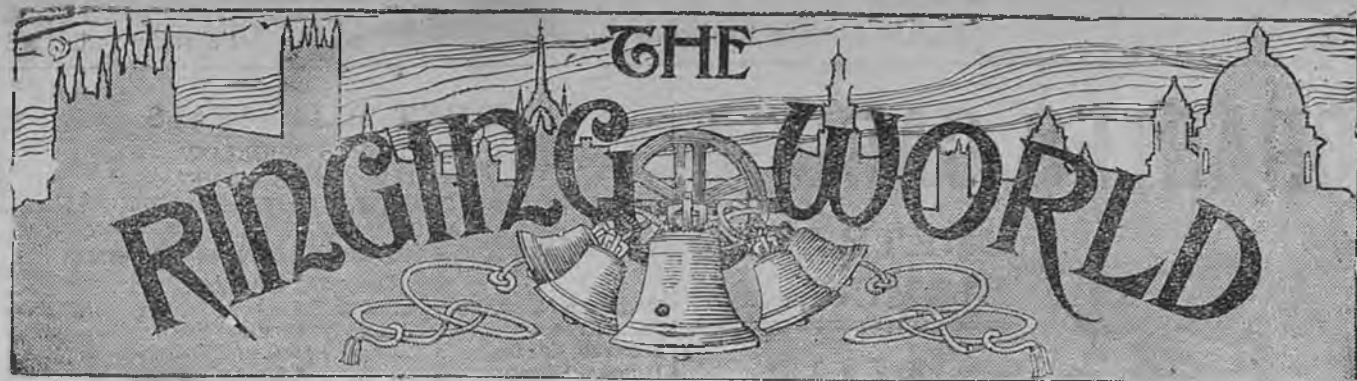




No. 361. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1918.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.
BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham, whose coat of arms bears the motto "Forward," has many times and in numerous directions set an example to other cities. More than once it has, in the world of our own art, stood out prominently. Just now it is giving us another instance of the practical application of its city motto. A serious defect has developed in the internal structure of the lofty spire of St. Martin's Church, famous throughout the land among ringers for its ring of twelve bells, and the result is that until this flaw is remedied, the peal cannot again be rung, for fear of endangering the tower. Such an occurrence, especially at a time like the present, would, we are afraid, have had but one result in many parishes—the bells would have been allowed to remain idle and the tower to continue defective indefinitely upon some real or fancied difficulty in getting it repaired.

But Birmingham is fortunate in possessing a Vicar who believes in maintaining the fabric of his Church, and who, in this respect, does not put the tower behind the chancel. Moreover, he has much at heart the interests of his very loyal band of ringers, and is ever ready to assist them in performing their share of the church duties. Backed up by equally enthusiastic churchwardens, Canon Willink has, in the present emergency, readily shouldered the burden of a costly task and without any delay—and there could, no doubt, have been found plenty of excuses for putting off the work—has gone forward with the undertaking. It may be a few months before St. Martin's bells are heard ringing again, but their enforced silence will be borne with equanimity by the ringers because of the knowledge that no time is being lost in rendering the spire once more safe.

Unhappily, the energy which is now being shown at the Parish Church of Birmingham is too seldom seen. Usually when the fabric of a tower develops defects the first and only remedy adopted to save the building is to stop the ringing of the bells. A peal may hang idly for years from this cause, whereas the difficulty, unexpected as it is in the majority of cases, and unpleasant as it always must be, could be just as well grappled with at the time it occurs, as at some distant date. Somehow or other, however, the restoration of the defective or dilapidated tower is one of the things which Church authorities often postpone as long as possible, and the courageous methods adopted at St. Martin's are, therefore, warmly to be commended, especially as—and one must not lose sight of this fact—about five years ago the outside of the tower and spire was thoroughly renovated, at very considerable cost.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFERN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON.
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.
Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

BELLS
FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
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REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

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**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
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Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough
Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester
and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ARKLOW, Co. WICKLOW.
THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26th, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
At St. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

REGINALD WOOLLEY ... Treble	ARTHUR HADLEY ... 5
JOHN KEARON ... 2	EDWARD PRICE ... 6
RICHARD KEARON ... 3	RALPH PRESTAGE ... 7
HUBERT HOYLE ... 4	JOHN LEWIS ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR HADLEY.

Rung with the bells muffled as a last token of respect to the late Countess of Carysfort, widow of the late Earl of Carysfort, donor of the church and bells.

First peal on tower bells by the ringers of 2, 3, 6 and Tenor.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1918, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' FIVE-PART No. 2. Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOHN T. SCOTT ... Treble	SERGT. R. CARRIER ... 5
CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 2	MAURICE SMITHER ... 6
THOMAS MACK ... 3	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 7
THOMAS ATTWELL ... 4	ARTHUR ASHDOWN ... Tenor

This was J. T. Scott's first peal and first attempt.

Sergt. R. Carrier hails from Western Canada. He was elected a member of the Winchester Guild before starting, and it was his first peal in England.

PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, February 2, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qrs. 27 lbs.

GEORGE F. SWANN ... Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS ... 5
THOMAS MILLER ... 2	A. PADDON SMITH ... 6
FREDERICK DICKINS ... 3	CHARLES WILLIAMS ... 7
WILLIAM KENT ... 4	JAMES E. GROVES ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Rung as a special compliment to Mr. Henry Brown on his completion of fifty years' honourable and faithful service as Sunday School teacher, chorister, bellringer and parish clerk, and whose services have been acknowledged by the presentation to him by the parish of 100 guineas.

BLACKENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

On Saturday, February 9, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

REV. CHAS. D. P. DAVIES' FIVE-PART No. 2. Tenor 10 cwt. in F.

THOMAS SMITH ... Treble	DANIEL JONES ... 5
ARTHUR RODEN ... 2	JOHN BRADNEY ... 6
FREDERICK DARRALL ... 3	CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 7
ANDREW JONES ... 4	EDWARD G. BOWYER ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

This peal was rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. Bradney, who kindly entertained the band to tea after the peal. The conductor hails from St. Chad's, Shrewsbury.

A MONMOUTHSHIRE AUGMENTATION.

The tower of Whirenewton, Mon., contains a ring of five bells, and is about to have the present treble recast and a new treble added to make it a ring of six. The donor of the new bell gives it on condition that it shall not be rung until peace is declared. The work is being carried out by Messrs. Meare and Staibank.

OLDSWINFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE. THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, February 9, 1918, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOSEPH PIGOTT	Trèble	SAMUEL GROVE	5
THOMAS J. SALTER	2	JOHN BASS	6
WILLIAM BIRD	3	WILLIAM SHORT	7
ALBERT E. PARSONS	4	JOHN WOODBERRY	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

This, the annual peal, was rung half-muffled in memory of those members who have fallen in the war.

KILDWICK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 9, 1918, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. in F.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN	Treble	HERBERT HAIGH	5
ROBERT W. JENNISON	2	FIRTH HOPWOOD	6
ARTHUR E. LAMBERT	3	EDWARD CROWTHER	7
THOMAS BANCROFT	4	ARTHUR HUDSON	Tenor

Composed by TOM LOCKWOOD and

Conducted by ARTHUR HUDSON.

This peal was arranged for A. E. Lambert, and was his first peal of Major. Thos. Baneroff's 30th peal of Major.

PENN, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

On Sunday, February 10, 1918, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

J. F. PENNING'S FIVE-PART No. 1. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

THOMAS SMITH	Treble	EDWARD G. BOWYER	5
JOHN APSE	2	ARTHUR RODEN	6
JOHN BRADNEY	3	CHARLES R. LILLEY	7
ANDREW JONES	4	DANIEL JONES	Tenor

Composed by J. F. PENNING.

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

Mr. Daniel Jones' 70th peal.

PRESENTATION AT BAGSHOT.

27 YEARS CAPTAIN OF A SURREY TOWER.

A meeting was held in the belfry of St. Anne's, Bagshot, on Saturday week, at which the Vicar (the Rev. A. H. Ford, M.A.) presided, for the purpose of presenting Mr. T. J. Gould with a little token of the esteem in which he is held by all the band, and Vicar and churchwardens. He has been a ringer at the church for 33 years, and for 27 years he had acted as captain.

The Vicar, in presenting the gift to Mr. Gould, said how sorry he was that, owing to business, Mr. Gould was obliged to go away from home to work, but he hoped that the war would soon be over so that he could come back and be with them again.

The present consisted of a bell-shaped inkstand, inscribed: "Presented to T. J. Gould for 27 years' service in the belfry, from Vicar, churchwardens and ringers of St. Anne's, Bagshot, January, 1918."

In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Gould thanked the members for their kind feeling towards him, and said he should be pleased to come to the belfry whenever the opportunity afforded.

A 720 Bob Minor was then rung, with 6-8 covering, by: — Pearce 1, J. Corbett 2, H. Gould 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. J. Gould 5, H. Berry 6, F. Nye (conductor) 7, W. Varnell 8.

On Sunday, February 3rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 48 mins., by: — Pearce 1, J. Corbett 2, H. Gould 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. J. Gould 5, F. Francis 6, F. Nye (conductor) 7, W. Varnell 8.

At a meeting, held recently in the belfry, the Vicar presiding, Mr. W. Varnell was elected captain, in the place of Mr. Gould, and Mr. J. Corbett, secretary and treasurer. Any communications in the future should be addressed to Mr. J. Corbett.

THE PEAL AT MILNROW.

The peal at Milnrow recorded last week was the first in the method by Pte. R. Mackrill, and was arranged for him as an appreciation of the help he had given the local band while staying at the local military hospital.

A RINGER IN PALESTINE.

EXPERIENCES NEAR THE HOLY CITY.

Corporal Alan R. Macdonald, R.E., of Bournemouth, and well known in the Metropolis, writing from "somewhere in Palestine," on January 13th, wishes to be remembered to all his old ringing friends.

He adds: "I have advanced by stages, like the children of Israel into the promised land. We journeyed through the desert, and at last, with the fall of Gaza, reached my present station, which is within a cycle ride of the Holy City. The R.E. have been kept very busy with railway, road and water supply work. I have been chiefly employed on the latter, which, after all, is the most important. Now, after not seeing rain for months on end, we are up to our eyes in mud nearly as bad as Flanders.

"There are always two or three 'Ringing Worlds' for me whenever a mail arrives, and it is a pleasant reminder of the happier days of yore. I think some of the old school would be amazed if they could see the 'Ringing World' right in the wilds of the Holy Land, and in an old Turkish mud house, which is my billet.

"The natives here seem in the same state as when Christ was on earth. Civilisation has not reached them with its comforts and discomforts. Their only pleasure seems what they make themselves, such as feasts and weddings. I attended a feast to celebrate the release of the chief man of the village near us, who had been arrested on account of some trouble some of the inhabitants of his village had given our troops. It consisted of a weird sort of dance to a kind of flute, and the refreshments consisted of small cups of very strong coffee.

IMPROVISED BELLS.

"Needless to say, I have not heard any bells in these parts. At one of our garrison churches on the Suez Canal, where I was stationed, there was a chime made of lengths of railway metal suspended from a wooden frame, but as they were hardly in tune the effect was not very pleasing. They were struck with an iron bar. The Greek Churches in most of the Egyptian towns have generally three bells, which they swing frame high, jangled anyhow, and all together. I am told that when our troops entered Ramleh the bells of the Greek church were rung to welcome them, a compliment our troops much appreciated, our men saying it put them in mind of "Blighty" on a Sunday morning.

"From what I can make out in the 'Ringing World' the ladies are getting so strong in the towers that I have my doubts if mere men will be required again. Still, it is good news to know that the dear old bells are still ringing. It has been very sad to hear of so many of the old faces that have passed away during the last year."

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Guildford District was held at Aldershot, on Saturday, February 2nd, and was attended by ringers from Farnham, Cranleigh, Guildford, and other towers. The service was conducted by an army chaplain, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar.

The feature of the meeting was undoubtedly the "Ration Tea," so it had been found impossible to provide tea for those attending, so it was decided to hand over the 9d. allowed by the Guild, and let the members ration themselves. Arrangements were kindly made by Mr. J. Mann, of Aldershot, and Mr. Miles, the caretaker of the Church Rooms, for a plentiful supply of crockery and boiling water. The tables were very soon laid out with real sugar and real milk, bread and butter (of assorted colours), and a cake, which made one think what a lucky man the husband of the fair provider must be. As each one brought a little more than was wanted, there was enough and to spare for several unexpected visitors, amongst them being Sergt. Gilbert and his bride.

The business included the election of four Aldershot lady ringers, as full members, all of them being able to ring 120 changes.

The Secretary (Mr. J. J. Jones) reported that he had sent £2 9s. 2d. balance on the year's work to the general secretary. This was the lowest on record, but when he explained that only two hon. members had paid their subscriptions, and that the ordinary members had, therefore, paid practically the whole of the expenses it was felt to be quite satisfactory.

The Ringing Master's report mentioned that three peals had been rung since the last meeting, each of which contained a new ringer's first peal, also the first one by the conductor.

The pretty little peal of six was kept going in various methods till 9 p.m.

NO BUSINESS DONE.

Few members of the Winchester District turned up at their district meeting at North Stoneham on Saturday last. However, with assistance of members of the Curdridge band and the Rev. E. Banks-James, with two of his pupils, some very good practice was carried out, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major being brought round, in addition to spoofs of rounds for the juveniles, the bells being kept busy from just after 3 p.m. till 7. Owing to the absence of the district officers no official business was transacted.

MEARS & STAINBANK,

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Established
A.D. 1870.

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,
LONDON, E.



Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehangings, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

SURREY TOWERS IN LONDON AREA.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I was very interested in your article on the Surrey Association, which appeared in this week's "Ringing World."

The suggestion of your leader that the Surrey Association should cover the whole of the South London towers is splendid, and very practicable. Having lived in South London for the last 24 years, I can assure you that the need for a County Association to link up the towers and promote the art is very great and very urgent.

If it will at all interest those concerned, and especially ringers residing in South London, I ask them to look at the campanological position of South London towers, which I set down below. These are all in Surrey, and, as far as I am aware, are unattached to any society. The position of the towers prior to the war was:—

Rotherhithe, S. Mary (8).—Change ringing.
Bermondsey, S. John's (10).—Out of order.
Bermondsey, S. James' (10).—Out of order.
Southwark, S. Saviour's (12).—Stony.
Southwark, S. George's (8).—Change ringing.
Southwark, Christ Church (8).—Stony.
Waltham, S. Peter's (8).—Out of order.
Newington, Holy Trinity (8).—Out of order.
Camberwell, S. Giles' (10).—No band.
Camberwell, S. George's (8).—Stony.
Kennington, S. John's (8).—Change ringing.
Clapham, S. Mary, R.C. (8).—Stony.
Battersea, S. Mary (8).—Stony.
Lambeth, S. Mary (8).—Stony.
Lambeth, S. John (8).—No band.
Putney, S. Mary (8).—Change ringing.
Dulwich, College Chapel (5).—No band.
Merton, S. Mary (5).—No band.
Wandsworth, All Saints' (8).—Stony.
Mortlake, S. Mary (8).—Stony.
Richmond, S. Mary (8).—Stony.
Barnes, S. Mary (8).—Change ringing.

Of course, since the war, most of these towers have lost many of their members.

The number of towers in this district where "stony" was rung, or never ring, was simply extraordinary. The only places where the art was regularly practised were Vassall Road (Kennington), Southwark (St. George), Barnes, Putney and Rotherhithe. Of course, I am not referring to the towers attached to the Surrey Association.

I am sure there are many good ringers residing in South London who have long seen the need for the County Association to extend its influence over their district, on the same lines as the Kent, Essex and Middlesex Associations do in their parts of London.

A good plan would be for the Surrey Association to visit these towers and get in touch with the local men and incumbents. The question is whether the best time is now or after the war? but I hope that something will be done for South London by the Surrey Association.—Yours truly,
HENRY H. BARNBY.

THE HENRY JOHNSON DINNER.

Intending visitors to the forthcoming Henry Johnson Commemorative Dinner, to be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 16th, will learn with pleasure that the "Guild's Own Rector," as the Birmingham men style Canon Willink, will again take the chair. It is certainly evidence of the Canon's popularity that this is the fifth year in succession that he has been invited to preside at this function, and the fact that he has accepted on each occasion proves beyond all doubt his sincere goodwill towards ringers in general and the St. Martin's Guild in particular.

Unfortunately the bells of St. Martin's will not be available for ringing on March 16th, owing to the fact that an internal fault has developed in the spire which renders it inadvisable to have the bells rung until it has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired.

About five years ago the tower and spire were repainted from top to bottom externally, and our readers will doubtless remember the striking photograph we published at the time, showing the scaffolding erected for the work. The present mischief is, as stated above, in the interior, but with commendable promptitude the Rector and churchwardens have decided to put the work in hand right away, and it is hoped to get the grand old bells swinging again in a few months.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

Counter attractions in the locality caused a smaller attendance than usual at a united practice held at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on Saturday afternoon last. The sterner sex only just outnumbered the ladies. Mrs. F. Hairs and the Misses F. Foltham, E. Fuller, E. Jones and D. G. Williams, all of whom rang in touches of Grandine Triples on the tower bells. Stedman Triples was rung on a fine set of handbells (which one of the ringers from Willesden had brought) by members from Camberwell and West, Ealing, one of the ladies, and the owner of the bells.

BISHOP RYDER'S, BIRMINGHAM. INTERESTING UNVEILING CEREMONY.

It is not very often in these troublesome times that one reads of the unveiling of peal tablets, and it is to be expected that there will be quite a glut of such ceremonies when the time comes—and may it come soon—when "Peace Peal Tablets" will be unveiled all over the country.

In these circumstances the exception to the rule is provided, as might be expected, by one yclept "the ubiquitous" James George, one-time "of Rugby," who has caused to be erected in the belfry of the above church, a marbled tablet recording his 600th peal.

The unveiling took place after Evensong, on Sunday, Feb. 3rd, and was performed, in the presence of a large congregation, by the Vicar, the Rev. G. E. Badger, M.A., who also preached an eloquent sermon on the text, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the Glory of God." Speaking of bells and ringers, the preacher said "the bells conveyed a message to careless and forgetful Christians, making them think of God and duty. Bells must be sound if they are to give pleasure when rung, and our witness to God in life depends on our being sound morally. Ringers had to work together, keep time together, and learn to subordinate their own wills for the good of the whole. They needed to think deeply, there was much to learn, many complex problems to work out. They had never finished learning, but could always make progress, become more efficient, and always gain more experience. Ringers do a good work for God and His Church. They make people think of God, and lift them above the commonplace and sordid. There are few things more important than to make men think of God and the things above." In conclusion, the Vicar said: "May God bless our ringers and make the message of the bells to be heard and heeded. Whatever we do, whether we teach or preach, or ring, let us do all to the Glory of God."

After the service the Vicar proceeded to the belfry, which is open to the church, with a gallery running along the open side. On this gallery some hundreds of the congregation gathered to witness the unveiling, the Vicar explaining that the work had been done free of expense to the church by their esteemed Ringing Master, Mr. James George. He was pleased to know that in Mr. George they had one of the most enthusiastic and one of the ablest exponents of ringing in the country, and under his care the ringing had not only been vastly improved, but a great transformation had been made in the belfry itself. The walls had been match-boarded and painted, the floor covered, the gas brackets renewed, the old tablets cleaned and varnished. For some of this work they were also indebted to the generosity of Councillor Gelling.

After the unveiling, Alderman G. S. Pritchett M.A., Presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild, thanked the Vicar for his most inspiring address, stating that he had never heard so eloquent an address on bells before. The belfry was often a place where the clergy seldom entered, and often it was not very inviting, but this one was now a pattern for all. He was pleased to see the progress made by the lady ringers under the able tuition of Mr. George, and recommended the Exercise to all young men and women.

Touches of Stedman and Grandsire were rung before and after the service, the ladies also having a turn. Among the ringers present were the veteran Mr. Wm. Rock Small, of Tipton; Messrs. Ben Gough and W. Fisher, of Coseley; T. J. Bratton, Thos. Russam, and W. N. Carrod.

The tablet is a beautiful sample of the work of Messrs. O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., of Birmingham, who have supplied several for St. Martin's belfry, and measures 20in. by 30in. The lettering is incised on marbled, gilt with English gold, and reads as follows:—

St. Martin's Guild.
For the Diocese of Birmingham.
Established 1755.
Bishop Ryder's Church.

On Saturday, August 18th, 1917, in two hours and fifty-six minutes, was rung on these bells by the following members of the Guild:—
A Peal of Stedman Triples (5040 changes).

Sir A. P. Heywood's Transposition of Thurstan's Four-part,
Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

Albert T. Scrivens	 Treble	A. Paddon Smith	 5
Morris J. Morris	 2	Thomas Miller	 6
Benjamin Gough	 3	James George	 7
William Fisher	 4	John B. Collett	 Tenor

Conducted by James George.

This Tablet was erected by Mr. James George to commemorate the above, which was the 600th true and complete peal in which he had taken part.

Rev. G. E. Badger, M.A., Vicar. G. F. Harris W. Aldridge, churchwardens.

It is placed in the centre of a framework which has spaces provided for three further tablets of the same size on either side and is indeed a splendid addition to the belfry.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

BY 'BOB MAJOR.'

New brooms sweep clean, they say, and the inference is that old ones are sometimes not of much use. But down Wokingham way they have had a Broome that has maintained its good reputation for seven and twenty years. Though he grew old—or shall we say merely older—in the service of the Oxford Guild, the Rev. E. E. Broome never grew weary of well-doing, and he has now retired from the office of Sonning Deanery secretary, full of years and honour, and with the regret of all the members at his resignation. Everyone will join in wishing the reverend gentleman many years of improved health to enjoy the associations and friendships which have sprung up during more than a quarter of a century of work among ringers.

That letter the other day, by "Campano," contained a lot of truth, but, like "Once a Beginner," I am just going to put in a word for some of the "leading lights" who, during the dark days have been trying to shed a few rays of sunshine upon gatherings of ringers. In some of the Associations, the "big guns" have been to the fore at the meetings, and have shown their desire to keep in close touch with the members. In and around London at least I know they have done their best to keep our spirits from drooping, and to keep our ringing tails up, so to speak. All the same, "Campano" is right with regard to others who profess and call themselves leaders, for verily have they retired to their dugouts and remained there. Let us hope that they are concocting great schemes for the resuscitation of ringing when the opportunity occurs—and it may occur sooner than some of us think.

From the pursuits of peace to those of war is never a far cry—at least that is what seems to me—but many would be surprised, I think, if they only knew the contribution which our bell foundries have made to munitions of war. From the peaceable work of the manufacture of bells, they have turned with more than redoubled energy into war-time labours and those ringers who were down at Croydon a week or two ago, for the purpose of the annual Surrey meeting, opened their eyes in wonderment at the transformation of the Gillett and Johnston establishment. It has expanded to abnormal size, and what was once the clock department has become the centre of an important industry, of which the Huns are reaping the results.

And talking of munition factories reminds me that a munition friend of mine (not at Croydon) who is, by the way, also a ringer, is wonderfully keen on "doing his bit" in the factory line—if he was younger I am certain he would be in the trenches. Not for worlds would he lose time, and the other day, he tells me, he went to work without a sock to one of his feet. Getting up in the early hours by the light of a candle he had put a sock on one foot, but neither high nor low could he find the other. Rather than be late or wake his good wife, he went off to work for the day with a sockless foot, and he manfully put up with the discomfort. When he reached home in the evening, and related his trouble, his better half quickly produced another pair of coverings for the good man's toes. Then it was he found he had, in the morning, put both socks on one foot.

I have heard it rumoured that there is to be no more ringing at the famous Church of St. Martin, in the Birmingham Bull Ring, for some months. The reason is that the spire has "jacked up," or got tired, or something of that kind. The neighbours living round the Ring will not miss the bells so much now as they might have done before the war, when they pealed without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, as the police court phrase goes, every Tuesday evening and Sunday morning. Even the orators of the Bull Ring used to have to give way on these occasions, for no speaker yet born could hold his own and a crowd against the brazen tongue of St. Martin's twelve. On a Sunday these speakers gather their audiences when the ceasing of the bells denotes the opening of the morning service, but these same audiences melt like snow before the sun with the opening of the public-house an hour and a half later. But these tub thumpers do not concern me. What I am concerned about is the trouble that has developed in St. Martin's spire. However, I hear that repairs have already been taken in hand; in other words, that Canon Willink and his churchwardens have taken the bull by the horns, and are getting on with the job right away. And where, I would ask, is a better place to take the bull by the horns than in the Bull Ring!

Away down the country in an out of the way village lived old Ben, who years ago I knew well. He was the steeple keeper and a good ringer, too. In a rough and ready style he wasn't bad at figures either, and could be trusted to prove a peal as well as call it. But as Ben grew older the belfry stairs seem to grow longer. Every one of those stairs was an old friend of his, and he knew them as well in the dark as in the daylight. On an average old Ben climbed those stairs or part of them four times a week. Three times—twice on Sunday and once on practice night—he went up as far as the ringing chamber, and once a week he went up the second flight to see after the bells. Thought he one day, "if in the top flight there were one-fifth more stairs and in the bottom flight one-quarter less, I should save my old legs a climb of 24 steps a week." My readers can amuse themselves by working out how many stairs there were.

TWO RINGERS LOSE THEIR LIVES IN EXPLOSION.

It is with great regret that we have to record that two of the ringers attached to Barthomley Parish Church, Cheshire, have lost their lives in the terrible disaster which occurred at the "Minnie" Pit, Halmer End, Staffs., on January 12th last. They are John Austin, aged 41, and Harry Eden, aged 23, and both were highly respected in the parish.

Austin's body was recovered on Tuesday, February 5th, but at the time of writing Eden's body is still in the mine.

The funeral of John Austin took place in the quiet and beautiful Churchyard of Barthomley, on Friday last, amid many signs of sorrow and regret. He was carried from his home to his last resting place by his fellow ringers, the service being impressively conducted by the venerable Rector of the parish. The grave had been neatly lined with evergreens by two of his comrades, and the bells were rung deeply muffled before and after the service and again for the services of Sunday last, which were in memory of all who had lost their lives in the explosion, when the offertory, amounting to about £27 was given to the relief fund.

Since the disaster the bells had been silent out of respect for the deceased ringers.

STEPNEY'S TRIPLE LOSS.

DEATH OF MR. J. H. BARRETT.

The local band at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, has been still further depleted by the death of Mr. J. H. Barrett. In November last, Mr. H. Springall, the greatly respected conductor, passed away, followed shortly afterwards by Mr. Alfred Goody, and on January 18th, Mr. Barrett was laid to rest.

On Saturday, January 26th, members representing the Ancient Society of College Youths met at St. Dunstan's Church to ring a muffled peal as a mark of respect to their old colleagues. Probably few of the younger ringers were acquainted with Mr. Barrett, but he was well known and highly respected by the older members, especially those ringing in East London churches. Although never taking an active part in half-pull ringing, Mr. Barrett was the author of many peals, conducted by Mr. Springall. Mr. Barrett was also an authority on the history of St. Dunstan's, where he regularly rang for Divine services for many years.

The whole pull and stand was rung by the following members: E. Horrex, W. Tanner, S. E. Joyce, H. Langdon, J. Scholes, R. Sanders, C. S. Burden, J. Nichols, E. Hall, A. B. Peck. Afterwards two touches of Stedman Caters were rung, with Messrs. E. G. Fenn and T. Langdon standing in.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Wellingborough District was held at Irthlingborough on Saturday week, and was attended by about 26 members and friends. Good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening, the methods rung being Grandsire Doubles, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Tea was served in the Schoolroom, and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Vicar. Amongst those present were Mr. J. Mills (churchwarden), Mr. F. Wilford (general secretary), Mr. W. Perkins (district secretary), and the towers represented were: Higham Ferrers, Finedon, Earls Barton, Wellingborough, Kettering, Easton Mauditt, Northampton, Ringstead, Thrapston, Burton Latimer, and Irthlingborough.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Earls Barton, and a special meeting at Doddington at the end of April. Three new members were elected from Earls Barton and Easton Mauditt, and a hearty vote of thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of bells, and also to the ladies who provided tea.

The ringers afterwards adjourned to the Bell Hotel where touches were rung on the handbells.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LONDON.—On Sunday, Feb. 3rd, at 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): F. G. Symonds 1-2, W. Alps 3-4, A. J. Perkins (composer and conductor) 5-6, T. H. Taffender 7-8. This was the conductor's 66th birthday, and he received the usual congratulations. Touches of Bob Major, Treble Bob and Stedman Triples were also brought round.

PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, Feb. 3rd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Pte. Cecil Greenfield 1, S. Stone 2, Sergt. W. H. Hollman 3, S. W. Corden 4, Sergt. A. B. Corden 5, P. H. Doick 6, A. Greenfield (conductor) 7, F. J. Killick 8, Sergt. W. H. Hollman has recently been awarded the D.C.M., and both he and Sergt. A. B. Corden are now going to an officers' training corps, near Plymouth. They were the recipients of hearty congratulations from their "brother strings" at Pulborough.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Bromwich, on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells (12) at 3. Committee meeting in vestry, 4.45. Short service in church at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (the Rev. Basil G. Nicholas). Tea if possible (1/-) in the Parish Room at 6.—Rev. C. Holroyd Barker, Hon. Treas., 57, Lodge Road, West Bromwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Leesfield, Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A meeting for handbell practice, etc., will be held at the King of Denmark, Old Bailey, E.C., on Saturday, Feb. 16th, at 6.30 p.m.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec., *pro tem*.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The first quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, February 16th, at Henbury. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., to be followed by tea and business meeting.—W. Stafford, Hon. Secretary, 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol.

OXFORD GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—A combined practice meeting will be held at Harmondsworth, near West Drayton (six bells) on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells ready 3.15 p.m. Middlesex ringers are asked to kindly help support this meeting.—G. H. Gutteridge, Iver Heath, Uxbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on February 21st, and for general business on the 26th, all at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1/8, which entitles members who have not attended twenty meetings in the past year to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before the 28th inst.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. Dr. Relton) at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Ringing from 3 to 6, followed by short service. Refreshments (by invitation of the Vicar). Business meeting and handbells at the "London Apprentice." Members please note that all 1917 subscriptions should be paid by the date of the meeting.—H. C. Chandler, Church Road, Heston, Hounslow.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Forest Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Mary's Church, Newent, Glos., on Saturday, 23rd February, 1918. Service in the Church at 4.30. Tea will be provided at the Parish Room by the Rector, the Rev. Canon Connor (if obtainable). Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. till 9.—Joseph Williams, Hon. Sec., Glen Holm, Newent, Glos.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Biddenden on Saturday, Feb.

23rd. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock until sunset.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore, Ashford, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Ringing practice will be held at Stebbing on Saturday, Feb. 23rd; Sible Hedingham, Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3.30 until 6 o'clock.—H. F. Cooper, Master; B. Redgwell, Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. George's Church, Bolton, on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Bells ready at 4. Meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY will hold their quarterly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 23rd, at the Parish Church, Ashton. Bells available from 3 o'clock afternoon. Business meeting at 7 o'clock. All ringers invited.—C. Bower, Hon. Sec., 25, Chadwick Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

THE LADIES' GUILD.—A meeting of the above Guild will be held at the Parish Church, Clifton, Bristol, on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea will be arranged *if possible*, but only for those who notify me before Feb. 26th.—Edith K. Parker, Hon. Sec., 29, Leigh Road South, Clifton, Bristol.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (12) available from 3 to 6.30 p.m. Important business to follow, which will be held in the Wostenholme Hall. A good attendance is desired.—Frank Willey (Vice-President), 110, Petre Street, Sheffield.

CENTRAL COUNCIL SECRETARY.—The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Hon. Sec. of the Central Council, has removed to Deane Rectory, Basingstoke.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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