

THE RINGING WORLD

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Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 6th March, 1918.
Rentlemen,

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 gives 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. BEOK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK.

THE COUNCIL'S FUTURE.

In our article last week, dealing with the Central Council, we put our finger, we believe, upon the spot on which much of the criticism of the Council is based—the paucity of results in the last six or eight years. The Council's own published record is proof of its comparative failure, and we may be forgiven if we say that in the future it will have to show that it is capable of something better if it is to justify its existence. That the cause of these poor results is to a considerable degree due to the Exercise at large in not finding suitable work for the Council to do is true; but this points to one of two things, either that the Exercise is indifferent to the Council and prefers to get on without it, or the Council has failed to find a method of keeping in practical touch with the Exercise, which it is supposed to represent.

Let us hope that it is not the case that the Council has outstayed its welcome. We would rather believe that it has not succeeded in maintaining that direct touch with the various county and diocesan ringing organisations, which it must have if its work is to be of practical use and its future assured. In the discussion which followed the Hon. Secretary's paper, a good deal of stress was laid upon the need for establishing closer relations with the clergy; but, while this is necessary, it is equally important that the Council should come into much nearer contact with ringers. Although the Council consists principally of representatives of ringing associations, it remains a fact that the average ringer has no sense of allegiance to the Council. He looks upon it as a body apart, his interest in its proceedings is merely superficial, and for its judgment he cares not one jot. This may be unkind, but it is true.

The remedy, as we have pointed out before, and as Mr. Cyril Johnston emphasised at the meeting, is for the Council to get into closer touch with the ringers. Let it provide the Exercise with a means of imbuing a real, live interest, in a real, live concern, and the Council will have a future before it which will not outlast its usefulness. The goodwill of the clergy is necessary, but all the clerical goodwill in the world will be of no avail without the confidence of the ringers themselves. The Council is going to take a year to think the matter over—it has already had it brought before it, as forcibly as pens can do so, for years past—and we hope that its ponderings will produce something practical. Pious expressions of opinion will do no good. It is action that is required, and the first step should be to lay hold of the ringers, by coming into real touch and giving them a direct interest in the concern. Without this the rest will be in vain.

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 BELLEINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
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Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract,—we may be able to assist you.

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TEN BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, May 25, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Dunstan, Stepney,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANCES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

CHALLIS F. WINNEY 1	REUBEN SANDERS... .. 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	CHARLES S. BURDEN 7
FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... 3	ALFRED B. PECK 8
HARRY R. PASMORE 4	EMANUEL HALL 9
JAMES SCHOLES 5	GEORGE BARRELL... .. Tenor

Composed by G. R. FARDON and

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to Messrs. H. Springall and W. Truss: the latter killed at Amiens, France, and both connected with the local ringing.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EYE.

A general meeting of this Association was held at Eye on Whit-Monday, in accordance with the decision of the committee at their last meeting. The bells of the Parish Church were available throughout the day, and many excellent touches in various methods were rung upon them. Owing to food restriction no lunch could be provided, but a meeting of members was held in the Reading Room, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. L. Duffell, at which over 50 members were present, including Messrs. F. Day, J. Motts, G. E. Symonds, D. Hayward, and T. Fitzjohn (district secretaries), Rev. H. Drake and C. E. Borrett (secretary), and representatives from about 20 different towers.

The Secretary read a summary of the work of the Association since the last meeting, and proposed votes of sympathy to the families of the late Dr. F. E. W. Meadows, of Oley, and the late Mr. W. L. Catchpole, of Ipswich. These were carried in the usual way.

Some discussion took place as to future meetings, and it was finally decided that a meeting—to count as an annual meeting—be held on August Bank Holiday, at Ipswich, if the bells there are available.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the members were most hospitably entertained to tea by Mr. E. F. Poppy, a member of the Eye band, and to whom a very hearty vote of thanks was passed, on the proposition of the Rev. H. Drake. It was noteworthy that five of the six surviving members of the Dohenham long peal band were present, viz., Messrs. J. and W. Motts, R. H. Brundle, D. Collins and W. G. Crickmer.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

MEETING OF THE MIDLAND DISTRICT.

On Saturday week, a very successful and largely attended meeting of the Midland District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Solihull. The ancient church is situated very pleasantly in the midst of pretty country surroundings, and the steeple contains a very handy ring of ten bells, whose music, by the efforts of the local ladies, welcomed the visitors. A little later more visitors arrived from Clent, Cosely, Erdington, Smethwick, Birmingham, and neighbouring districts, and the bells were kept going to touches of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples, as well as in rounds for the learners, until service time, ladies taking part in all the ringing.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. T. B. Harvey Brooks), who extended a very hearty welcome to the visitors. His address on the origin of bells and bell ringing was very much enjoyed. After service a very substantial war-time tea was provided at an adjacent hostelry, about 40 members and friends sitting down.

After tea the meeting took place. The gentlemen were invited to stay, but decided to repair to the tower for Stedman Caters instead. Ten new members were elected, viz., eight ringing and two life members.

It was decided to hold half-yearly business meetings, together with monthly meetings for practice during the summer, the first of these to take place at Clent about the end of June.

A small committee was elected, so that branch matters may be discussed, as it was thought this would improve the organization of the branch.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed and unanimously carried, to the Rector for his hearty welcome and the services in the church, to Mr. Martineau for having everything in readiness, and making all necessary arrangements, and to brother ringers for their attendance and support.

This brought the meeting to a close. The tower was again visited, and ringing indulged in until about 8.50, when the bells were lowered and a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells in which two ladies took part, brought a very successful and enjoyable meeting to a close.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT SAFFRON WALDEN.

The annual meeting of the Essex Association was held on Whit-Monday at Saffron Walden, this being the first occasion upon which the annual gathering of the county organisation had been held in that town, where, a year or two ago the bells were augmented to twelve. The attendance was not large, but there were representatives present from every district. The restricted train service, and the inaccessibility of Saffron Walden, made travelling difficult, but a number of earnest ringers made the journey to the North Essex town, many being attracted by the prospect of ringing on the twelve bell peal. Needless to say, the bells were kept in constant service by bands of ringers practically throughout the day, and if stoppages were frequent—short touches being the order of the day—it was to enable everyone to try his hand on twelve bells, and much useful instruction was received. The practice was as keenly sought as it was thoroughly enjoyed. The Saffron Walden Society has been in existence for over two centuries, and the town has long been noted as the home of good ringing. Several of the present day exponents, notably Mr. Fred Pitstow, gave directions to the visiting ringers on Whit-Monday. Among those present were: Mr. C. H. Howard (Braintree), Master of the Association, and his son, Master Norman Howard; the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, hon. secretary and treasurer to the Association (who announced his intended resignation at Michaelmas next of the living of Great Totham, although he will reside at Witham, and continue in office with the Essex Association); Messrs. W. Pye, G. R. Pye, T. Faulkner, F. J. Pitstow, E. J. Butler, W. Watts, H. J. Tucker, W. J. Nevard, H. F. Cooper, W. H. Lawrence, J. F. Penning, H. Chapman, and others, including a few welcome visitors in khaki. In the morning the bells were rung, and after an excellent lunch, the ringers attended service at the parish church. The Rev. L. H. Hughes (Vicar) was the preacher, and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre read the lesson.

THE WORK OF THE PAST YEAR.

In the afternoon the annual meeting was held at Church House, Alderman N. Myhill, Mayor of Saffron Walden and churchwarden, accompanying the officers and committee on the platform. The Master read his report as follows: The continuance of the great war and the call for more men to the colours has affected every stage of our work during the past year, but in spite of all the difficulties with which we have been faced, and notwithstanding the restricted train service which has greatly curtailed the possibilities of travelling, I am pleased to be able to report to the annual meeting that our organisation has been maintained, and that we have every reason to hope that, with the continued assistance of the older members and the addition of younger ones, we may be able to continue our work unbroken till the blessing of peace is restored to us. It is a pleasing feature that during the year we have recruited to our ranks a considerable number of lady ringers, without whose help it would have been impossible in many parishes, for the message of the bells, summoning worshippers to Divine service, to have been proclaimed. In some parishes entirely new bands of youths and ladies have been formed during the war, this being necessitated by others receiving the call to the forces. I am glad to state that with all the drawbacks, our total membership stands at 768. Honorary members have decreased by ten. Ringing members show an increase of four. We cannot expect to enrol honorary members in present times as in the past, and, therefore, we must rely more than hitherto upon the support of active members. Considering the loss of income due to the decrease of honorary members and that our members on active service are excused payment of subscription, our finances are in a pre-eminently satisfactory condition. The total income shows a decrease of £7 18s. 3d., but there is a corresponding decrease in expenditure, brought about by careful management by the general secretary and district officers, thus enabling us to transfer the sum of £4 19s. 6d. to reserve fund, and still show the substantial balance in hand on general account of £17 12s. 4d. The annual meeting was held at Romford on Whit-Monday, and was well attended. Meetings have been held in the districts as usual and were generally well attended. For the first time in the history of the Association no peal has been rung during the year, an unique record which is due entirely to the restrictions of the war. There are now 165 members serving in the navy and army. Our roll of honour, I regret to say, is increasing, twelve more members have made the supreme sacrifice during the year, making a total of 22 in all. It would be lacking on my part if I did not, on behalf of the members, tender my thanks to the officers of the Association for their co-operation in difficult times, and I can only hope that next year we may meet under happier circumstances.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The adoption of the report and balance sheet was carried without comment. Mr. C. H. Howard was unanimously re-elected Master, and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, hon. secretary and treasurer.—Mr. Howard, in returning thanks for his election, said he had occupied the post of

Master since 1909, and the office had been a pleasure to him. He had never once asked anyone to propose him, but had always felt he had the confidence of the members of the Association (hear, hear). At the present time it was difficult to carry on, but he had the greatest assistance from the district officers, which made the duties very pleasant, and he should be very pleased to continue. They wanted to carry on the Essex Association until the younger members returned from the war (hear, hear). It was very satisfactory to know that the resignation of the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre from Great Totham had not caused him to resign his office as hon. secretary and treasurer of the Association (hear, hear). It would be a great loss to the Association when the time came to find another general secretary and treasurer (hear, hear).

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, in accepting office, said he was removing from Totham Vicarage to reside at Witham, which was on the railway, and he was willing to continue in office for another year (hear, hear).

Messrs. T. Faulkner and G. A. Black (the latter on active service) were re-elected auditors, and the peal committee was re-appointed.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Chelmsford.

After discussion, it was decided to reduce the size of the annual report (in conformity to the paper restrictions), by having printed and circulated to members only the Master's report, balance sheet, and list of officers.

The Master reported that it was proposed to erect a memorial to the Rev. H. A. Cockey in the Parish Church at Oldlands, Bristol; the memorial was to be a record, which was the ambition of Mr. Cockey's life. The Rev. H. A. Cockey, formerly curate of Galleywood, Chelmsford, was the most practical general secretary the Essex Association had in its early days, and among the older ringers in Essex he was remembered for the splendid work he did in putting the Association upon the footing it had maintained ever since. The Master announced he was going to subscribe to the memorial to the Rev. H. A. Cockey, and he invited other older ringers who knew the Rev. H. A. Cockey to do likewise.

A suggestion was made that a grant should be made from the funds of the Essex Association to the Cockey memorial, but it was agreed that the subscription should be personal from those members who wished to be identified with the memorial.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the service given, and the welcome extended to the ringers at Saffron Walden.—Mr. C. H. Howard, in seconding, thanked also the Saffron Walden Society for the excellent arrangements they had made in difficult times. He specially welcomed the presence of the Mayor of Saffron Walden, Alderman Myhill, who besides being Mayor, was also churchwarden (hear, hear). It showed the interest the Mayor took in church affairs, that he was willing to give up some of his time on Bank Holiday to meet the Essex ringers visiting Saffron Walden, and that in the present strenuous times, when the demands upon the time of a Mayor and churchwarden were very great, it was a unique honour for the Essex Association to be favoured by the presence of a Mayor at the annual meeting; they had had an M.P. before, but not the Mayor of the Borough visited, so the honour was most exceptional (applause).

The Mayor of Saffron Walden warmly welcomed the ringers to the borough, where he said the time-honoured ceremonials of ringing were greatly honoured. In the present times duty must come first, and he acknowledged the duties rendered by ringers who regularly summoned the people to church. He hoped brighter times were ahead, when the ringers throughout England would be able to proclaim a glorious victory and a splendid peace (applause).

A very successful meeting of the South Western Division was held at Loughton on Saturday last. The bells were available from 3.30, and were kept going till 6.0 p.m., when an adjournment was made for tea, provided by Mrs. Holland. This was followed by the business meeting, at which it was decided that the present officers should carry on till the annual district meeting, to be held in November. One life non-resident member was elected, together with five resident ringing members.

Hornchurch was decided upon as the place of the next meeting to be held in July.

A vote of sympathy was passed with the relatives of the late W. Truss, of the West Ham band, and H. P. Saffell, of the Leistonstone band, both of whom have recently been killed in action in France.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Loughton (the Rev. P. N. Maitland) for presiding at the tea and meeting. In the course of his reply, he extended a hearty welcome to the members with the hope that they would very shortly pay another visit to his church.

During the afternoon and evening about 30 members and friends visited the tower, and touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative were rung, together with a course of London Minor.

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THE LATE MR. WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE.

FUNERAL AT IPSWICH.

The funeral of the late Mr. William L. Catchpole took place on Wednesday afternoon, May 15th, at the Ipswich Cemetery, amid widely evinced testimony of sorrow and respect, the deceased being known to a large circle in Ipswich and Suffolk generally by reason of his connection with the Foresters and Oddfellows, as well as with campanology. His old friend, Mr. Edward Reeve, was present at the graveside, while Mr. William Motts attended the service at the church, and was also at the cemetery. In the evening the members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, as a last token of respect, rang upon the bells, with half-muffled clappers, touches of Stedman Caters and Grandsire Cinques, conducted by Mr. James Motts, the following taking part: Messrs. S. A. Boar, W. P. Garrett, E. Pemberton, W. Motts, R. English, W. Drew, E. Evans, H. C. Gillingham, W. Burgess, R. H. Brundle, C. Crapnell, J. Smith, and E. Reeve.

At the meeting of the Norwich Association, at Eye, on Whit-Monday, the Secretary (Mr. C. E. Barrett) suitably referred to the sad loss which the St. Mary-le-Tower Society and the Exercise at large had sustained by the death of such a brilliant member.

Mr. Catchpole's connection with ringing extended over a long period of years, and he was one of a band that made history in the progress of practical ringing, for Ipswich did a great deal about 20 years ago and more recently to introduce the ringing of the more intricate methods on the higher numbers of bells. In this Mr. Catchpole was a leading spirit, and we believe we are right in saying that he spent a good deal of time in investigating the extension of London Surprise above eight bells, and obtained a method on ten which was one of the truest extensions that were found. The following list of peals rung by Mr. Catchpole show the versatility of the band of which he was an honoured member, and his own prowess in the realm of practical ringing: Cambridge Maximus 2, Double Norwich Maximus (composed and conducted) 4, Double Norwich Royal 5, Double Norwich Major 37, Cambridge Surprise Major 15, Kent Treble Bob Maximus (composed) 6 38, Oxford Treble Bob Maximus 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 2, Kent Treble Bob Royal (conducted) 4 17, on handbells 1, Kent Treble Bob Major (conducted) 1 18, on handbell 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major (conducted) 2 13, Duffield Major 1, London Surprise Major 7, Superlative Surprise Major 23, Bob Maximus 1, Bob Royal 2, Bob Major (conducted) 1 7, on handbells 1, Stedman Cinques (conducted) 2 21, Stedman Caters (conducted) 2 19, Stedman Triples (conducted) 1 18, Grandsire Cinques (conducted) 4 4, Grandsire Caters (conducted) 1 12, on handbell 3, Grandsire Triples (conducted) 1 15, on handbells 1, Bob Triples 2. He also took part in a peal in seven methods of Minor and one on five bells. The total number of peals rung by the deceased for the Norwich Association was 286; he also rang one peal in Sussex, and a peal of Stedman Cinques, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, with the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London. He was a most valued member of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, where his wise counsel and practical advice was appreciated by all with whom he came into contact. His fellow members deeply deplore the loss of such an energetic and practical ringer and so respected a friend.

The late Mr. William L. Catchpole was a member of the St. Mary-le-Tower choir for a number of years.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH BUCKS. FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch was held at Shenley on Saturday last, when about 30 members attended from Blitchley, Beachampton, Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnell, Linslade, Checheley, Old Bradwell, and the local tower. A service was held, conducted by the chairman of the branch (the Rev. J. B. Vincent) to whom a hearty vote of thanks was extended for his very interesting address, and for so kindly allowing the use of his grounds.

The business meeting was held on the lawn, with the Rev. J. B. Vincent in the chair, supported by the Rev. Mitcheson, of Newport Pagnell.—The balance sheet was submitted and approved, showing an appreciable balance, which was all that could be expected during such unsettled times. An important factor in this good result was the fact of those members that are left are paying the subscriptions of the members for their respective towers who are serving in the forces, with the idea of keeping the financial strength of the branch up until after the war. It was pointed out that about 80 of the members are already serving, and more are going. The depletion of strength was most noticeable at the annual meeting. Only 25 subscriptions remained unpaid for last year, and the towers were asked to respond again in the same manner and spirit to keep the flag flying till the boys come home.

After the transaction of other business, the bells both of Shenley and Loughton were kept going until about 7.30 p.m., the following methods being rung: Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S PAPER.

We printed last week the first part of the hon. secretary's paper, on the question of improving the utility of the Central Council, the rest of the paper follows below.

I pass next to one or two remarks on the idea that has been advanced that the Council should take legislative powers to itself and enforce its laws on the Exercise. A moment's serious thought is surely sufficient to show the absurdity, not to say folly, of such a course. No law can be enforced without the power of the Law Courts behind it. To enable the Council to impose obedience on the Exercise it would be requisite for every member of the Exercise to swear fealty to the Council, or to enter into some legal bond to obey it, and all I can say is that if you come and ask me to do either of these—well, I laugh at you. Of course, the whole idea is pure nonsense. Two or three minutes ago, I was noticing a remark that had been made to the effect that if the Council were invested with legislative powers the 'best ringers' would then be elected on it, and I said that I agreed with this, but with a certain amount of reservation. I do want to see the best ringers on it, I want more, I want to see the best men. Let me explain. It is true that we are an assembly of ringers, and it is natural and fitting that ringing capabilities should form a very important factor in the choice of members sent here to deliberate. But it is not for actual ringing that we meet. We meet to consider and consult together, and the first essential qualification in our members should be not necessarily that they have rung so many peals, even long peals, as that they should understand the subject of ringing, the science of it, the art of it, its bearings in general, the relation of ringers to each other, to the church and church officials, and to the world at large. The range of our deliberations is large and wide, and for these things we want large-minded men with as wide experience as may be. We want also men who view things from different points. We want ringers to view things as ringers. We want clergy to view things as clergy. We want public men to view things in yet other ways. There are many capital, excellent men among the ranks of ringers who can write excellent English, who can add up a column of £ s. d. more quickly than I could add the pence, who are better composers and far better conductors than most of us, able, acute, well-educated men whom the Council is proud to reckon on its roll, and without whom it would be difficult if not impossible, to get on. But besides them there are others without whom we should soon go astray—nay, more, without whom I am confident that we should go to the rocks altogether—men, I mean, of wide experience and ripe judgment in human affairs, men who by years of discipline and years of responsibility have earned for themselves a position and weight of counsel which can be got in no other way. It is such as these that we want above all, and for this reason it is that, when speaking of those whom we wish to see on the Council, I prefer to say that we want not necessarily the best ringers, but the best men. It is because the Council has always had and still has a large proportion of men of this stamp that it has been saved from more than one pitfall into which some ardent but shortsighted enthusiasts would otherwise have led it. Once or twice I have been able to save the Council's time, and to save from subsequent disappointment the would-be proposer of some impracticable or inadmissible resolution by pointing out to him the reason why the Council could not entertain it. But that such proposals should have been even suggested shows the need of the judgment and experience of which I have been speaking.

WHERE THE EXERCISE FAILS.

I come now to the consideration of that which is the real problem before us, i.e., how to render the Council still more useful than it has been, and more efficient. At the outset, I said that I do not consider it faultless. It would not be human if it were so. The problem divides itself into two main parts (1) the constitution of the Council, and (2) the work of the Council. Of its constitution I have already said most of what I have to say, namely, that we want it to consist of all the very best men that the Exercise contains. Some three or four, or five or six years ago some of our best, most experienced and most useful men failed to be returned by their Associations, and the late President once remarked to me on the fact with evident disappointment and regret. The Council itself to a great extent remedied the defeat by securing most of them as honorary members. Therefore, I say to the Associations, 'Elect men of the widest experience and ripest judgment. If you elect your second-best, what can you expect but a second-best Council? The Council, except as regards its honorary members, does not make itself. It is what the Associations make it. Then as to its work. Again, the same is true. It is the Exercise that is supposed to supply the Council with matter for deliberation. But does it? I can answer with certainty that of the questions that have been brought forward for discussion, not more than about one in ten has come to us from a source external to the Council itself, and a large proportion of our most interesting discussions has come from one unsuspected source. One of the complaints brought against the length of my speech at the last Council was that it had left no time for the consideration of the item on the agenda

relating to the increasing abandonment of raising and falling bells in peal, the discussion of which promised to be of no little interest and value, and I dare say that there were some who pictured to themselves the keen disappointment thereby caused to the two members of the Council who had spent time and pains in gathering statistics and preparing the speeches with which they were eagerly looking forward to propose and second some practical and useful resolution on the subject, but were too modest, too long-suffering, and too self-sacrificing to complain. Now, a little bird whispered a great secret to me, and if you are very good I will tell you as a great treat, and in the strictest confidence, who those poor, defrauded, and ill-treated members were. They were the late President and your humble servant. The plain matter of fact is that the Exercise does not provide the Council with work to do. Perhaps it will not. Perhaps it cannot. Perhaps there is none.

THREE POSSIBILITIES.

And now, what is to be done? So far as I can see at this moment there are only three possibilities: (1) The Council continues as it is, or (2) it alters in its composition or meetings or work or in all of these, or (3) it ceases. Taking the first of these, i.e., that it goes on as it is, then it is evident that the Exercise must somehow be galvanised out of its torpor. Try it. The plain matter of fact is that the rank and file of the Exercise are like Gallic—they care for none of these things. Take any six or eight bell tower; go there on a practice night, and how many will you find that can prick by lead ends, or that you could even persuade to listen to you for five minutes if you were to try to teach them how to do it. Trying to stir up the body of the Exercise is like trying to lift a feather-bed with a teaspoon. Indeed, I am more and more coming to the conclusion that the Council, far from being not good enough, has been too good for the Exercise. The Exercise has not provided it with work, and, rather than be idle and fruitless, it has provided itself with work. It has done nobly. It has worked hard. It has conscientiously spent its money in publications for the good of change ringing. Though its publications are sold at what is practically cost price, the Exercise, judging by the slowness of their sale, does not seem to appreciate them; and so completely did the hon. secretary of our Association fail to grasp the nature of the Council and its unpaid labour that he thought the Council grasping when it asked for a list of the publications to be inserted in the Association's annual report—as if the Council were a money-making concern. Yes, the Council is, if anything, too good for the Exercise. Unless, therefore, the Exercise is prepared to bestir itself, it seems evident that the Council cannot continue as it is. Thus much regarding our first alternative. Omitting the second for a moment, let us take the last—that the Council come to an end. Without the least hesitation, I say that this would be a thousand pities. When I say this I say it quite disinterestedly at least in one respect, i.e., as a clergyman. The one set of people who would not suffer in the least by the extinction of the Council are the clergy. They would still remain, as they have always been, masters of their own towers, and holders of the key. It is entirely on the side of ringers and for the good of change ringing that I plead for the continuance of the Council. During the past year, the incumbent of a church in a large country town was threatened with legal proceedings on the part of a very small knot of bell-haters living in the neighbourhood, and wrote to me under the evident impression that the Central Council was a wealthy corporation in the enjoyment of large funds for the defence of ringing—in the Law Courts, if need be, and ready to defend him as law. Of course, he was mistaken. But, nevertheless, though we could not do just as he seemed to expect, it was a comfort to be able to assure him that ringers actually possessed a central consultative body, able and willing to advise, and to give the benefit of its knowledge to those in need of it. And so in many ways the disappearance of the Council would be a real and serious loss to the Exercise. The thought of such a thing cannot be entertained.

'GOOD WORK WELL DONE.'

We are left, therefore, with the second of our three possible courses of action, i.e., we must seek for some modification either of the Council itself, or of its meetings, or of its work—of any, or all three of these. At this moment there are 41 Associations affiliated to us. We might decide to confine the representation of each to one member. This, with the honorary members, would mean that the Council would become a large committee of about fifty members. Or, leaving the Council as it is, we might ordain that its present and future committees should meet every year, the whole Council to meet only once in three years. Or, again, the Council might elect a committee of its members, say, twenty or thirty in number, to meet in each of the two years intervening between the triennial meetings of the whole Council. Or, once more, the Council might meet in every third year, leaving the intervening years blank altogether. Indeed, I am not sure that I am not coming to the conclusion that this last is not the best solution. For, although I have named the possibility of some modification in the work of the Council, I must confess that I do not see in what way its work can or could be altered. As I have said already, the plain truth is either that the Exercise has no suitable work for it to do, or is too supine to set it that work. I purposely say 'suitable' work. There have been plenty of attempts to set it work

far from suitable, or even possible—work that would have been most unwise, and would soon have wrecked it, and would infallibly still wreck it. The fact remains that in default of work found for it the Council has found work, good work, for itself, and has done that work well. To some its work may have seemed dull and its debates uninteresting, but it has at least had the wisdom to keep within its own limits, and to eschew paths perhaps more showy, but certain to lead to catastrophe.

(To be Continued.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. ASHFORD DISTRICT TOUR.

A meeting of the Ashford District of the Kent Association was held on Whit-Monday, and taking all things into consideration, proved an unqualified success, between 30 and 40 ringers taking part in the proceedings during the day. Ringing began at Headcorn soon after 8 a.m., and several touches were brought round till 10 o'clock, when a move was made to Biddenden, some of the visitors cycling, and others going by train. From about 10.30 until 2 p.m. the bells were kept going in the four standard methods, and were then lowered in peal. Tenterville was the next order by road and rail, and after hearing the chimes play 'The last rose of summer,' the bells were raised, and a touch of Stedman, followed by touches in other methods, was rung. Tea was partaken of at the Temperance Hotel, the company sitting down in two parties. Subsequently further touches were brought round, and at 8 o'clock the bells were lowered in peal.

A very cordial welcome was extended to the visitors from outside the district, viz., Mr. Shepherd, of Swindon; Miss E. Goodship, of Reading; Mr. W. Haigh and others from Chatham; Mr. W. Spice and others from Sittingbourne; Mr. H. Sone and his son, Major Sone, R.A.M.C.; and Mr. D. Hodgkin, from Marden.

A notable feature of the meeting was the attendance of no less than seven lady ringers, including Miss Goodship, Mrs. Gatehouse, and five others from Mersham, who, when they got settled on their bells, rang rounds in capital style, and promised well for the future. It was certainly a unique experience for the district to see Miss Goodship on the 7th at Biddenden, and calling the bells to a touch of Stedman. It says much for what lady ringers can attain to, and it also reflects credit on the bell hanger. The secretary of the district (Mr. C. Tribe) has received two letters from the visitors, expressing their thanks for the enjoyable time they had spent, which goes far to repay him for the time and trouble of arranging the meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The usual monthly meeting of the Rochdale Branch was held last Saturday, at Todmorden Parish Church, when there was a good attendance of members and friends, from Todmorden Parish and Unitarian Churches, Middleton, Milnrow, Newhey, Mirfield, and Burnley. Owing to a fête being held by the Roman Catholic community near the church, no ringing was done before 5.30 p.m., when the bells were set going in touches of Grandsire Triples, Kept Trouble Bob and Bob Major and Minor.

The business meeting was afterwards held. The Rev. A. Aspen should have been in the chair, but owing to another unforeseen engagement could not attend. In his absence, Mr. E. Schofield (Milnrow) presided.

Middleton was chosen as the next place of meeting, on Saturday June 29th, and a cordial vote of thanks was given to the Vicar and wardens for the use of the tower and bells, and also to the local ringers for having everything in readiness.—The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD BRANCH.

A capital meeting of the above Branch was held at Poolstock, Wigan, on Whit-Monday, and there was a large gathering of ringers from Grassendale, Garston, Birkenhead, and Wigan local company. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Major. A service at 5 o'clock was addressed by the Vicar (Rev. A. White), who also presided at the meeting afterwards. The Rev. A. White was proposed as an hon. member, and Mr. Burland a life member. Messrs. J. Brown, B. Birtwell, D. Forshaw, W. Bushby and F. Hall were duly elected members.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for his admirable ringing address, also to the wardens and ladies of the parish who affably dispensed the tea kindly provided by the Poolstock ringers. This was one of the most enjoyable and successful meetings of the year.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The members of the S. and W. District of the Middlesex Association held a meeting on Saturday last at St. Peter's, Staines. Although not largely attended, the gathering was very successful, and good use was made of the bells.

At the close of the ringing, a short business meeting was held in the belfry, with the District Master (Mr. T. Beadle) in the chair.

Harlington was suggested as the place for the next meeting, and the proceedings concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

NOTICES.

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

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society—Estab. 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Mortlake, on Saturday, June 8th. Ringing will commence at 5 p.m. Business meeting in the Vestry at 8.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—C. Walker, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on Saturday, June 8th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m.; tea and business meeting to follow. All ringing friends welcome. Outstanding subscriptions would be greatly welcomed.—W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting of the above Guild will be held at Christ Church, Coseley (Staffs), on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. J. A. Price, M.A., Vicar and Vice-President. Business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Tyldesley Parish Church on Saturday, June 8th, 1918. Bells ready at 4. Meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Sec., 507, Wigan Road, Deane, Bolton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Kingsdown, on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; service at 4 p.m.; to be followed by business meeting.—W. Stafford, Hon. Branch Sec., 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Summer meeting at Bucklebury on Saturday, June 8th. Hearty welcome to all ringers.—Rev. E. M. Thorpe, Hon. Sec., Bucklebury Vicarage, near Reading.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., on June 18th for general business, and on the 13th and 27th for handbell practice, all at 7.30 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The next meeting of the above Association will be held at Wath on June 15th. Ringing from 3 o'clock till 9. Business meeting to be held in the Institute. Subscriptions now due, and to be paid to Frank Willey, Vice-President and Sec. (*pro tem.*), 110, Petre Street, Sheffield.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and six bell contest will be held at Meltham, near Huddersfield, on Saturday, June 15th, 1918. Tenor 13½ cwt. Draw for order of ringing at 3.45 p.m. Tea will only be provided for those who send in their names to me not later than June 10th.—F. Salmons, Sec., 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Flixton, on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available during the afternoon and evening. Meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Members and friends are holding a meeting for practice (by kind permission) at St. John's Parish Church, Windsor, on Saturday, June 15th, at 6.30 p.m.—W. H. Fussell, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual Guild festival will be held at Winchester on Saturday, June 22nd. The Cathedral bells will be available from 11 a.m.; annual meeting, 2.15 p.m., at St. Maurice's Hall; service at Cathedral 4 p.m.; tea 5 p.m. Half rail fares and half cost of tea allowed for those attending annual meeting. Members intending to be present will oblige by letting me know by the 18th.—George Williams, Hon. General Sec., West End, near Southampton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Northowram on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. until 9; tea at 5.30 p.m., members to bring their own rations, cups of tea will be provided; business meeting immediately after. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. District Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the South-Eastern Division will be held at Boreham on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells available from 6 o'clock till 9; business meeting during the evening.—F. W. Edwards, Writtle.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Halewood on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells ready at 4; service at 5.30; meeting at 6.—Rev. E. E. Collier and Walter Hughes, Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wollaston (Stourbridge) on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m.; service in the Church at 5; business meeting in the School after the service.—E. J. Dowler, Branch Hon. Sec., 11, St. Edward's Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

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A HELPING HAND.

A collection in the Bolton Branch of the Lancashire Association, on behalf of Mr. John Moscrop, of Deane, who has been laid aside by sickness for a long period, realised £3 8s., subscribed as follows: Rev. H. J. Elsee, 5s.; H. W. Jackson, 1s.; Deane ringers, 11s. 6d.; St. Saviour's, 8s.; Parish, 3s. 6d.; St. George's, 6s.; St. Bartholomew's, 5s.; Newchurch, 2s. 6d.; Leigh, 5s.; Walkden, 7s. 6d.; Tyldesley, 7s.; Horwich, 6s.

In the footnote to the handbell peal at Enfield, published last week, it should have been stated that it was the first 'short course' peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major rung on handbells. By bobs before in every course the leads with the tenors parted are cut out. The composition will be published as soon as space permit.

Owing to pressure on our space other articles are also unavoidably held over.

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