

Bells and Bell-ringing.

Meetings for Practice.

- The Royal Cumberland Youths*: at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, to-day (October 20th).
The Waterloo Society: at St. John-the-Divine, Vassall Road, on October 23rd; and St. John's, Waterloo Road, on October 25th.
The Ancient Society of College Youths: at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on October 24th; at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, on October 25th; at St. Stephen's, Westminster, on October 27th; at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on October 21st, at 7.30 p.m.
The St. Luke's Society: at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on October 25th.
The St. John's Society: at St. John's, Wilton Road, on October 26th.
The St. Alfege's Society: at St. Alfege's, Greenwich, on October 27th, at 7.45.—All the others about 8 p.m.

[The Worcestershire and Districts Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Society was held on Saturday, September 23rd, at Kidderminster, members being present from Areley Kings, Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Clent, Dudley, Halesowen, Kidderminster, Little Comberton, Netherton, Old Hill, Pershore, Stourbridge, Stoke Prior, Tipton, Wolverley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Wollaston, and Worcester, to the number of fifty. The bells were started about 3.30, deeply muffled on both sides, several touches being brought round; the muffles were then removed from one side, and full pull-and-stand was rung, and another touch, as a tribute of respect to the late Thomas Walters, who for many years had been connected with the Kidderminster Society and this Association.

The special service approved by the Bishop of Worcester for use by this Association was said in church, and an address was given by the Rev. Sidney Phillips, vicar, who afterwards explained to the members the objects of interest in the church. Tea was kindly provided in the schoolroom, where the business meeting was afterwards held, the Vicar presiding. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, when the question being asked, the Secretary explained why the meeting was held at Kidderminster, instead of at Malvern, or, as an alternative, Areley Kings, according to the minutes.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas J. Salter, seconded by Mr. W. Short, Mr. R. Nicholls, of Bangor, was elected a life member. Mr. John Smith, in the absence of the Rev. W. D. Lowndes, proposed, and Mr. B. S. Hill seconded, that the Revs. H. B. S. Fowler (vicar of Elmley Castle) and Hugh Bennett (rector of Pirton) become performing members. Resolved, on the motion of Mr. T. J. Salter, that the next meeting be held at Selly Oak in 1900. Mr. A. Parsons (Old Hill) and Mr. W. Micklewright (Dudley) were re-elected auditors. Resolved that the appointment of representatives to the Central Council take place at the next meeting. Mr. Hubert Salisbury (Little Comberton) was appointed Instructor to the Pershore Society. Cordial thanks were given to Mr. Harry Mason (Old Hill) for presenting the Association with 300 copies of the form of service to be used at the meeting, fifty copies to be reserved for use by the St. Thomas's Guild, Dudley. On the motion of Mr. A. E. Parsons, seconded by Mr. S. Spittle, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. S. Phillips for his address and for the use of the bells and schoolroom and providing tea, coupling with this part of the resolution the name of Mr. R. E. Grove, which being suitably responded to, the meeting was closed. Touches in various methods were indulged in during the evening.

The Middlesex County Association of Change-ringers.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Association was held at Hillingdon on September 23rd, about sixty ringers being present. From three to five o'clock, there was ringing at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, and St. John's, Hillingdon East, including short touches of STEDMAN, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, DOUBLE NORWICH BOB MAJOR, and KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR. At 6.15 choral evensong was held at St. Andrew's, when the Vicar, the Rev. H. G. Bird, the President of the Association, gave an address. After tea in the schoolroom, the officers were chosen for

the year. Mr. King (hon. sec.) presented his report, which showed that during the year eighty new members had joined, bringing up the total to 420. Thirty-two peals had been rung since the last annual meeting, as follows:—BOB MINOR, 1; BOB TRIPLES, 1; OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 1; GRANDSIRE, 8; STEDMAN, 7; BOB MAJOR, 6; DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 1; SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 3; CAMBRIDGE, 1; STEDMAN CATERS, 2; and KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 1. They were conducted by—Mr. Wade, 8; Messrs. A. W. Brighton, W. Pye, 4 each; Messrs. J. Basden and J. R. Sharman, 3 each; Mr. J. Parker, 2; Messrs. J. J. Pratt, J. Pettit, C. H. Martin, W. P. Abraham, W. B. Manning, H. A. Chandler, George B. Lucas, and E. E. Huntley, 1 each. In addition to the above peals, twenty-six quarter-peals had been rung, mostly of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, viz., 3 at Tottenham, 9 at Southgate (including 2 of BOB MAJOR), 4 at Isleworth (including one of OXFORD BOB and one of STEDMAN TRIPLES), 1 at Denham, 4 at Edmonton (including one of STEDMAN TRIPLES), 1 at Hunsdon, 2 at Barnet (including one of STEDMAN TRIPLES), 1 at Hillingdon East, and 1 at Hillingdon West; also at Hendon, the first 720 of HENDON BOB, composed by Mr. C. H. Martin. The finances of the central fund will require some attention. There was an apparent balance on last year's account of 5*l.* 17*s.*; but against this there had to be set the cost of entering the remaining peals and the cost of the reports for 1898. These two items, amounting together to 9*l.* 8*s.*, really create a deficiency of 3*l.* 11*s.* on the working of the first year. The Hon. Sec. (Mr. King) has cheerfully undertaken to meet the deficiency on the first year, but he thinks it would be well to set the finances of the Association in a proper position, and the Committee cordially agree with him. The expenditure of the past year has been very moderate, and may be taken as the measure of what must be met for future years. About 2*l.* 10*s.* a year is what is now required, taking into account the increase of membership, to secure an equilibrium, and it ought not to be difficult to raise this sum. The report concluded: 'Let us be true to ourselves, loyal to one another and to the Church, and as we endeavour to keep in mind the aim of our special vocation, let the time-honoured bell-inscription help us with its simple eloquence—*Non clamor, sed amor cantat in aure Dei*—"In God's ear not rivalry soundeth sweet, but charity."

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Sussex County Association.

AT St. Andrew's, Steyning, on October 3rd, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 57 mins. Tenor, 11 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs.

John Smart	1	W. W. Gifford	5
Edwin Rapley	2	N. J. Pitstow	6
James Matthews	3	Geo. Williams (conductor)	7
Keith Hart	4	George Gatland	8

AT St. Botolph's, Heene, Worthing, on October 4th, a peal of LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 changes, in 2 hrs. 51 mins. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

W. W. Gifford	1	George A. King	5
Keith Hart	2	Edward C. Merritt	6
Robert J. Dawe	3	N. J. Pitstow	7
Frank Bennett	4	George Williams	8

Composed by Frank Bennett, and conducted by George Williams. This is the first peal in the method on the bells, and the composition now rung for the first time.

AT St. Peter's, Brighton, on October 5th, a peal of LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 changes, in 3 hrs. 16 mins. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

W. W. Gifford	1	Keith Hart	5
Robert J. Dawe	2	James N. Frossell	6
Frank Bennett	3	N. J. Pitstow	7
George A. King	4	George Williams	8

Composed by N. J. Pitstow, conducted by G. Williams. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Mr. E. J. Marshall, late Head Master of Brighton Grammar School.

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