Bells and Bell-ringing.

A Peal of 5037 Grandsire Cinques.

By John Rogers.

85324	43652	54263	65324	26435	Bobs at 7.
45326	64352	25463	36524	42635	1, 2, 3, 4
25346	36452	42563	53624	64235	1, 2, 3, 4
54326	65432	26543	32654	43265	2, 3, 4, 5
42356	53462	64523	25634	36245	2, 3, 4, 5
34256	45362	56423	62534	23645	1, 2, 3, 4
23456	34562	45623	56234	62345	1, 2, 3, 4

23456 at hand by bobs at 2, 4, 5.

First course of peal by bob at 2, single 5.
Second course of peal by single 2, bob 5.
Third course of peal by single at 1.

CHANGE RINGING.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild.

At Holy Trinity, Guildford, Surrey, on December 26th, a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 5088 changes, in 3 hrs. 27 mins. Tenor, 25 cwt.

A. H. Pulling	1	Frank Blondell	5
Frank Bennett	2	James Hunt	6
George N. Price	3	William W. Gifford ..	7
Charles Willshire	4	George Williams.. ..	8

Composed by H. Whittle, and conducted by George Williams. First peal of Superlative rung in the town of Guildford.

The Middlesex County Association.

At St. George's-in-the-East, on January 10th, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 26 mins. Tenor, 30 cwt. 3 qrs. 15 lbs.

William Truss	1	William Keeble	5
B. Prewett (100th peal) ..	2	Ernest Pye	6
Isaac G. Shade	3	Alfred W. Brighton ..	7
John Moule	4	William Pye	8

Composed by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, and conducted by W. Pye.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Southover, Lewes, Sussex, on January 13th, a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 13 mins.

Alfred J. Turner	1	George A. King	5
George Baker	2	George Williams.. ..	6
Robert J. Dame	3	Keith Hart	7
Frank Bennett	4	John S. Goldsmith ..	8

Composed by C. Middleton, conducted by J. S. Goldsmith. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

(Cheltenham and District Guild.)

At St. Mary's, Cheltenham, on January 14th, a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5003 changes, in 3 hrs. 14 mins. Tenor, 24 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

F. W. Wade	1	Francis E. Ward	6
George H. Phillott ..	2	William Townsend ..	7
Albert W. Humphries ..	3	Rev. J. F. Hastings ..	8
Frederick Musty	4	John F. Ballinger.. ..	9
William T. Pates.. ..	5	Thomas Pendry	10

Composed by W. Hudson, and conducted by Francis E. Ward.

The Ancient Society of College Youths and the Hertfordshire Association.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Pinner, Middlesex, on January 15th, Lates's One-part peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 15 mins. Tenor, 19¾ cwt.

Hubert Eden	1	George N. Price	5
Frederick T. C. Nevett ..	2	Harry A. Horrex.. ..	6
C. F. Winney (condr.) ..	3	William T. Cockerill ..	7
Ernest E. Huntley ..	4	Francis A. Smith	8

Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a last tribute of respect to Mr. James George, sen., one of the oldest inhabitants of Pinner.

The Hertfordshire Association.

At St. Peter's, St. Albans, Herts, on January 16th, a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5021 changes, in 3 hrs. 18 mins. Tenor, 21 cwt. in D.

Edward Hull	1	Herbert Marner*	6
Arthur Hull	2	Harry J. Full	7
Herbert Martin	3	Charles R. Lilley	8
Walter H. L. Buckingham	4	Edward Whitbread* ..	9
William G. Whitehead ..	5	George Wright	10

Composed by the late J. Cox, and conducted by Charles R. Lilley
* First peal of Caters]

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The Sussex County Association.

At St. Peter's, Henfield, on January 11th, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5088 changes in 3 hrs. 8 mins.

John Smart	1	Frank Bennett	5
Albert Stone	2	George Payne	6
Robert J. Dame	3	Edmund Lindup	7
Lazarus Payne	4	George Williams	8

Composed by H. Dains, and conducted by George Williams.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.

At St. George's, Camberwell, on January 20th, Thurstans' One-part peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 53 mins. Tenor, 14 cwt.

William Weatherstone ..	1	George N. Price	5
W. H. L. Buckingham ..	2	Herbert P. Harman ..	6
Hubert Eden	3	T. H. Taffender (condr.) ..	7
Frank W. Tubb*	4	Thomas Walker†	8

[* Late of Appleton, Berks. † First peal.]

Bungay, Suffolk.—At St. Mary's Church, on New-year's Eve, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes. W. Spalding, 1; I. Folkard, 2; F. Hembling, 3; G. Alexander, 4; E. Lincoln, 5; C. Woods, 6; R. Baker (conductor), 7; W. Felgate, 8. And on handbells a course of Grandsire Caters. I. Folkard, 1-2; E. Lincoln, 3-4; W. Felgate, 5-6; G. Alexander, 7-8; R. Baker, 9-10.

Speldhurst, Kent.—At the Parish Church, on January 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, to welcome home Sub-Lieutenant Lachlan Mackinnon, R.N., youngest son of the Rector, on his return from service on the China Station. P. Turley, J. Baker, J. Thorpe, G. Turley, A. Godley, G. Izzard, J. Maynard (conductor), F. Still.

West Ham.—On January 11th, a touch of 575 Grandsire Caters (half-muffled) was rung after the whole-pull-and-stand, to the memory of Mr. George Weights, one of the local ringers. C. Dempsey, 1; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 2; G. Pearl, 3; J. Bradley, 4; J. Moule, 5; W. Keeble, 6; W. H. Doran, 7; J. Dale, 8; H. Torble, 9; G. Hayden, 10. Also on the following Tuesday, on the front six, Penning's 720 Bob Minor, with forty-six calls. C. Dempsey, 1; A. J. Perkins (conductor), W. H. Doran, 3; J. Moule, 4; H. Botterill, 5; G. Hayden, 6.

Hornchurch.—On January 18th (being the sixty-second birthday of Mr. I. Dear), a quarter-peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples. I. Dear, 1; A. J. Perkins (composer), 2; W. H. Doran, 3; H. Torble, 4; G. Hayden, 5 (first quarter-peal in this method); J. Dale, 6; W. H. Judd (conductor), 7; J. Moule, 8.

Allesley, Warwickshire.—On January 18th the Coventry ringers visited this place and rang several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. G. Chatfield, 1; S. Hope, 2; R. Bosworth (conductor), 3; W. Maund, 4; J. H. White, 5; W. Gilbert, 6. Also two 360's in the same method. G. Chatfield, 1; W. Maund, 2; R. Bosworth, 3; S. Hope, 4; J. H. White (conductor), 5; T. Jones, 6. These are the first six-scores rung on the bells, which have lately been rehung and augmented to six by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough. The 'go' of the bells is all that can be desired, and reflects great credit on the founders.

St. Albans, Herts.—At St. Peter's Church, on January 20th, for practice, 447 Grandsire Triples. W. Little, 1; A. Hull, 2; E. Hull, 3; J. Earwicker, 4; H. J. Full, 5; W. Porter, 6; E. Whitbread, 7; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 8. Also on January 19th, three courses of Caters. T. Colney, 1; W. Little, 2; E. Hull, 3; A. Hull, 4; W. Sharpe, 5; H. Marner, 6; C. R. Lilley, 7; H. J. Full, 8; E. P. Debenham (conductor), 9; W. Porter, 10.

Northampton.—At All Saints' Church, lately, by members of the Central Northamptonshire Association, 408 Stedman Triples. A. Stewart, 1; H. Rainbow, 2; A. Arnold, 3; W. Allen, 4; A. P. Hensman, 5; T. Harriss, 6; W. Farey (conductor), 7; A. G. Smith, 8. Also 288 Stedman Triples. A. Arnold, 1; G. A. Hensman, 2; W. Allen, 3; A. P. Hensman, 4; A. Moore, 5; T. Harriss, 6; W. Farey (conductor), 7; H. Rainbow, 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to Mr. E. J. Dennes, secretary of the above Association. The whole-pull-and-stand was also rung.

St. Martin's (Birmingham) Bells.—St. Martin's bell-ringers can still claim the world's record in respect of their recent performance of ringing 11,111 changes in eight hours, in spite of the challenge which comes from the Debenham bell-ringers. The article which appeared in the newspapers giving an account of the Birmingham ringers' achievement on Boxing Day, has aroused widespread interest, and has reached the Suffolk town of Debenham, whose residents are anxious to record the doings of their bell-ringers. It is said that the Suffolk men, with only eight bells, rang 16,608 changes of 'Treble Bob in the Oxford Method,' and look with contempt upon the mere 11,111 changes on St. Martin's twelve bells. But an experienced Birmingham change-ringer pointed out the fallacy of the comparison to a newspaper representative, and showed how the greater merit lay in the Birmingham men's performance. 'The St. Martin's ringers,' said he, 'rang Stedman Cinques which is a much more intricate method than Treble Bob, the long length in the latter being merely a question of physical endurance. On the other hand, the mental stain involved in the successful issue of a long peal of Stedman Cinques places the Birmingham performance in point of merit far above the peal on the Debenham bells. The peal achieved at St. Martin's constitutes a record in the method, and is far superior to the Debenham achievement.'

Blagdon, Somerset.—Sir W. H. Wills has generously offered to bear the expense of providing a new peal of bells for the Parish Church, and also of having them hung and fitted with chiming apparatus. Five out of the six bells were found to be cracked; one, indeed, had nearly all the crown out. The tenor was inscribed 'Samuel Allen, George Dyer, churchwardens, 1817; T. Mears, of London, Fecit;' and the others 'T. Mears, of London, Fecit, 1817.' There are to be nine new bells, a peal of eight and an extra bell to sound a sharpened fourth in the scale, or, as the ringers would say, to give a half-tone below the fourth bell. This extra note will enable many extra tunes to be chimed.

The Welsh Mayor and the Ringers.—It is recorded of the new mayor of a Welsh borough that on the day on which he assumed office he pompously ordered the bell-ringers of the Parish Church to ring the bells at his expense. Great was his surprise when the rope-pullers being experienced ringers, struck up with much energy the tune of 'Brief life is here our portion.'

The Silent Bells of Congleton.—In accordance with the decision of the bell-ringers of the old parish church of St. Peter, Congleton, not to ring again until the Corporation pay the half of their salary, which they have done for many years, up to last March—the churchwardens paying the other half—the fine peal of eight bells was silent the other Sunday with one exception. This bell—which has been used for the curfew and also for funeral tolling—was pulled by the verger.

Wath Parish Church.—A new bell has been dedicated in the Parish Church at Wath, Yorkshire, as a Memorial to Queen Victoria. The Rector (the Rev. H. R. Hunter) conducted the service, and, in the presence of a large congregation, the Dean of Ripon performed the ceremony of dedication, and afterwards preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The choir rendered the anthem and musical parts of the service with good effect. At the conclusion of the service the six bells were rung for some time with great spirit by the Wath bell-ringers. Thanks are due to the members of the Wath Girls' Club as it is mainly through their efforts that 55*l.* (the amount required to purchase the new bell and renovate the other five) has been raised by concerts, social teas, and sale of work.

Peterborough Cathedral Bells.—The Dean and Chapter of Peterborough hope to be able to grant permisssion for the Cathedral bells to be rung in honour of the King's Coronation. The bells have been silent for fifty years, fears being felt that the vibration would endanger the safety of the west front. The structure has now been made thoroughly secure, and the bells were rehung some years ago. An expert is to be called in before any risk is run.

Bell-ringers' Privileges.—The Yorkshire custom of supplying church bell-ringers with refreshments on their ringing in the New Year was discussed by the Huddersfield Bench last week, when W. Benson, landlord of the 'Beaumont Arms,' Kirkheaton, was charged with having kept open during prohibited hours on New-year's morning. A son of the defendant and another man were found with a quantity of ale, liquor which was intended for the ringers, who had refreshments in the church tower. As the drink was a free gift, the case was dismissed.

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