BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

An Economical Church Bell.

Sir,—Opposite the hotel at which we are staying, there is a small Parish Church, St. M. Maggiore, which church has a bell frequently in action. This bell utters the notes A and C with equal clearness at the same moment, and the effect is very good. There ought to be a committee of inquiry into the matter, as it would be a tremendous advantage could bells of this harmonious and at the same time economical order be introduced in poorer parishes in England. Perhaps some expert will accept my statement of the fact, and proceed to explain it.

R. Denny Urlin.

Florence, March 21st.

The Bells of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

In the 'St. Peter Mancroft Parish Magazine,' this month, Mr. Charles E. Borrett has an interesting letter on the Mancroft Bells. 'There are twelve bells in our tower,' he says, 'and twelve men are required to ring them. If ten men only are present the largest ten bells can be rung, but it is harder work, and if only eight ringers attend the largest eight bells can be rung, and the work is simply Herculean. It is necessary, therefore, to ensure an attendance of at least ten men, and this is a difficult matter. Choirmasters will tell you that adult members of choirs are not always regular, but if a choirman is absent the singing can go on with little loss in effect. With ringers it is entirely different. They have either to do no ringing, or work like Trojans on a less number of bells. Taking it for granted that ten men are obtainable, and will attend regularly, there is then the question of the work involved in ringing such mighty bells as ours, and, it must be remembered, in our "Sunday best." It would take twenty minutes every Sunday morning to get the bells ready before actual ringing could begin. Our bells weigh altogether 9 tons 3 cwt. (varying from 6½ cwt. to 2 tons 3 cwt.), and each must be turned mouth uppermost, and the clappers of the larger ones reversed. In any weather, other than Arctic, this and the subsequent ringing is not a cooling performance for the men, and extensive ablutions (of course an impossible business in the belfry) are necessary before one gets into a fit state for church-going. If any one will visit us when we are ringing, they will soon see that what I have said is no exaggeration. There are only five rings of twelve bells as heavy, or heavier, than ours, and I find that at only two (St. Paul's Cathedral and York Minster) is there Sunday ringing. At both the men are paid, the St. Paul's ringers receiving £100 annually. At the others the bells are rung on festivals, just as we do at St. Peter's. Another point to be reckoned with is the length of time required for this church work. The difficulty of getting to church by 11 o'clock is commonly known, judging by the number of worshippers who arrive after that hour, but the ringers must be there an hour sooner. The ideal set before us (and a proper one too) is that after calling people to church the ringers should attend themselves. This means an attendance of 2½ hours at each service. I do not think the average church-goer would appreciate, or often attend, a service which occupied this length of time. It takes several years to become a twelve-bell ringer, and the time of probation is one of incessant work. A man who has gone through this does not think lightly of his position as a church bell-ringer, and the Mancroft men are not a whit behind their brother ringers in enthusiasm for their work, nor do they undervalue the privilege of being the official ringers of the finest ring of bells ever cast.'

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Kent County Association.

At the Parish Church, Erith, Kent, on March 9th, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5008 changes, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. Tenor, 18 cwt.

Harry Audsley	1	Isaac G. Shade	5
Thomas Groombridge	2	Edwin Barnett	6
John H. Cheeseman	3	Edgar Wightman	7
John J. Lamb	4	Charles Wilkins	8

Composed by Edgar Wightman, and conducted by Chas. Wilkins. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

At St. Stephen's, Hackington, Canterbury, on March 14th, Thurstans' One-part peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 52 mins. Tenor, 11 cwt.

Edward E. Foreman	1	Edwin Bursden	5
Frederick G. Brett	2	Charles Luery	6
Henry G. Fairbrass	3	Philip H. Pierce (condr.)	7
Percy Paine	4	R. Hyder Jenkins	8

The Cathedral Society, Christchurch, New Zealand.

At the Cathedral Church, Christchurch, on January 31st, Hubbard's Ten-part peal of Bob Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 58 mins. Tenor, 17 cwt.

John Andrews	1	John Biddle*	5
Arthur Dunkley*	2	John Maples*	6
William Wraight*	3	Thomas Biddle (condr.)	7
William Saunders*	4	William Jones	8

First peal of Triples by all, and on the bells. First peal of Bob Triples in the Colonies. Rung on the front eight. [* First peal.]

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

At Christ Church, West Bromwich, on Frebruary 7th, a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5039 changes, in 3 hrs. 10 mins.

Samuel Reeves	1	John Bradney*	6
Jesse Screen	2	Thomas Horton	7
Joseph Walker	3	Reuben Hall	8
Thomas H. Reeves	4	Alf. P. Smith	9
John Jagger	5	James Hares	10

Composed by W. Kent of Aston, conducted by Samuel Reeves. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the Rev. J. R. Keble, Vicar of Bishopsthorpe, and who was the first secretary of the above Society for a number of years. [* First peal of Caters.]

Bristol.

At the Church of St. James, Bristol, on March 10th, Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 28 mins. Tenor, 28 cwt.

Henry Porch (conductor)	1	William R. Paddock	5
Alfred W. Brighton	2	Francis T. Jewell†	6
Henry C. E. Apperley*	3	Frederick C. Pearce	7
Walter E. Apperley*	4	Charles F. Strawbridge*	8

[* First peal. † First peal away from Tenor.]

The Waterloo Society, and the St. Margaret's Society, Westminster.

At St. Margaret's, Westminster, on March 14th, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5002 changes, in 3 hrs. 16 mins. Tenor, 28 cwt.

Herbert Langdon	1	William Shepherd	6
Frederick G. Perrin	2	William S. Langdon	7
Arthur N. Hardy	3	John Hoyle*	8
James E. Davis	4	Ferris J. Shepherd	9
Ernest H. Nixon	5	William R. Crockford	10

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff, and conducted by Herbert Langdon. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Dr. Bradley. [* First peal of Stedman Caters.]

The Yorkshire Association.

At Holy Trinity, Hull, on March 14th, a peal of Treble Bob Royal, in the Kent Variation, 5000 changes, in 3 hrs. 42 mins. Tenor, 26 cwt.

J. W. Cundall	1	G. T. Marshall	6
A. C. Fearnley	2	D. W. Brown	7
T. F. Earnshaw	3	G. T. Miller	8
T. H. Haigh	4	W. Thomas	9
A. Haigh	5	C. Jackson	10

Composed by G. Lindoff, and conducted by C. Jackson. First peal of Royal on the bells.

The Middlesex County Association.

At All Saints', Edmonton, on March 14th, a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. Tenor, 18 cwt.

Sidney T. Darlington*	1	Alfred W. Darlington*	5
James W. Chapman†	2	James Saxby	6
George Paice	3	James Parker	7
Henry S. Reeves	4	William Ward	8

Composed by Henry Dains, and conducted by James Parker. [* First peal of Superlative. † First peal in any method.]

The Hertfordshire Association.

At St. James's, Bushey, Herts, on March 16th, Thurstans' One-part peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 54 mins. Tenor, 13 cwt.

Henry Hodgetts	1	Hubert Eden	5
Bertram Prewett	2	Ernest E. Huntley (condr.)	6
Frederick W. Brinklow	3	George N. Price	7
Francis A. Smith	4	Spencer M. Dodington	8

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