simpson, E. G. Boxall, W. G. Daniels, G. G. Deane, W. R. Madgwick, and E. J. Pressling; Steyning, T. Searle and R. Bartlett; Warnham, J. Stanford and A. Coomber. Mr. Norris proposed that the next quarterly peal be again attempted at Chichester. The Secretary announced that the Vicars of Goring and West Tarring had kindly offered the use of their bells, if wanted. The Vicar of Goring, he was pleased to say, was present, and he hoped soon to see him taking a rope with them. The rev. gentleman replied that he would like to learn to ring, provided his ringers would see that he was not pulled up, he, also, should be pleased to welcome the Association to Goring. Mr. Tompkins proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector of Heene, for defraying the cost of the teas, also for the use of the bells; this concluded the business. The tower was again visited, and touches were rung in various methods, a visit also being paid to the West Tarring tower, where touches of Minor were rung till nine o'clock.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the members was held in the parish room in connection with St. Peter's church, South Croydon, on Monday, the 25th February, 1901, having been postponed to this date on account of the death of Queen Victoria. The business meeting, which was preceded by the usual tea, was attended by about forty-five members, the chair, in the absence of the Vicar, being occupied by his son the Rev. John Henry White, senior curate of St. Peter's. The Chairman warmly welcomed the members to St. Peter's and called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly confirmed. The Secretary read the Committee's Report and accounts for the year 1900, and proposed the adoption of the same. Mr. Henry Brooker (South Croydon) seconded and the proposition was carried unanimously. It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Hitching (South Croydon) seconded by Mr. Huggett (Betchworth) that the Committee as appearing in the report be the Committee for 1901. Mr. Daniels (Streatham) proposed, Mr. Miles (Epsom), seconded, that the Rev. A. S. W. Young (Rector of All Saints, Kingston-on-Thames) be re-elected Treasurer. The Rev. J. H. White proposed Mr. H. Bryant (Benhlton) seconded, that Mr. Chas. Dean be re-elected Secretary. Mr. Spence (Cheam) proposed, Mr. Pederick (Cheam) seconded, that Mr. Henry Brooker and Mr. William Canning be re-elected Auditors. These propositions were carried unanimously.

It was reported that since the last meeting fourteen peals had been rung in various methods, and it was resolved that they be recorded as peals by the Association.

The election as members of Mr. George Sayer, Ashted (Honorary) and Mr. Alfred Peeke (unattached) was ratified.

The following were elected members: Mr. John Calcutt, St. Peter's, South Croydon; Thomas Verrall, unattached; H. C. Evans, Benhlton, Sutton; George Wyatt, Ashted; W. Alan Gillett, Streatham; Arthur Hooper, Streatham;

H. J. McDougall, Streatham; D. R. McDougall, Streatham.

It was resolved that the next quarterly meeting should take place at Sutton on Easter Monday.

Mr. H. Brooker gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that an alteration be made in rule 1; in order to alter the name of the Association to "The Surrey County Association of Change-ringers."

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary concluded the meeting.

THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER.

On Thursday, February 14th, the members of this Society had their annual dinner at The Gresham restaurant, Westgate Street. Letters of apology were read from the Ven. Archdeacon Hayward, Rev. A. Phelps (curate of St. Michael's), Mr. J. Wintle (churchwarden), and Mr. F. G. May, who were unable to attend owing to other engagements. In the unavoidable absence of the President (Rev. Canon James), who is away on the continent owing to ill-health, Alderman Joseph Ward occupied the chair. Justice having been done to the good things provided, the Chairman asked the company "The Memory of the late Queen" in silence; after which "The Health of the King and Queen" was drank, and a verse of the National Anthem sung. A course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. Pegler, Davis, Newman, Hart, and Brunsdon. The Chairman, in proposing "The Health of the President of the Society," hoped the time would not be long when they would have him among them again. Mr. F. E. Ward next proposed "The Health of the Churchwardens," and spoke of the good feeling that existed between them and the ringers, and hoped it would long continue.

A capital programme was then gone through, Mr. P. Hayes presiding at the piano, several of the company contributing to the evening's harmony. A very pleasant evening was spent.

CHELTHENHAM RINGERS AND THE KING'S ACCESSION.

On behalf of the ringers of St. Mary's parish church, Cheltenham, the Master (Mr. W. T. Pates), forwarded last month an address to the King, most respectfully offering to His Majesty "our deep sympathy in the overwhelming sorrow that has befallen your Majesty and the other members of the Royal Family, and the incalculable loss sustained by the whole Nation and Empire in the death of our late beloved Sovereign Lady Queen and Empress Victoria, and adding it has given us the greatest pleasure in the past to ring joyful peals on St. Mary's parish church bells for our dearly loved Queen, but now it is our sorrowful duty to perform our last tribute to Her beloved memory. We also humbly beg leave to offer to your Majesty our solemn and earnest congratulations on your accession to the throne." Mr. Pates has now received the following reply from the Home Secretary: "Home Office, Whitehall, 4th March, 1901. Sir,—I am commanded by the King to convey to you hereby His Majesty's thanks for the loyal and dutiful message of the church bell ringers of St. Mary's parish church, Cheltenham, expressing sympathy on the occasion of the lamented death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and congratulation on His Majesty's accession to the throne. I am Sir, your obedient servant, CHAS. T. RITCHIE."

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Harry Barton has removed to 12, Goodwin Terrace, Downs Road, Walmer. Mr. A. Roberts has removed from Stourbridge to 31, Melbourne Street, Wolverhampton.

THE ANONYMOUS.

BY JINGLE.

Everything has its uses, and anonymity is a grand institution. I am an anonymous writer. So is the editor or leader-writer of the "Scaly Wail." So is the almighty "we" of the press; even so is "Plain Speaker." There are exceptions, but nearly all men who assume the responsibility of public criticism are anonymous. And why?

First, because it matters not whether it is Smith, Brown, Jones, or Robinson, who states what is an abstract fact and a palpable truth; and chiefly for reason that none but those who desire to advertise their personality would care to thrust themselves upon public attention.

Even my friend Shakespeare said "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and all my readers will admit that the Bard new something.

* * *

The great use of anonymity lies in calling attention to abuses without giving personal offence. For instance, I write a note to the Sanitary Inspector of my district thusly:—"Sir, while I am second to none in admiration of the pig when defunct, I beg to say that in its natural state distance lends enchantment to the view, while the aroma arising from its domestic environment is not to be compared to Eau-de-Cologne. Therefore with the sole intention of assisting you in your labours for sanitation I wish to intimate that if you will call in the neighbourhood of Blank Street, you will hear (or smell) something to your advantage (?)". This removes a nuisance and the PROBOAR does not know his benefactor! It's a grand herb!! Again, during the dog days, I slip a note into my landlord's letter-box saying that as a certain neighbour's dog is unfit to be at large, and is evidently resolved on a change of diet, I herewith inform him that unless the animal is kept chained up, there will be a few houses to let in this locality. Hey Presto! the thing is done. Selah! There is no doubt, my masters, that anonymity is a fine thing and a most useful weapon.

* * *

In its proper place.

* * *

A man may make a statement in print under an assumed name. He may send as apparent corroboration of his statement half a dozen other anonymous letters, and many readers would accept them as proof. If the statement concerns a certain individual, that person, not knowing who his opponents are, cannot cross-examine them. Hence, I think all fairminded men will agree that when an attack is made, the challenger should have the courage of his opinions and append his name, thus meeting his opponent on equal terms.

In this connection, I fully endorse what was written in the editorial of this paper concerning the correspondence reflecting on a peal of Grandsire Caters rung at Taunton on December 31st.

* * *

First, the report of the peal was printed in its proper place in the usual order of things.

Secondly, a gentleman writing under the nom de plume of "Scientific," asks why the 9th did not go into the hunt, and why the bells came round two leads after the 9th

made 3rds place? The writer saying he had written to a local paper but had received no reply!

It occurred to me at the time that the local paper was hardly the proper medium for one ringer to show up another, also that if the bells happened to be in the home-at-hand position (879) everything was all correct, as the last course would in all probability be "8 in with 3" and rounds would come up at hand two leads after the 9th 3rds. Thus I concluded that "Scientific" had "put his foot in it."

But, I find in Shipway the peal of 5021 by J. Reeves comes round from the tittum position by 9th in and out at 2! Therefore, if what "Scientific" says is true, the bells could not possibly have been run round as the 8th (in any case) would be (P.L.) down in the front (4-5) and Grandsire cannot come round at hand with a bob. There would be a general smash, and no bell beyond the treble in its proper place.

Did this actually occur?

Since the correspondence opened I have had placed in my hands certain information about this peal. I ought to say here that I do not consider "Scientific" has told the readers of this paper but half of what has occurred. Moreover, his statements contain a grave discrepancy.

After his letter to the local paper (*The Taunton Gazette*) the issue of January 16th contained this reply:—

"Sir,—In reply to the simple remarks of "Scientific" on bell-ringing in last week's *Gazette*, I am inclined to think he knows very little about scientific bell-ringing, or writes in a vindictive or jealous spirit for, he says "the 9th bell did not go into the hunt" which is incorrect, for it was in the hunt with the treble, and which could have been heard by anyone a mile away from the parade! I maintain that she did her work, and come round in her regular course and position."

* * *

On the 9th of February, "Scientific" said in "THE BELL NEWS" that he had not received a reply. Possibly he had not seen the *Taunton Gazette* for January 16th. Yet if he had not he could not have written again in reply, but I find in the *Gazette* his answer to the above, in which he reiterates his charge that the 9th was down *before* the treble, not *after* it. This is the sum and substance of the dispute up to date. I do not think there is any reader of this journal who deserves the name of ringer, who would uphold a false peal. I notice that "Scientific" says he will bring it before the Central Council. He can take it from me that it will be useless (at all events under a *nom de plume*). I am also in a position to know that the conductor of the peal has put himself in the hands of the Society—The College Youths—for any investigation.

What is there to prevent "Scientific" bringing his charges out in the light of day? He can depend upon it that he will have every opportunity and reasonable latitude in this paper. It is unfair to his opponent to keep his name secret any longer. Let me invite "Scientific" to come forward and he shall have fair play.

"Let us speak plain: There is more in names
Than most men dream of; and a lie may keep
Its throne a whole age longer, if it speak
Behind the shield of some fair-seeming name."

LOWELL.

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CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

(Continued from page 550.)

It may not be amiss to say here a word or two on the origin of the word "bellyetter," which finds a modern counterpart in that part of London known as "Billiter" Street. To yote was in early days "to pour," from the Anglo-Saxon word "geotan," and the expression is used in the St. Thomas' accounts when in hanging a door, we read of lead for "yotting" in the hooks of the door. In bellfounding, likewise, the term would be most appropriate, where the fundamental idea would be that of pouring bell metal into a mould. We are told in the introduction that the present Culver Street in Salisbury was in 1318 known as "Yottlebell" (*i.e.* bell-founder) street, but the authority for this is not given. It is sufficiently interesting, however, as pointing to the locality where many of the bells were in early days recast. When the recasting of a bell is recorded in these accounts, it is usual to give the weight before and after casting, the stipulation being that any extra metal is to be paid for. If on the other hand there were any "brass remaining of the yote" it was to be allowed for by the founder. Even the dust turnings when the bell was tuned were also sold.

Other terms in use may be found interesting. We constantly read of the following parts of the gear being repaired or replaced: the frame, pillows, bolster, chairs, bolts, locks, trussing keys, trussing nails, spraggs, wedges, the gudgeons, the brasses on which the gudgeon played, the jennettes, culver-tail, clacks and pollets. The bell "welys" are constantly undergoing repair, but no mention is made of the form of wheel till the year 1630, when it is specifically mentioned as a $\frac{3}{4}$ wheel. Other terms used in connection with repairs and replacements are—the stock, the collar of the stock, bolts, bands, straps, scrypes, twists, staples and cotterels: and there is besides a "vone" ordered for the chimes, whatever that may mean. The exact part played by each of these bell accessories may be left to the ingenuity of those interested, and it would certainly be interesting to know from some professional bellhanger of the present day how many of these terms have survived, and are of modern usage.

There is one item, in 1625, somewhat obscure, viz. "for the lent of a clapper at the buryall of Henry Mogridge." At this time the clapper of the tenor was broken and undergoing repair, so that the entry may have reference merely to the loan of a clapper to enable the bell to be rung, though this explanation is hardly conceivable when there was a choice of five other bells in the tower, any one of which could have done duty on the occasion of a funeral.

Another expression, not unfrequently used, is that of "shutting" as applied to the splicing of a rope. The same word is used for mending a broken clapper or a severed band. In the year 1500 there is an entry "pro le shittynge de le Kuyppele pro quinta campana viijd," which no doubt refers to the welding of some iron strap or coupling attached to the fifth bell. The term has descended to the present time in connection with metal work; and is equally applicable to the union of two pieces of rope as well as of metal; only the fact remains that in the present day, the expression has lost its force in the vocabulary of the belfry.

Until the time of Henry VIII., there was a charge for the "forthfare" bell, or the bell which was rung as the soul was passing out on its journey; or as it was rendered in Latin—*pro magna campana in extremis pulsante or pulsata, or tempore expirationis, or tempore exitus animæ*. The word "knyll" is for the first time used about the year 1500, but even here it is distinctly stated to be a "knyll in the hour of his dethe," and after this date the expressions "knyll" and "ffurthfare" are both used, sometimes the one and sometimes the other. There is, however, a peculiar entry in 1523:

"The forthfaries of the great bell—

Recd. off William Smythe for his wife's knyll, xxd. also reserveyd of Deu Carter for her husbanths knyll, xxd,"—a curious entry of "knylls" under the head of "forthfares."

Our impression is that even in those days knells and forth-

fares gradually became convertible terms. We never find them in conjunction, except in the entry quoted above; but in some years the churchwardens would enter up everything under knells, and in other years other churchwardens would write them up under forthfares. This confusion may even have existed in Bishop Hooper's time, who, in his injunctions issued in 1551 speaks in one place with no uncertain sound when he says, "that from henceforth no knells or forthfares be rung for the death of any man"—in spite of which he enjoins in another place that "in case they that be sick and in danger, or any of their friends, will demand to have the bell toll whilst the sick is in extremis, to admonish the people of their danger, and by that means to solicitate the hearers of the same to pray for the sick person, they may use it." Here is a seeming contradiction, and it appears to us, by what we can gather from these accounts, that it can only be explained in this way—that "forthfares" and "knells" were identical at this period, and that another name, such as the "passing" bell, or the "soul" bell was used to take the place of what should have been more properly comprehended under the term "forthfare." Be that as it may, there is no mention in these accounts of either knyll or forthfare after the year 1573, nor indeed of any ringing for many years after that date either at a death or funeral. A hundred years later, however, the practice was continued, and we read that the sexton had 6d. for "passing the great bell one hour." We even get some further details from the accounts of St. Edmund's parish under date of 1669, and we note charges made in that year for a one, two, three, four, seven, nine and fifteen hours knell. If such an infliction as a fifteen hours knell were at all common, property, one would think, in the neighbourhood of that particular church must have been considerably depreciated. Be this as it may, the sexton of St. Thomas' church was enjoined by the churchwardens in 1636 not to ring any knell on the death of any person "above the space of one houre," and if "after monition be shall eftsoonas offend therein, he be removed from his place of sexton." Two years later we find the following entry: "Joseph Gibbald (because he hath been disobedient to former orders in ringinge ye bells att knells and burials). . . shall have noe wages ye next quarter, and yf this admonition and punishment shall not amend him, but that hee transgresse in ye like manner, it is ordered that hee shall loose, and bee putt out of his sexton's place." The sequel is not vouchsafed to us, but the monition evidently had little effect upon the sexton of the neighbouring parish of St. Edmund, who was in full swing later with his fifteen hours knells.

The following entries are curious—in 1556 "John Huntess wyves moneth mynde" and in 1557 "Sir Harry's twelvemonthes mynde." They were simply in memoriam knells rung a month and a twelvemonth respectively after death; or, as it was briefly termed seventy years before in the case of one John Bruges or Brydges, "in anniversario."

The ropes used varied in weight and price from a 4 lb. rope for the Treble in 1644 at a cost of 1s. to a 28 lb. rope for the Tenor in 1641, costing 10s., the price of them being almost invariably entered in the accounts at so much a pound.

On June 9th, 1653, the bells of St. Edmund's parish were ordered to be taken down. The Vestry found the tower "to bee so clift with shaking," by means of the ringing of the belles, and that "wee cannot without great danger of the tower falling downe suffer any peale to be rung againe; and therefore to give ease to the said tower, it is now ordered that the churchwardens do take downe all the belles in the tower, except the greatest bell to call the people, together with the treble to ring at 5 a clocke in the morning, and that this bee done wth what speed possible that so the southwest pillar may be amended." As the tower fell on the 27th June, there was very little time to let down the bells and get them clear; but it was done, and three years after the bells were hauled up. We find the following entry: "Ropes to draw upp the timber and bells, and afterwards they served for bell ropes—£3:5:6." The pulleys from Wilton House were used for this purpose at a cost of sixpence for fetching and carrying them. The only light thrown upon the recasting of the bells at this time is an order of the Vestry under date 20 March 1655. Messrs. T. Abbott, Ric. Grafton, J. Parsons, & Amb. Ringwood are desired "to walke thorough the parish in such manner as they shall agree to

gather what money they can from such as will willingly contribute towards the new castings of the Belles and setting of them up." At the same time there is no doubt that they were recast by William Purdue and Nathaniel Bolter, as the initials (W P—N B) on the existing bells amply testify. The seventh bell bears the name of "John Strickland, Minister, August 1656," shewing that the bells were cast in the time of the Commonwealth. It is frequently said that nothing was done in the way of casting and bell restoration during that time, but we are informed by Mr. Gifford, of Salisbury, that he knows of forty-three bells cast at that period in the county of Wilts alone, and that there are many existing in the neighbouring counties, the old peal of five at Fordingbridge (now increased to eight), being an instance. As regards Mr. Strickland there is the following entry in the St. Edmund's accounts under date 20th September 1662. "Mr. Strickland being disabled by the late Act for uniformity to continue as Rector, Mr. John Sedgwick, of New Sarum, Clerk, is elected and commended to the Bishop for his institution and induction." The explanation of the absence of any particular entry in the accounts about the cost of recasting the bells may be this, that it was included in the general work of restoration—for we note that in 1655 the receipts were considerable. There "were receipts extraordinarie—for severall things sold since the fall of the tower—£73: 7: 4: Free Gift money—£61: 14: 2: Money uppon Bond—£150." Other receipts of "free gifts" amounted to £91: 1: 4; and there was a rate made for the Church "being ten years tax"—£144: 4: 5.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.
To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

MUFFLED RINGING.

SIR,—In answer to Mr. Daniell and others as to the way bells should be rung muffled, may I be allowed to say a few words? First as to ringing with the bells all muffled with the exception of the tenor (open at backstroke) as advocated by the Master of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. Now, Sir, I do not agree with those who condemn this practice. My reasons are these: that at the time of our late beloved Queen's funeral I know of three towers where this method was carried out, one at a ten-bell tower, where it was done by the wish of the Vicar after reading Mr. Palaret's letter in *The Times*. I may here add that "stone" was rung at this tower all day on the front nine with the tenor behind, and I believe gave great satisfaction to the Vicar and others who heard it. They also rang in the evening the whole pull and stand thus: first the bells were rung round eighty-one whole pulls, then they were rung one whole pull and the tenor one whole pull. This was done eighty-one times, and then to finish the tenor was tolled eighty-one whole pulls by itself. Here the tenor is 28 cwt. The other two towers are six-bell towers. Here they rang Grandsire on the front five and the tenor behind at one tower. At the other tower where I rang myself we rang two 720s, one of Oxford Treble Bob and one of Kent; this with a tenor of 14 cwt., and most of our company spoke highly in favour of this method of ringing. I do not know if Mr. Daniell has heard it tried on a light ring or not. He says he has tried it on a 30 cwt. tenor and strongly condemns it, but that is no reason why he should do so if he has not heard it tried elsewhere. He may probably approve of it if he heard it on a lighter peal. One reason of this is if you have say a 30 cwt. bell open one side it wants very powerful trebles to be heard at all when muffled both sides. I have never heard St. Mary Abbots bells so I cannot tell what they are like. Now as regards ringing wholly muffled, I quite agree with Mr. Borrett that it is a waste of time and energy in a place where there is a lot of noise and traffic. It does very well in a quiet country place as you can hear the bells much farther. Now as to ringing bells half-muffled, some say one side some say the other. I uphold open at hand, muffled at backstroke. A great many differ from this; they tell us that we lose all the most musical changes which of course we do. This I fully admit. But I strongly

object to this, my reason being that we should not ring bells muffled for our own pleasure only, but also for the gratification of the public at large. In the case of half-muffled ringing I think it should be done not to produce the most musical changes simply for own gratification, but to produce the most effect on the outside world. I do not know and I do not suppose anyone else does, whether when bells were first rung half-muffled if it was to produce the musical changes at the open stroke if it was done to give a more solemn effect. But I should say the latter. Now I submit that it is impossible to produce solemn effect with bells muffled at hand and open at back, as all will agree I think that you must have sound before the echo of that sound. What is the use of having the echo first and the loud note afterwards? In my opinion it is ridiculous ringing this way, and I hope to see this practice strongly condemned. As regards uniformity it is almost useless to think of it. I quite agree with what Mr. Drake has said, as there has always been and I believe always will be differences of opinion on this subject. I know of an instance myself, and I have no doubt many more there are that might be quoted, where I learnt to ring on a peal of six when we rang half-muffled it was at backstroke; but at two adjoining towers, now both peals of eight, they always rang, and do so now, muffled at hand. As to the method to be rung I think it depends on the way bells are muffled, even methods on half-muffled bells; but if the tenor is open either way I think it is best kept behind, although I have rung with it turned in.

A NOVICE.

SIR,—Muffled peals being "all the go" just now, I venture to encroach on your space, by stating that Sir Walter Scott in his *Waverley* refers to "a muffled peal being tolled at the neighbouring cathedral" (at Carlisle) at the execution of Fergus Mac Ivor. Certainly this work is only a novel, but was taken from facts, and the author must have heard one to have mentioned it. This happening about 100 years ago, and in Scotland, is my apology for writing.

J.

SIR,—The correspondence on this subject is instructive as well as interesting. The muffled ringing in Birmingham for the memorial service was fully muffled except the tenor, which was half-muffled. This had a solemn effect, the tenor answering as a minute bell. Half-muffled ringing is best for change-ringing. As regards methods I beg to differ from Mr. Borrett; either Grandsire or Stedman Cinques is far before Treble Twelve for music. You can also reverse the course—ends from backstroke to hand, a plan I think the late Henry Johnson adapted, but is not generally practised in Birmingham.

W. H. BARBER.

A MIX.

SIR,—Someone must have reported the peal of Minor rung at Bolsover on March 9th besides myself in "THE BELL NEWS." There are mistakes in it. It was rung by the East Derbyshire Association, and not the Old East Derbyshire Association. Also the weight of the tenor is 14½ cwt. in G., and not 16 cwt. in F sharp as published. It also states that the stained window for which the peal was rung will not be dedicated till the return of Lady Otaline Bentinck who is in Germany. Allow me to state that the dedication service was held on Sunday, March 3rd.

Hill Top, Bolsover.

JOHN FLINT.

[This is an instance of the want of system in sending reports. Two communications are received from two different writers; how in such case are we to determine which is the correct one?—Ed.]

* * One or two letters concerning the Taunton peal have come to hand, but no practical good will come of widening this correspondence. It is therefore closed.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A District Meeting of the above will be held at Walthamstow on Easter Monday. The towers of St. Mary's, St. Saviour's (10.30—4.30), Christ Church Wanstead, All Hallows, Tottenham, will be open for ringing. Tea will be provided at The Lord Brook hotel at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Members must signify their intention to be present to me not later than the previous Tuesday.

HENRY T. W. EYRE.

Great Totham.

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Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication arriving later than the first Postal delivery on Wednesday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher E. W. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

AMONG our obituary notices this week is one wherein the writer—our old friend BENJAMIN KEEBLE, of Romford in Essex—appears to lament the omission of the courtesy invariably observed by ringers at the death of a departed brother. Our friend above-named is a true bred-and-born Essex man, and therefore he must be fully aware of the *soubriquet* which has been, from time immemorial, applied to natives of the county. Perhaps therefore the Romford ringers may have been bewildered and confused by the variety of the recently-expressed opinions upon muffled ringing which have appeared in our columns, and refrained attempting anything for fear of being criticised. Such fear may have led to the temporary obfuscation of their mental capabilities.

But if the absence of the usual courtesy to the memory

of a departed brother was the result of apathy and indifference merely, then the Romford men will merit, and also receive, the condemnation of every ringer. We believe that this omission of the usual muffled ringing is the very first of its kind, under such circumstances. And it is hoped, the last. Our ancient customs must not be allowed to decay, or become obsolete, but such neglect as the one before us, frequently repeated, is a step to that end.

The present number of "THE BELL NEWS" is accompanied by a portrait of MR. WILLIAM SNOWDON, President of the Yorkshire Association. There is no doubt about such a picture being welcome to everyone of our readers. As long as change-ringing lasts, the name of "SNOWDON" will be one well-known and honoured by its votaries. The close relationship of the present Yorkshire President to his predecessor in that office, will make this portrait doubly welcome, and doubly interesting. And those who have a close acquaintance with WILLIAM SNOWDON know his value, and his worth, and the high regard rightly entertained for him among the brotherhood.

With our next number will appear three beautiful photographs of different phases of St. Benet's church, Cambridge, taken solely for this paper, together with another full-page illustration, announced last week. The production of these illustrations have been somewhat costly, but the usual price of publication will not be increased.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Central Council will be held at Derby, on Whit-Tuesday, May 28th. Notices of motion should be sent in before 30th April, which is the last day on which they can be received. Hon. Secretaries of Societies are respectfully reminded that the contributions for the year 1901 became due on the 1st Jan., and should be remitted *without needless delay*, at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each elected representative, to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, together with information as to any change of representatives, and the names and addresses of such as have been appointed since the last meeting of the Council.

H. EARLE BULWER, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*
Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn.

The Metropolis.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, HOLLOWAY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES.

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST H. OXENHAM .. Treble.	HARRY STUBBS 5.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE .. 2.	THOMAS LANGDON 6.
GEORGE R. FARDON 3.	HERBERT LANGDON 7.
WILLIAM J. NUDDS 4	JAMES GEORGE Tenor.

Composed by JAMES GEORGE, and Conducted by HERBERT LANGDON.

First peal in the method on the bells. First peal of Bob Major by the ringers of treble, 6th and 7th.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, POPLAR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5000 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

ERNEST PYE Treble.	ISAAC G. SHADE 6.
WILLIAM PYE 2.	FREDERICK W. THORNTON .. 7.
JOHN R. SHARMAN 3.	WILLIAM BERRY 8.
BERTRAM PREWETT 4.	CORNELIUS CHARGE 9.
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 5.	ARTHUR T. KING Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and
Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

This composition has the 6th in 2nds place throughout, and the 4th and 5th each twenty-three courses behind the 9th, and is now rung for the first time.

The Provinces.

HAILSHAM, SUSSEX.

On Tuesday, February 26, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 11 cwt.

PETER LONGLEY Treble.	THOMAS BURGESS 5.
HENRY FINCH 2.	JOHN MATTHEWS 6.
HENRY PRAGNELL 3.	HENRY VINE 7.
FREDERICK W. HARDING .. 4.	REUBEN BIGNELL Tenor.

Conducted by FREDERICK W. HARDING.

This is the first peal ever rung on these bells by a local band, and it was also the first peal by all except the conductor. The ringers deserve to be congratulated upon the perseverance they have shown in mastering change-ringing, and upon the success now attending their efforts.

RAMSBOTTOM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE BRANCH)

On Thursday, March 14, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS'S BOB-AND-SINGLE. Tenor 9½ cwt.

ROBT. H. WOLSTENHOLME Treble.	JOHN H. HAYDOCK 5.
ROBERT LEACH 2.	WALTER TAYLOR 6.
JONATHAN WOLSTENHOLME .. 3	JAMES B. TAYLOR 7.
ARNOLD S. ROSTRON 4.	MILTON HARTLEY Tenor.

Conducted by WALTER TAYLOR.

Rung with the bells deeply-muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Thomas Wolstenholme, organist of the above church, who held the post for the last 35 years.

WORTLEY, SHEFFIELD, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOMAS HATTERSLEY .. Treble.	THOS. ROBBINS 5.
CLIFFE DRONFIELD* 2.	ARTHUR KNIGHTS 6.
THOS. MCKEGG 3.	JOHN DRONFIELD 7.
REV. A. T. BEESTON 4.	DAVID BREARLEY Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by DAVID BREARLEY.

It was intended to start for a peal of College Single, but meeting one short the above was rung instead. *First peal of Treble Bob.

LEICESTER.—THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

FRANK PERVIN Treble.	EDWARD E. SMITH 5.
JOSIAH MORRIS 2.	WILLIAM H. INGLESANT .. 6.
FRANK BURLEIGH 3.	WILLIAM WILLSON 7.
JOHN H. SWINFELD 4.	CHARLES H. FOWLER .. Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by C. H. FOWLER,

WOBURN, BEDS.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,
AT OLD ST. MARY'S TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 13 cwt.

CYRIL HERBERT* Treble.	*JOSEPH CHURCH.. .. 5.
ERNEST HERBERT* 2.	CHARLES W. CLARKE .. 6.
DOUGLAS HARRIS* 3.	JOHN W. BARKER 7.
CHARLES R. LILLEY 4.	HARRY SEAR Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

*First peal of Stedman, and also first on the bells. This is C. R. Lilley's 150th peal.

BIRCHINGTON, KENT.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Two Hours and fifty-eight Minutes,
AT THE WATERLOO TOWER, QUEX PARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

AUGUSTUS POINTER Treble.	GEORGE WILLSHIRE.. .. 5.
EDWARD FOREMAN 2.	HARRY BARTON 6.
ALBERT H. SAYER 3.	PHILIP H. PIERCE 7.
HENRY CASTLE† 4.	THOMAS LEES Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY BARTON.

†First peal of Grandsire with a bob bell. *First peal. Further reference elsewhere.

HULL, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

J. DIXEY Treble.	†F. OSGERBY 5.
G. T. MILLER 2.	*D. W. BROWN 6.
TOM STOCKDALE 3.	C. JACKSON 7.
G. T. MARSHALL 4.	J. W. DALE Tenor.

Conducted by D. W. BROWN.

First peal on the bells since their augmentation to eight. *First peal as conductor. † Hails from Beverley. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

MITCHAM, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

ROBERT SEWELL Treble.	ALFRED CLAYTON 5.
JAMES DREWETT 2.	ALBERT CALVER.. .. 6.
WILLIAM S. SMITH 3.	LEWIN C. FERRIGE 7.
JOSEPH A. LAMBERT.. .. 4.	JOSEPH FAYERS Tenor.

Composed by J. REEVES, and Conducted by JOSEPH FAYERS.

BIDDENHAM, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 18, 1901, in Two Hours and Thirty-three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob,
Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qrs. 4 lbs. in G.

FRANK TRUEMAN† Treble.	JOHN W. BARKER 4.
WILLIAM DAVISON 2.	FRANK WEBB 5.
CHARLES WM. CLARKE .. 3.	CHARLES R. LILLEY .. Tenor.

Conducted by C. R. LILLEY.

†First peal. 1st and 2nd belong to local band, the rest to St. Paul's, Bedford, and was the quickest peal on the bells.

FOR WINTER OVERCOATINGS of Black and Blue Beavers and Vicunas, send to T. HAIGH, 14, George Street, Huddersfield.

BUCKNALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 19, 1901, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cumberland Exercise, Morning Exercise, Westminster, Imperial, London Scholars' Pleasure, Violet, and Duke of York. Tenor 11 cwt.

JOSEPH PRESTON Treble.	WILLIAM WHEELDON .. 4.
CHARLES PRESTON 2.	GEORGE HOBBS 5.
GEORGE CLARKSON 3.	DANIEL PRESTON Tenor.

Conducted by D. PRESTON.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(THE HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, March 19, 1901, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 25 cwt.

FRANK BLONDELL Treble.	GEORGE FOSTER.. .. 5.
RALPH WOOD 2.	JOHN H. GRUNDY 6.
WILLIAM JELLEY† 3.	CHARLES WILLSHIRE .. 7.
HENRY HUTTON† 4.	THOMAS MAYNARD Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES WILLSHIRE.

†First peal.

PEAL CORRECTION.—Mr. Symonds, of Lavenham, writes: In reply to the band that rang the peal of Grandsire Triples on St. Mary's bells, Bury St. Edmunds, on March 2nd, 1901, I have just received information from my friend, Mr. S. Slater, of Glemsford, that a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the bells of St. Mary's church, Bury St. Edmunds, on Monday, April 5th, 1858, by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

Date Touches.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

EASTNOR (Herefordshire).—On December 31st, for watch-night service, a date touch of 1900 changes, being 640 Grandsire, 1260 Stedman Doubles, in 1 hour 5 mins. W. Mytton, 1; R. Browning, 2; E. Phillips, 3; H. Winter, 4; T. Williams (conductor), 5; T. Mytton, 6.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

STOWMARKET (Suffolk).—On a recent Sunday evening, for service, a date touch of Bob Major, consisting of 1901 changes, in 1 hour and 14 mins. W. Wellan, 1; C. Souther, 2; C. Alderton, 3; W. Souther (conductor), 4; E. Draper, 5; W. E. Tydeman, 6; J. Wade, 7; W. P. Rouse, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. Composed by E. Bennett, of Croydon.

WICKHAM (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, January 1st, a date touch of Minor, 1901 changes, consisting of 720 of Oxford Bob, 360 of College Single, 821 of Plain Bob, in 1 hour and 4 mins. H. Davy, 1; D. Mays, 2; G. Kemp, 3; H. Cattermole, 4; F. Potter, 5; G. Cattermole (conductor), 6.

PEVENSEY (Sussex).—On Monday December 31st, a date touch of Grandsire Doubles, 1900 changes, being fifteen 6-scores and one 5-core, called differently, in 1 hour 1 min. S. Costick, 1; G. Penfold (conductor), 2; J. Bray, jun., 3; T. Beal, 4; H. Colbran, 5; G. Smith, 6. Longest touch by all except the conductor.

Miscellaneous.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

BLOXWICH (Staffordshire).—On Sunday morning, December 2nd, for Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 38 mins. J. C. Adams (conductor), 1; A. Painter, 2; J. Birch, 3; W. Barton, 4; A. Turley, 5; F. Edwards, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. On Sunday, December 9th, 630 Grandsire Triples. H. Somerville, 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Painter, 4; J. C. Adams (conductor), 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. On Monday, December 31st, for midnight service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins. F. Edwards, 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Painter, 4; J.

C. Adams (conductor), 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. This quarter-peal was rung with the bells half-muffled after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal for the closing of the old century. Composed by I. J. Attwater, of London.

WALSALL (Staffordshire).—On Wednesday, December 12th, 546 Grandsire Triples. B. Meeson, 1; E. J. Stafford, 2; W. Griffin, 3; W. Barton, 4; F. Hallsworth, sen., 5; J. C. Adams, 6; T. J. Elton (conductor), 7; F. Hallsworth, jun., 8. On Saturday, December 29th, 672 Bob Major. W. Griffin, 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Painter, 4; J. C. Adams, 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; T. J. Elton (conductor), 8.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MILVERTON (Somerset).—On December 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. F. Collins, 1; H. Norman, 2; R. Scott (conductor), 3; F. Norman, 4; J. Richards, 5; A. J. Andrews, 6; W. Chapman, 7; R. Chapman, 8. This is H. Norman's first quarter-peal with a bob bell.

MIDSOMER NORTON (Somerset).—On Saturday, January 12th, an attempt was made for Holt's Original which came to grief after ringing 3600 changes in 2 hrs. 10 mins. T. T. Hayward, 1; E. C. Fricker, 2; W. J. Prescott, 3; J. Hambledon, 4; G. Miles, 5; C. H. Shearn, 6; H. Kenten (conductor), 7; J. Sperrin, 8. Tenor 25 cwt. E flat.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

GREENWICH (Kent).—On Sunday, January 6th, at St Alfege church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 44 mins. I. G. Shade, 1; J. T. Lamb, 2; W. Berry, 3; W. Foreman, 4; H. Hoskins, 5; H. Flanders, 6; F. W. Thornton (conductor), 7; H. Gooch (Poplar), 8.

THE ALL SAINTS SOCIETY, FULHAM.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, January 6th, for Divine Service, 1259 Grandsire Caters in 48 mins. H. Farnan, 1; J. Hinton, 2; W. Meaton, 3; J. Buckingham, 4; W. Pickworth, 5; J. Aldridge, 6; H. Adams, 7; W. T. Elson (conductor), 8; W. Charge, 9; R. Burgess, 10. Composed by C. Charge, and contains the twelve 6-5s.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(GAINSBOROUGH BRANCH.)

GAINSBOROUGH (Lincolnshire).—On New Year's Eve at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major with the bells half-muffled to commemorate the closing of the 19th century. T. Smith, 1; W. D. Tinker, 2; W. Wheeler, 3; J. C. Tinker, 4; J. T. Ladd, 5; G. Wilson, 6.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

WINCHESTER.—On December 31st, at the Cathedral, with the bells half-muffled, 1638 Grandsire Triples with 9-8-10 covering in 1 hr. 21 mins. F. Smith, 1; E. Andrews, 2; J. W. Elkins, 3; E. G. Lampard, 4; W. C. Lampard, 5; C. Russell, 6; W. Andrews (conductor), 7; W. S. Lampard, 8; D. Froome, 9; W. H. Loveland, 10. On Wednesday, January 2nd, for practice, 504 Grandsire Triples with 6-8-10 covering. W. H. Loveland, 1; E. G. Lampard, 2; F. Smith, 3; E. Andrews, 4; W. Andrews, 5; C. Russell, 6; W. G. Lampard (conductor), 9; J. W. Elkins, 6; W. S. Lampard, 8; D. Froome, 10.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

STREYNING (Sussex).—On December 31st at the parish church, for the watch-night service, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Lloyd, 1; E. Bristow, 2; C. Smart (conductor), 3; J. Matthews, 4; G. Phillips, 5; E. Rapley, 6; J. Smart, 7; G. Wood, 8. Also another 504 in the same method. A. Sturt, 1; J. Smart, 2; E. Bristow, 3; E. Rapley, 4; C. Smart (conductor), 5; J. Matthews, 6; G. Gatland, 7; G. Phillips, 8. And another 504. H. Green, 1; C. Smart (conductor), 2; E. Bristow, 3; G. Gatland, 4; J. Matthews, 5; J. Smart, 6; E. Rapley, 7; G. Lloyd, 8. This is the 300th 504 conducted by C. Smart. On New Year's morning, after service, 280 Grandsire Triples. G. Lloyd, 1; E. Bristow, 2; J. Matthews, 3; G. Gatland, 4; E. Rapley, 5; C. Smart (conductor), 5; J. Smart, 7; G. Wood, 8. On Wednesday, January 2nd, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. W. J. May, of London, to Miss May Brown, of Steyning, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Lloyd, 1; E. Bristow, 2; T. Searle, 3; E. Rapley, 4; C. Smart (conductor), 5; G. Gatland, 6; J. Smart, 7; G. Phillips, 8. Also another 504 in the same method. A. Sturt, 1; E. Bristow, 2; C. Smart (conductor), 3; G. Gatland, 4; E. Rapley, 5; J. Matthews, 6; J. Smart, 7; G. Wood, 8. On Sunday, January 6th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Lloyd, 1; E. Bristow, 2; J. Matthews, 3; J. Smart, 4; E. Rapley, 5; C. Smart (conductor), 6; G. Gatland, 7; G. Phillips, 8. For afternoon service, 504 in the same method. A. Sturt, 1; E. Bristow, 2; J. Smart, 3; J. Matthews, 4; G. Phillips, 5; G. Gatland, 6; C. Smart (conductor), 7; G. Lloyd, 8.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(STOCKPORT AND BOWDEN BRANCH.)

HAZEL GROVE (Cheshire).—On Saturday, December 8th, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob. A. Barnes, 1; J. Fernley, 2; J. Dean, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. First 720 in the method by the band. Also 720 Violet. J. Dean, 1; A. Barnes, 2; J. Fernley, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. First 720 in the method by A. Barnes, who hails from Reddish. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Dean, 1; A. Barnes, 2; S. Fernley, 3; J. Fernley (conductor), 4; A. Fernley, 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. On Sunday morning, December 16th, for Divine Service, 720 New London Pleasure. J. Kellett, 1; J. Fernley, 2; J. Dean, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. For evening service 720 Kent Treble Bob. J. Kellett, 1; J. Dean, 2; J. Fernley, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley, 5; G. D. Warburton (conductor), 6. On Sunday, December 23rd, for Divine Service, 720 College Single. J. Kellett, 1; J. Fernley, 2; J. Dean, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley, 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. On Saturday, December 29th, 720 Plain Bob. J. Kellett, 1; A. Barnes, 2; J. Dean, 3; J. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. Also 720 Oxford Treble Bob, standing as before. On Sunday December 30th, for Divine Service 720 Warnham Court. J. Kellett, 1; J. Fernley, 2; J. Dean, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. On Monday evening, December 31st, 720 Woodbine. J. Kellett, 1; J. Fernley, 2; J. Dean, 3; A. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley, 5; G. D. Warburton, 6. Also 720 Merchants' Return. For midnight service 720 College Single and 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Kellett, 1; J. Dean, 2; A. Fernley, 3; J. Fernley, 4; S. Fernley (conductor), 5; G. D. Warburton, 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CHALFONT ST. PETER (Bucks).—On Saturday, January 19th, 720 Grandsire Doubles. J. Clarke, 1; G. H. Gutteridge (conductor), 2; W. Clarke, 3; E. Harding, 4; A. Jordan, 5; E. Elderfield, 6. Also several more touches the same evening.

FULMER (Bucks).—On Saturday, December 29th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor. E. Elderfield, 1; G. Gutteridge, 2; J. Elderfield (conductor), 3; W. Clarke, 4; J. J. Parker, 5; C. Clarke, 6. Also 720 Grandsire Minor. A. Jordan (first 720), 1; G. H. Gutteridge, 2; J. Elderfield, 3; W. Clark, 4; J. J. Parker (conductor), 5; C. Clark, 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to W. Clarke. Three of the ringers belong to Farnham Royal.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

EASTNOR (Herefordshire).—Early on Christmas morning, 1260 Stedman Doubles. W. Mytton, 1; R. Browning, 2; E. Phillips, 3; H. Winter, 4; T. Williams (conductor), 5; T. Mytton, 6. Also for Divine Service, 720 in the same method conducted by W. Mytton. On Sunday, January 6th, for evening service, 1260 Stedman Doubles, rung with the bells half-muffled. On Sunday evening, March 17th, for Divine Service, 1260 Stedman Doubles, in 43 mins. W. Mytton, 1; R. Browning, 2; E. Phillips, 3; T. Williams (conductor), 4; H. Winter, 5; T. Mytton, 6.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL.—On January 1st, at the church of St. Nicholas with St. Leonard, 1439 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 1 hour 5 mins. V. O'Brien, 1; J. Thomas, 2; F. G. May (conductor), 3; F. Leaker, 4; G. Jayne, 5; A. Stowell, 6; J. Richmond, 7; J. Burford, 8; F. Price, 9; F. Cooper, 10. Tenor 36 cwt.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On November 11th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. H. Milhams, 1; A. Broom, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; W. Lane, 4; M. Digby, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. On November 12th, 720 Bob Minor. A. Thompson, 1; A. Broom, 2; G. Hayes, 3; W. Lane, 4; F. J. Ring, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. On December 9th, 720 Superlative Surprise. A. Broom, 1; W. Lane, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; G. Hayes, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. Also 720 Cambridge Surprise. R. Copeling, 1; W. Lane, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; G. Hayes, 6. On December 25th, 720 Cambridge Surprise. A. Broom, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. And 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Broom, 1; W. Lane, 2; W. Harper, 3; F. J. Ring, 4; J. Broom, 5; G. Hayes (conductor), 6. On December 31st, for midnight service, 720 Superlative Surprise. J. Broom, 1; W. Lane, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin (conductor), 5; G. Hayes, 6. After service 720 London Surprise. W. Lane, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

DOVER (Kent).—On Saturday, January 12th, at St James's church, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 28 mins. J. Henley, 1; E. Potter, 2; A.

Denne, 3; G. Denne (conductor), 4; H. Sone, 5; H. Castle, 6. Also 720 Kent, in 27 mins. J. Henley, 1; A. Denne, 2; H. Castle, 3; G. Denne, 4; H. Sone, 5; H. Wood (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt. First 720 in the method on the bells.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

HALESWORTH (Suffolk).—On Christmas Day at St. Mary's church, two 1008s and 1120 Bob Major. S. Kerrison, 1; W. Peirce, 2; C. Kerrison, 3; J. Howard, 4; E. Easter, 5; G. Tovell, 6; F. Lambert (conductor), 7; A. Took, 8.

CHEDISTON (Suffolk).—The old year was rang out and the new year in with several 24s of Grandsire and Plain Bob Singles, and the bells fired by W. Cullingford, 1; T. Crane, 2; W. Cady, 3; L. Hammond, 4.

REDENHALL (Norfolk).—On Monday, January 14th, 1088 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Tann (conductor), 1; E. Lincoln, 2; C. Baker, 3; F. Smith, 4; W. Gobbett, 5; T. Smith, 6; W. Pope, 7; F. Borrett, 8. Also on handbells, a course of Grandsire Cinques. E. Lincoln 1-2; W. Ireland, 3-4; J. Smith, 5-6; J. Souser, 7-8; E. Poppy, 9-10; W. Gobbett, 11-12.

TUNSTALL (Suffolk).—On Sunday, March 3rd, at St. Michael's church, 720 Bob Minor in 26 mins. J. Daniels, 1; J. Starling, 2; G. Savage, 3; R. Smy, 4; H. Puttock, 5; W. Sawyer, 6. On Tuesday, March 5th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor in 26 mins. H. Baskett, 1; A. Ling, 2; G. Savage, 3; H. Puttock, 4; R. Smy, 5; W. Sawyer, 6. This is the first 720 of Treble Bob by the company.

CAMBERWELL (Surrey).—On Thursday, January 3rd, at the church of St. Giles, 336 Grandsire Triples for practice, on the back eight. H. Flowers, 1; W. Shepherd, 2; H. Langdon, 3; E. J. Webb, 4; F. J. Shepherd (conductor), 5; E. Brett, 6; E. H. Oxenham, 7; H. Flowers, jun., 8.

CHAPEL (Surrey).—On Monday evening, December 31st, for practice, 720 Kent Treble Bob and 360 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Akehurst, 1; E. Jordan, 2; F. Tullett, 3; M. Jenkins, 4; C. Taylor, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6. Also at midnight, two 360s of Oxford Bob. T. Weller, 1; J. Akehurst, 2; E. Jordan, 3; F. Tullett, 4; C. Taylor, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6.

CHELSEA.—Recently at St. Luke's church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. G. Baker, 1; J. Pryer, G. Langford, 3; E. Cassell, 4; W. Moss (conductor), 5; J. Willshire, 6; J. Baker, 7; A. Newman (first quarter-peal), 8.

GOLDHANGER (Essex).—On Sunday evening, December 23rd, for Divine Service, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. A. Appleton, 1; S. Coltes, 2; G. D. Buckingham (conductor), 3; W. Wenden, 4; G. Wenden, 5; C. Mann, 6. This is the longest length by a local company on the bells, and by all the band except the conductor.

HENFIELD (Sussex).—On Sunday evening, December 16th, for Divine Service, 1008 Stedman Triples. *W. Markwell, 1; L. Payne (conductor), 2; S. Burt, 3; C. Tyler, 4; W. A. J. Ives, 5; G. Payne, 6; A. Heasman, 7; A. Hodges, 8. On Christmas Day 504 Stedman Triples. W. Markwell, 1; W. A. J. Ives, 2; S. Burt, 3; C. Tyler, 4; L. Payne, 5; G. Payne, 6; A. Heasman, 7; A. Hodges, 8. On December 31st, for midnight service, 504 Stedman Triples. W. Markwell, 1; W. A. J. Ives, 2; S. Burt, 3; C. Tyler, 4; L. Payne (conductor), 5; G. Payne, 6; A. Heasman, 7; A. Hodges, 8. After service to usher in the new year, 504 Stedman Triples. A. E. Lish, 1; W. A. J. Ives, 2; S. Burt, 3; C. Tyler, 4; G. Payne (conductor), 5; L. Payne, 6; A. Heasman, 7; A. Hodges, 8. *First 1008 away

HORNSEY (Middlesex).—On Sunday, December 30th, for evening service, 360 Bob Minor. J. Ward, 1; F. W. Ford, 2; W. Dixon, 3; T. Langdon, 4; W. Pickworth, 5; A. Jacob (conductor), 6.

KENDAL (Cumberland).—On December 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. R. Dennison, J. Baxter, R. Everson, W. Tyson, W. Atkinson, B. Walker, C. W. Graham, W. Salmon.

LEEDS (Yorkshire).—On January 13th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 615 of Grandsire Cinques, in 28 mins. F. Renton, 1; T. Lockwood, 2; H. Tomlinson, 3; A. Windsor, 4; H. Lockwood, 5; G. Singer, 6; W. Walker, 7; A. Naylor, 8; J. Woodhead, 9; W. Woodhead, 10; F. Woodhead, 11; H. Smith, 12. This is F. Renton's, of Northern Union football fame as a referee, first touch of Cinques.

TETTENHALL (Staffordshire).—For early morning, on January 1st, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. E. Worboys, 1; B. Dalton, 2; E. Genns, 3; J. Rowe, 5; G. Burrows (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

Obituary.

HARRY GAYTHORPE.

It is with sincere regret that the members of the Bramley (Leeds) St. Peter's Society have to record the death of a respected member in the person of Harry Gaythorpe, who passed away on Monday, March 11th, aged thirty-three years, after only one week's illness (pneumonia). He had been a ringer at St. Peter's Bramley for about fourteen years, and was a prompt and regular attendant at both practice and Sunday ringing; this, combined with his bright cheerful disposition, made him a general favorite with his brother-ringers. He had acted as Secretary to the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society for the past two years, having accepted the office when the society was at a very low ebb, and it is chiefly through his untiring efforts that it now enjoys its present prosperity. He was a life member of the Yorkshire Association, having joined in 1871, and had rung sixteen peals, the last so recently as the 11th of February, conducted by himself. The funeral took place on Wednesday, March 13th, at St. Peter's Bramley, the Vicar officiating. About fifty ringers attended, the following societies being represented: Armley, Bradford, Burley, Calverley, Headingley St. Michael's, Leeds, Pudsey, Rothwell, and Tong; also numerous friends and shopmates. He was carried to his last resting-place by the members of his own company. At the conclusion of the service at the graveside a course of Grandsire Major was rung on the handbells he loved so well by Messrs. C. Pratt (Calverley), Joe Thackray (Armley), G. Bolland (Tong), and J. Whitaker (Headingley); and 360 of Oxford on the church bells, deeply muffled, by J. Turner (Armley), S. Oddy (Tong), J. Brown (Bramley), P. Cordingley (Pudsey), M. Broadbent (Armley), and J. W. Chadwick (Rothwell). Beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by members of the Bramley and Burley societies, the workpeople of the Leeds Co-operative Society (boot dept.), and relatives and friends. He leaves a widow and one son to mourn his loss.

H.

GEORGE J. GARNETT (ROMFORD).

George Garnett died at the age of forty-one on the 5th day of March. He commenced ringing nearly thirty years ago, and for some years was a regular attendant either for ringing or chiming in Romford belfry. Upon the revival of the art at Romford, "G.G." as he was familiarly called, commenced to pick up a fair knowledge of change-ringing, and he quickly became a good hand at the treble in any plain method. Just at this period he was found to be suffering from eczema, and it was only on special occasions that he visited the tower. By trade he was a printer, and as such rang the tenor (notwithstanding his unfortunate malady) to the printers' peal in November, 1889, as is shewn upon a capital peal-board in the tower. In 1892 he underwent an operation (in the Cottage Hospital) for abscess in the jaw, and from this time his health had been more or less gradually failing, phthisis setting in as far back as August, 1898, since which time he had been a great sufferer. So far as his health permitted, he was at the beck and call of anyone upon occasions when help was required in the tower. He was one of those ever ready and willing to assist to the utmost any good cause, any measure on behalf of those requiring assistance, and as such his co-operation was often sought. The funeral took place on the 12th instant, and was attended by a number of his fellow-workmen. The only ringer who put in an appearance as a last token of respect being the writer. In the evening, two of his old comrades—Messrs. Perkins and Keeble—attended at the Romford belfry in the hope that the last token of respect would be paid to a departed brother, but alas! out of the long list of efficient and non-efficients who claim to be Romford ringers, no noted performance was upon the carpet, consequently not even half-a-dozen to ring a few rounds could muster to honour the memory of deceased. Poor George has left a widow and six young children all dependent on their mother. His fellow-workmen have raised a small fund which is to be paid to them weekly. If this should meet the eye of any member of the band that took part in the peal above referred to, together with any other benevolently-disposed friends, their contributions may be sent to B. Keeble, 2, Vine Street, Romford, Essex.

B. K.

FOR BLACK AND BLUE SERGE FOR LADIES' DRESS
and Costumes, send to T. HAIGH, 14, George St., Huddersfield

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of notices in this page is one Penny per line (five words may be reckoned to a line). Repetitions at half that rate. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Portishead to-day, Saturday, March 23rd. Short service in church at 4 p.m., to be followed by tea and business meeting.

HV. W. TOMKINS, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*
Williton, Somerset.

The Lancashire Association.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held to-day, Saturday, March 23rd, at St. George's church, Bolton. All ringers are earnestly invited to attend. Ringing to commence at 5 p.m. Business at 7.

HV. MOSS, *Branch Sec.*

The Waterloo Society, London.—The monthly business meeting of this Society will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E., on Wednesday, March 27th. Ringing at 8.15 p.m. Members are particularly requested to attend.

F. J. SHEPHERD, *Hon. Sec.*

The Sheffield District Society.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30th, vice April 7th, at All Saints, Sheffield. Committee men please note. Meeting at Sportsman inn, at 8.30 p.m., to arrange towers for future fixtures, so that cards may be issued at annual meeting. R. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The annual meeting of the above Society will be held at St. Peter's Leeds, on Saturday, March 30th. Business—Report and balance sheet, election of officers. Bells at liberty from 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 7 p.m.

J. W. T. HOLGATE, *President.*
5, Ashcroft Street, Bramley, Leeds.

The All Saints' Society, Fulham.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30th. The tower will be open to members and friends at 4 p.m. Tea in the church room at 6 p.m. Ringers intending to be present should signify the same not later Thursday, March 28th, to J. W. DRIVER.

387, New Kings Road, Fulham, S.W.

The Halifax and District Association.—The next meeting of this Association will be held at Lightcliffe, on April 6th. Bells ready from dinner. Business meeting at The White Horse, at 6 o'clock. WRIGHT INGHAM, *Sec.*

Worcestershire and Districts Association.—The Annual meeting of this Association will be held at Worcester, on Easter Monday, April 8th. A special service will be held in St. Andrew's church, at 2 p.m. The Rev. Canon Claughton will give an address and it is hoped there will be a good attendance of members at the service. The annual meeting will be held in the Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral, at 2.45 p.m. The Very Rev. the Dean has kindly consented to preside. A meat tea will be provided, and it is earnestly requested that the Secretary of each Society, and unattached members in the Association will send in the number of members intending to be present, not later than Wednesday, April 3rd, so that proper provision may be made. The Cathedral tower will be open for ringing after evensong, 5 p.m. until 6.15. The towers of All Saints 10 bells, St. John's, St. Martin's, St. Nicholas, and St. Swithun's 6 bells, will be open during the day for ringing. All out-

standing contributions should be paid at this meeting. The annual reports, etc., will be ready for distribution at this meeting.

JNO. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

36, Simms Lane, Netherton.

The Llandaff Diocesan Association.—The next quarterly meeting of the above Association will be held at Coity, Bridgend, on Easter Monday. Bells available from 11 o'clock. There will be a short service at 2 o'clock. The meeting immediately after. Tea will be provided.

REV. C. L. PRICE, *Hon. Sec.*
J. H. ALDRIDGE, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

The Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association.—A whole day meeting will be held at Stokesley, on Easter Monday, April 8th. Dinner (members 1s., non-members 2s. each), at The Golden Lion, at 1 p.m. Members intending to be present, kindly inform the Hon. Sec. before Tuesday, April 2nd. Committee meeting after dinner. Whorlton-in-Cleveland tower (6 bells), will also be open. It is two miles from Potto station, and six from Stokesley by road.

REV. W. P. WRIGHT.
Stokesley, R.S.O. *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*

The Midland Counties' Association.—The annual meeting of this Association will be held at Leicester on Easter Monday, April 8th, to which all members and friends are cordially invited. The towers of St. Margaret's (10), St. Martin's (10), St. Mark's (8), and St. Saviour's (8) churches will be open for ringing from 10 a.m. Tea 1s. 2d. each, will be provided at the Victoria Coffee House, for all who give Mr. W. Willson of 112, Berners Street, notice, not later than Thursday, April 4th, of their intention to be present. For time of tea and meetings, see next week's "BELL NEWS."

The Hertfordshire Association.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Easter Monday, April 8th, when the Cathedral tower and that of St. Peter's will be open for ringing from 2 p.m. Divine Service at 5 o'clock at the Cathedral, when a special address will be given by the Dean of St. Albans. Tea at the Town Hall, at 5.45, business meeting to follow for election of officers. The report of the representatives of the various towers in union with the Association on the proposed division of the County into districts will come on for consideration and adoption if thought desirable. Members and visitors intending to present, are requested to communicate with me by Wednesday, April 3rd, so that arrangements may be made for their convenience.

St. Alban's. E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of this Association, will be held at Bucknall, on Saturday, April 13th. Members intending to be present, are requested to give notice to the Secretary not later than Tuesday, April 9th.

W. TWIGG, *Hon. Sec.*
95, High Street, Bucknall.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—The Secretary is unable to send the annual report to Messrs. J. Carter, F. W. Eeles, B. Foskett, H. B. Kingsford, T. Lucas, R. Nicholls, S. Phillips, E. Trendell, Rev. J. R. Vincent, Rev. Vere Audry, Rev. C. A. Clements, F. W. J. Rees, W. Gould, for want of address.

REV. R. H. HART-DAVIS, *Hon. Sec.*
Dunsden Vicarage, Reading.

Situations Wanted.

GARDENER, experienced, seeks situation, in gentleman's or clergyman's family. Well up in all the duties of a well-kept garden. Good change-ringer, instructor, and conductor on any number of bells. Married, age 30, disengaged February 16th. A. Edwards, Mill Cottages, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex.

NOTE TO PEAL.

THE PEAL AT BIRCHINGTON.—This was intended as a Kent County Association peal, but forgetting to propose the ringer of the treble previous to starting, it has to go forth as a non-Association peal, much to the regret of all concerned. Barton and Castle hail from Deal; Pierce from Canterbury; Foreman from Hernhill; the rest belong to the Quex Park band.

Compositions.

The following letters arise out of figures of peals which have recently appeared:—

SIR.—The composition rung at Pontefract, February 11th, 1901, and published in your last issue, has been previously rung, viz: St. Peter and Mary, Stowmarket, January 12th, 1895, in the Oxford Variation, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, conducted by J. Motts (Ipswich); St. Peter at Arches, Lincoln, August 26th, 1896, by the North Lincolnshire Association, conducted by its composer, in the Kent Variation; and by the Midland Counties' Association, at Stanford, Notts., on January 5th, 1901, conducted by R. F. Lane (Loughborough).

FRANK G. BURLEIGH.

[Another letter to the same effect has been sent from Reading.]

SIR.—In reply to Mr. Dench re Treble Bob Royal, criticism is not claim. I am perfectly willing to give way to legitimate claim or to any one who can show where either peal is to be found, otherwise I shall consider them my peals.

C. CHARGE.

The Essex Association—The notice of Easter meeting will be found on another page.

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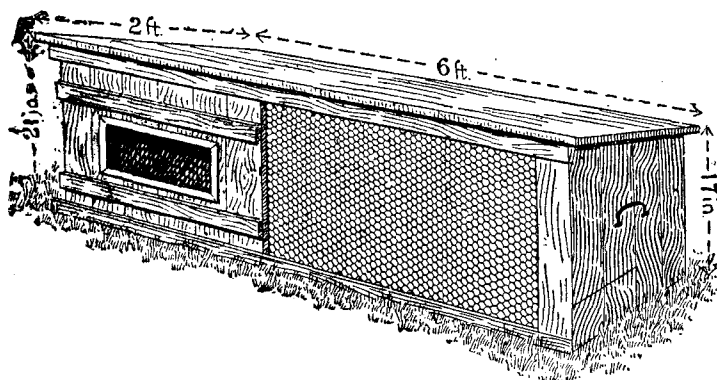
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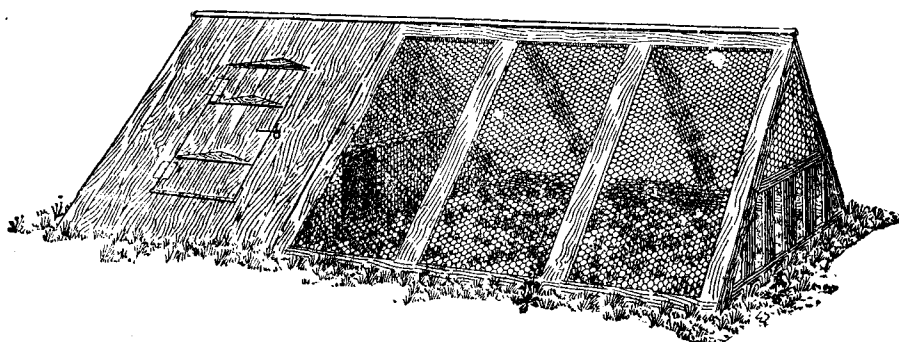
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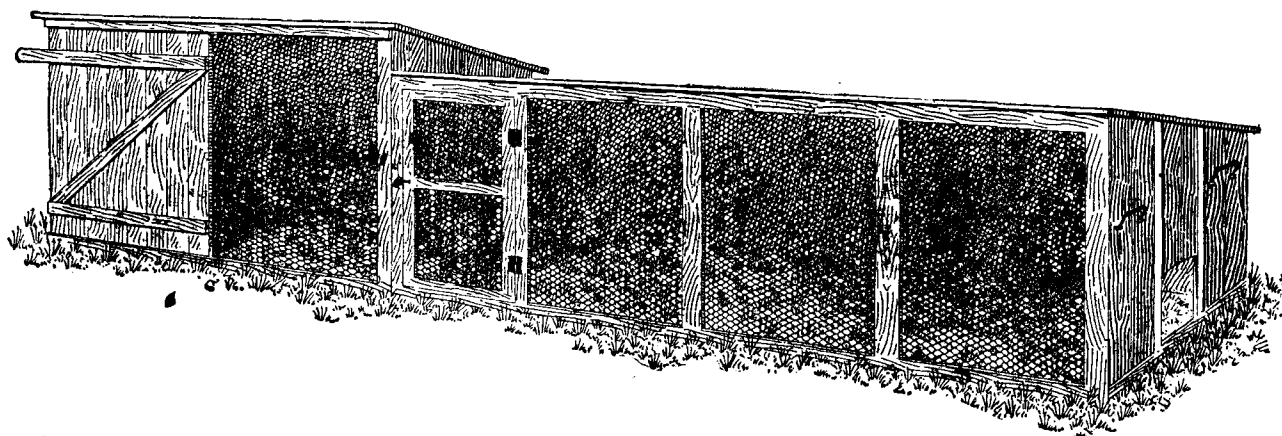
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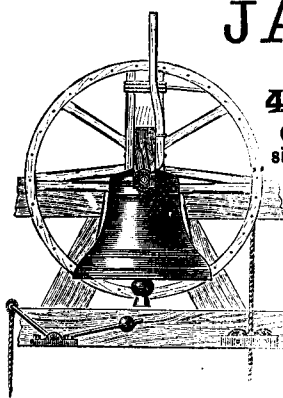
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