

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Bell-ringers' Conference at Reading.

IN connexion with the Bell-ringers' Conference at Reading (see page 903) Stedman's Caters, Kent Treble Bob Royal, and Grandsire Caters, were rung at St. Laurence by Messrs. Belcher, Haworth, Reeves, Rev. N. Bolingbroke, Bennett, Sewell, Rev. C. Davies, Baron, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Captain Moore, Nelms, Newell, and Davis, and Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's. Among the gentlemen interested in ringers and change-ringers were Earl Nelson, the Hon. the Rev. J. H. Nelson, Rev. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. Dolben Paul, Squire Proctor, Captain Acland-Troyte, Captain Moore, J. Martin Routh, Esq., G. Holmes, Esq., Rev. N. Bolingbroke, Rev. H. C. Sturges, Rev. F. G. Llewellyn, Rev. A. du Boulay Hill, Rev. C. Davies, Rev. T. A. Turner, Rev. C. Yerburgh, J. Taylor, Esq. (Loughborough), and Mr. J. Clark Truss. Mr. Newell kindly invited his friends to the 'Mitre' Hotel.

At Beaconsfield, Bucks.

THE ringers of Beaconsfield held a meeting on Monday last to consider what steps they should take to obtain funds for renovating the ring of bells there. The belfry and tower are now being repaired, so that the opportunity is favourable. Mr. Harry L. W. Lawson presided, and it was resolved to issue an appeal for subscriptions. It is proposed to add two new bells to complete the octave, one to be called the 'Burke bell' and the other the 'Beaconsfield bell,' as memorials of those two statesmen whose names are associated with the place. Mr. G. Allington Charsley, the Coroner for South Bucks, and a former ringer, was appointed Treasurer.

Death of Mr. H. Boswell.

It is reported that Mr. H. Boswell, the celebrated bell-hanger and change-ringer, who was formerly in the employ of Messrs. Warner & Sons, and latterly with Messrs. Gillott & Bland, Croydon, died very suddenly on Sunday week from heart disease. He was the youngest son of Mr. William Boswell, who died many years ago at Oxford—a noted bell-hanger in his day. He had served his time with Messrs. Lloyd, noted in their day for work connected with belfries. We sincerely hope this report may be unfounded.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of Ringers.

THE Annual Meeting will be held at Durham on Monday, October 29th. Ringing at the Cathedral and St. Oswald's. All members of the Association are respectfully invited to attend Divine service in St. Oswald's Church at two o'clock. Preacher—the Rev. W. O. Blunt, M.A., rector of Chester-le-Street. Dinner will be provided at the 'Three Tuns' at three o'clock, tickets for which (at 1s. each to members and 2s. 6d. to non-members) should be applied for not later than Monday, the 22nd inst. After dinner the usual business meeting will take place. Members of the Committee to meet at the 'Three Tuns' at ten o'clock. G. J. CLARKSON, Hon. Sec.

Post-office Chambers, Stockton-on-Tees.

Belfry Fooleries in Cornwall.

ANOTHER of these, in the shape of Prize-ringing, is reported to us to have taken place on the 4th inst. at Blisland, when nine sets competed, and the umpires gave satisfaction.

RINGING-MATCH AT BLISLAND.—A ringing-match took place at Blisland on Wednesday last, when the following sets competed for the prizes:—St. Mabyn, St. Breward, St. Neot, St. Kew, Lanlivery, Egloschayle, Lanteglos, Roche, and St. Veep. The prizes were awarded as follows:—St. Mabyn, 1; Egloschayle, 2; Lanlivery, 3; St. Neot, 4; St. Kew, 5; Roche, 6. The umpires were Mr. Lean, of St. Kew; Mr. Levy, of St. Mabyn; and Mr. Rowe, of Blisland. The ringing was good throughout, and the umpires gave general satisfaction by their decisions.

Bell-ringers.

SIR,—In reply to the letter of 'Rusticus' with reference to the management of belfries and ringers, the blame for their not turning out satisfactorily is not always traced to its source. It appears only natural that a body of young people turned into a room, so to speak, each one thinking himself as good as his fellow, in an occupation where loss of temper is frequent on the occasion of blunders, causing eventually a disregard for the sanctity of the building, and oftentimes a desecration of the place. How can we be surprised at anything which follows? It is only a sequence that they shall have no reverence, or, rather, that it shall be deadened; and why? all for want of a restraining influence.

The fault lies in the method of management, for which the clergyman and the Sunday-school superintendent are responsible. And the remedy is in the making the body of ringers into an adult class, meeting in the belfry, with a suitable elderly teacher, taking the same course of lessons as in the Sunday School. The teacher must not by any means be a ringer, at any rate not until the matter is developed, and then he ought never to be more than an extra hand.

Perhaps if I quote a case in which I am interested it may serve as an illustration of how at least one belfry has been reformed.

Four years ago we had a body of ringers of the old school, who gave over through misconduct. In the difficulty six lads from school, aged 17 and 18, volunteered (our largest bell is 7½ cwt.). We obtained Snowdon's work on ringing, tied all the clappers, and practised with the help of a ringer from a distance for the first night, ignoring the old set as dangerous articles altogether, and at the end of two weeks were ready for Sunday duty, and could ring 120 changes by the end of six months.

Our qualification for admission is that a member must be a communicant, and our number is limited to seven (one in reserve). Soliciting Christmas-boxes is prohibited. We meet in the belfry at 9.15 on the Sunday morning, open with the same service as at school, except the hymn; then take the appointed lesson—this year the course is one half of Bethlehem to Olivet, by

Palmer, interspersed with catechism lessons. When the clock strikes ten we have the ringers' service, consisting of a few versicles from the service, arranged by the Lancashire Association of Change-ringers, and the Confirmation prayer adapted for the occasion; repeating the arrangement in the afternoon meeting at 2 o'clock. One point I have found particularly useful as conducing to reverence—we always kneel for prayers, each man being provided with a small square of carpet for the purpose. A pew is provided for the ringers in the gallery, fitted up with a kneeling form and squares of carpet.

The result is that we have a thoroughly respectable set of ringers, attending service, and fairly regular communicants. During the four years we have had five withdrawals, one is dead, and the others attend Sunday School either as teachers or in the adult class.

I shall have pleasure in giving either fuller details or in discussing the points of this subject, through the medium of *Church Bells*, if it is of interest to any of our subscribers.

R. J. FLETCHER.

Hazel Grove, near Stockport.

Peals of Bob Royal.

6000						5000					
2	3	4	5	6	W. M. H.	2	3	4	5	6	W. M. H.
6	4	2	3	5	1 1 1	4	3	6	5	2	1
3	6	2	4	5	1	5	4	6	3	2	1
2	4	3	6	5	1 1	6	3	5	4	2	1
3	2	4	6	5	1	5	6	3	4	2	1
6	3	4	2	5	1	3	4	5	6	2	1
4	2	6	3	5	1 1	Four times repeated.					

Four times repeated.

A Peal of Bob Major.

5040											
2	3	4	5	6	W. M. H.						
5	2	4	3	6	1						
6	4	5	2	3	1 1 1						
5	6	4	2	3	1						
4	5	6	2	3	1						
6	2	4	5	3	1 1						
4	6	2	5	3	1						
2	5	4	6	3	1 1						
4	2	5	6	3	1						
5	4	2	6	3	1						

Four times repeated.

BENJAMIN FRANCIS, Diss.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. James's, Clerkenwell, Middlesex.

On Sunday, the 23rd ult., were rung about 1200 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins., the calling being taken from 'Holt's Original.' J. Deveraux, 1; W. Rumsay, 2; H. Hopkins (conductor), 3; E. Moses, 4; W. Meadows, 5; T. Taylor, 6; J. Barry, 7; C. Hopkins, 8.

At the Cathedral Church of St. John, Manchester.

On Saturday, the 29th ult., a peal of 5080 Treble Bob Royal, in the Kent variation, was rung in 3 hrs. 25 mins. T. Moss, 1; J. Bowcock, 2; J. Wood, 3; W. Smith, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; J. Mellor, 6; S. Wood, 7; J. Gillot, 8; G. Longden, 9; J. Thorp (composer and conductor), 10. Tenor, 25 cwt., in Ep.

At Quex Park, Birchington, Kent.

On Saturday, the 29th ult., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 50 mins. at the Waterloo Tower in the above park. W. Andrews, 1; J. Small, 2; T. B. Reed, 3; H. G. Fairbrass, 4; A. Andrews, 5; R. E. Fiske, Esq., 6; G. Stancombe (conductor), 7; W. Emptage, 8. All are members of the Kent County Association, with the exception of the treble and seventh.

At Hurworth-on-Tees, Durham.

On Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the Hurworth ringers rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins. J. Simpson, 1; Rev. W. H. Deane (first peal in this method), 2; J. E. Hern (conductor), 3; J. C. Thompson, 4; G. Garbutt, 5; H. Thompson, 6. Tenor, 17 cwt.

At Quedgley, Gloucestershire.

On Wednesday, the 3rd inst., at the parish church, a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor was rung in 22 mins. W. Sevier, 1; W. Crown, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; C. Lyes, 4; W. Bick, 5; T. Brown (conductor), 6.

At Cotherstone, near Barnard Castle, Durham.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., the Hurworth ringers rang at the parish church a peal of Grandsire Minor in 26 mins. J. Simpson, 1; Rev. W. H. Deane, 2; J. Temple, 3; J. C. Thompson, 4; G. Garbutt, 5; J. E. Hern (conductor), 6. This is the first peal ever rung on the bells. A peal of Oxford Treble Bob was next rung in 25 mins. J. Temple, 1; J. E. Hern, 2; H. Kirby, 3; J. C. Thompson, 4; G. Garbutt, 5; H. Thompson, 6. Mr. Blenkinsopp, the schoolmaster, and leader of the Cotherstone band, tried to ring the tenor through a peal of Grandsire Minor, but unfortunately it came to grief just on entering the last of the six parts. The bells—a memorial peal by Warner, given by Mrs. Pearson—are very sweet. Tenor, about 9 cwt.

At Burford, Oxfordshire.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell-ringers, assisted by H. Bond, jun., of Burford, rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (260 changes) in 47 mins. J. Smith, 1; D. Francis, 2; T. Brown, Esq., 3; F. E. Ward, 4; W. Large, 5; H. Bond, jun., 6; W. Launchbury, 7; T. E. Granville (conductor), 8.

RECEIVED ALSO:—B. Francis; St. Werburgh's, Derby; and others.