

THE RIDGING WORLD

No. 381. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, JULY 5th, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

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



St. Peter's Collegiate Church
Wolverhampton.

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

WULFRON CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS GILLET 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 authorized 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. BEUK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

THE COUNCIL'S CRITICS.

When the Hon. Secretary, at the Central Council meeting, read his paper dealing with the past and the future of that body, very little real criticism was levelled. The members preferred to take twelve months to think the subject over, although, as we have already pointed out, the question of improving the utility of the Council has been before the Exercise for years. The truth is, of course, that unless one has taken as much pains to prepare an 'opposition' speech as the opener of a debate has done to lay his side of the case before his audience, the unprepared will often suffer by comparison. Perusal of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' paper reveals a very skilful defence of the Council, whose shortcomings during recent years are glossed over by a recital of what its aims were intended to be, and of its accomplishments in the distant past. In a previous article we showed that its recent 'acts and decisions' have been very scanty, and by no means equal to what the Exercise is really entitled to expect from its principal deliberative assembly.

The criticism of the Council that has recently been offered through these columns has not, however, been quite acceptable to some of those who imagine that all is for the best in this best of all possible Councils. 'Unhealthy criticism that was worthless, or at any rate dull reading,' was the opinion—according to report—expressed last Saturday by the President of the Midland Counties Association. The criticisms at any rate, we are inclined to think, have been no less worthless or dull than many of the Council debates themselves; but would there ever have been a prospect of getting even consideration of the need for improving the Council's utility if it had not been for criticism? Had it not been for criticism, expressed through those who have no axe to grind and no lip service to offer, the Council would probably never have lifted a finger to save itself, and eventually would have died of premature senile decay.

The criticism which could be levelled at the Council could be a great deal stronger than it has been, and with justification. Indeed when one mixes with the rank and file of the Exercise one hears expressions of opinion compared with which any criticisms are milk-mild. But now let the members of the Council tackle the matter for themselves. During the year they will have ample time to think out schemes of utility and improvement, and, in considering the Hon. Secretary's paper, they would do well to ponder at the same time on some of the home truths which appeared in the series of articles written a while back by Mr. J. A. Trollope, whose letter of criticism in another column in this issue is neither 'worthless' nor 'dull.'

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield

Jessie C. GARE, 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.
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.

SALEABLE IRON BRACKET
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILES PLATTING, MANCHESTER.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, June 22, 1918, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB AND SINGLE SIX-PART. Tenor 12 cwt. 22 lbs.

MISS EMMA TONGE Treble	EDWARD B. SHAW 5
JOSEPH HALL 2	FRANK STONELEY 6
ISAAC SCHOFIELD 3	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 7
ARTHUR RIDYARD 4	JOHN HARRISON Tenor

Conductor: F. STONELEY.

First peal of triples on the bells; first peal by the ringer of the treble, whose age is 15 years; first peal with a bob bell by J. Hall. The ringers of 3 and 5 belong to Glodwick, Oldham; 7 and tenor to Ashton-under-Lyne; the rest to the local band. Miss Emma Tonge was elected a member previous to starting for the peal.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 26, 1918, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*FREDERICK MORGAN Treble	OLDER WAGHORN 5
WILLIAM H. HOAD 2	ALBERT E. EDWARDS 6
WALTER H. PERRY 3	TRAYTON BOOTH 7
JOHN BLAKE 4	*THOMAS HOAD Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE.

Conducted by ALBERT E. EDWARDS.

* First peal.

Rung with bells half-muffled as a token of respect to and in loving memory of Pte. Harold Edwards, Lancashire Fusiliers, who was killed in action in France on June 1st; aged 27 years, and who was at one time a respected member of the local band of ringers.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER.
LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, June 29, 1918, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

ARTHUR HOODLESS Treble	HENRY EBBASTON 4
JOSEPH BARRICK 2	JOHN W. SEAMER 5
*WILLIAM AYRE 3	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal.

† 50th peal.

First peal on the bells since restoration. Rung for the Patronal Festival and for the silver wedding of their Majesties the King and Queen. The ringer of the 3rd hails from York, 2nd and 4th from Barrow, 5th from Frimby, tenor from Gainsboro', and the treble belongs to the local band.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

On Friday, June 28, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. W. T. COCKERILL, CLAPHAM, S.W.,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

CHALLIS F. WINNEY 1-2	WILLIAM SHEPHERD 5-6
WILLIAM T. COCKERILL 3-4	HERBERT LANGDON 7-8
JOHN N. OXBORROW 9-10	

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE.

Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

Umpire: EDWIN HORREX.

AN INVITATION.

Soldier and sailor ringers stationed in the Liverpool or Birkenhead district will be welcome at St. Saviour's, Orton, where ringing takes place on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

ESTABLISHED 1780.

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer.

30, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

(Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway)

Late 185, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT WINCHESTER.**

The annual meeting of the Winchester Guild was held on Saturday, June 22nd, at Winchester, and proved a very successful gathering, fully justifying the committee in deciding that it should be held this year. The Cathedral bells were at the disposal of the members, from 11 a.m., with the exception of a short interval for a service.

The annual meeting was held at St. Maurice's Hall at 2.15 p.m., presided over by the Rev. W. E. Colchester, hon. treasurer, the towers represented being Southampton, Swanmore, Guildford (2), Worplesdon, Cranleigh, Walton, North Stoneham, Bagshot, Basingstoke, Yateley, Portsmouth, Portsea, Gosport, Dorking, Bishopstoke, Deane, Christchurch, Hersharn, Winchester, etc. Mr. F. E. Dawe, of Bramley, and Mr. L. W. Wiffen, of Wyke Regis, Weymouth, were also present.

The 38th annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1917, stated that when quarterly meetings had been held they were fairly well attended. Some very good combined practices had been held by the more enthusiastic members in various parts of the Diocese. Reference was made to the death of Mr. J. W. Whiting, of Farnham, one of the original members of the Guild, a tribute being paid to his memory. The loss, also on active service, of Mr. G. B. Edser, late secretary of Yorktown district, was also recorded with regret.

The treasurer's balance sheet showed a balance in hand at the end of the year of £121 12s. 3d.; of this sum £102 12s. 7d. is in the War Loan.

On the motion of Mr. W. Andrews, seconded by Mr. W. H. George, the balance sheet was adopted.

A discussion arose as to the omission of several peals from the report, but this was left to the committee to set right next year.

Whilst the business of the meeting was in progress a visit was paid by the Bishop, who was cordially greeted. In his address to the members a little later on, he remarked he had come by a double invitation, first by a member of the Cranleigh band, whom he met on his railway journey, and, secondly, by their treasurer. He said he must admit he had learnt much more than he had ever known before as to the amount of zeal and enthusiasm there was shown in connection with their craft; it gave him great encouragement, and he was very glad to have had the opportunity of just saying this word of friendly greeting (applause).

Mr. George proposed, on behalf of the Guild, a vote of thanks to the Bishop for the kindly advice offered them.—This was seconded by Mr. Whittington (of Cranleigh).—The Chairman, referring to the fact that the Bishop as patron was head of the Guild, said they were always glad when his lordship could speak to them. Their meetings were affected by the war, through loss and absence of members, but when they saw how many were giving their time and skill to the service of the Church it would be seen the Guild were not an insignificant body.

The voting was accorded by acclamation, and the Bishop, on leaving, was again applauded.

Business was then resumed, and on the proposition of Mr. Jones seconded by Mr. Andrews, the retiring members of the Central Council were re-elected, viz., the Master (Rev. C. E. Matthews), Mr. H. White and Mr. A. H. Puffing, the hon. general secretary (Mr. G. Williams) being elected in place of the late Mr. J. W. Whiting.—Several new members were elected, including the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who has recently been appointed to the rectory of Deane, near Overton, Hants, and who received a hearty welcome to the diocese.

The Hon. General Secretary announced several apologies for absence.

A long discussion arose as to suggestions for next annual meetings, Whit-Monday, and Saturday, June 23rd, 1918, being proposed. On a show of hands only eight voted for Whit-Monday; therefore, Saturday June 23rd, was carried by a large majority, subject to the committee's arrangement for the latter date.

The subject of a memorial to members of the Guild who have fallen in the war was discussed by a number of members present, but it was felt that nothing definite could be decided on at present.

Branches were asked to discuss the subject amongst themselves, and to forward any suggestions they may make to the hon. general secretary for consideration at their next committee meeting, in February next.

The members then adjourned for the 4 o'clock service at the Cathedral, tea being served at 5.15 p.m. in St. Maurice's Hall, when the chair was taken by Canon Braithwaite, supported by Canon Mudge, Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Rev. W. E. Colchester (hon. treasurer), G. Williams (hon. general secretary), Mr. Nisbett, etc., the company numbering 70. An excellent tea was served by Mr. F. W. Holdaway, caterer, of Winchester.

A vote of thanks to the Cathedral authorities for the use of the bells, on behalf of the Guild, was proposed by the Hon. General Secretary, who remarked that without the Cathedral bells very little enthusiasm would be shown for an annual meeting.—The Chairman (Canon Braithwaite) having replied, a rush was again made for the tower, where the bells were kept going in various methods till 8 p.m., touches of Grand sire and Stedman Caters, Treble Bob Royal, Double Norwich Major, etc., being brought round.

DEATH OF MR. G. F. ATTREE.**FAMOUS SUSSEX DAYS RECALLED.**

News has been received of the death in British Columbia, at the age of 65 years, of Mr. George Frederick Attree, formerly of Brighton. A quarter of a century ago Mr. Attree was one of the foremost members of the Exorcise, not so much for his own ringing abilities, but for the interest and enthusiasm he showed in the advancement of the art at the time when it was just making the first of its gigantic strides. For many years Mr. Attree was churchwarden of St. Peter's, the Parish Church of Brighton, but the writer is unable to say exactly the circumstances under which he began to take up ringing. When, however, he did so he put his whole heart into it, and made the St. Peter's Society, in the heyday of its success, probably the best band in the country at that time. By his position as employer of labour he was able to gather round him ringers of experience, and at one time had almost, if not quite, a Surprise band connected with his establishment. Older ringers will recollect the names of Harry Weston, George King, George Smart, George Baker, James Frossell and John Jay—all these were in the employ of Mr. Attree. Among the others who went to make up that wonderful band—for as things stood in those days it was a wonderful band—were George Williams, Edward Merritt, Arthur Fuller, Keith Hart, and, afterwards, Frank Bennett and Robert Dawe. These men made up between them a company who were second to none, and successive steps from Double Norwich to London Surprise, as well as the first peals of Bristol, Champion, Gloucester and Oxford Surprise Major ever rung, were their achievement. It was Mr. Attree's ambition that the first peals in these methods in the county should be at St. Peter's, and the records which adorn that belfry—one of the pleasantest to be found in the kingdom—testify to the success that was achieved. Several of these 'firsts' were called by Mr. Attree, who, although not a great conductor, nevertheless put a number of successes to his credit in this direction. During his regime, also, those famous Sussex 'weeks' were originated; when St. Peter's band would visit a tower every night and usually return with another 'surprise' peal in their 'bag.' It was they, too, who rang the first peal of London Surprise in the City of London, and in all these things Mr. Attree had a part. St. Peter's belfry was the admiration of all who visited it, and the ringing to be obtained in conjunction with the band there induced ringers from all parts of the country to make Brighton their holiday centre. Whatever may have been done by others to contribute to this success, Mr. Attree was the power which made these things possible.

It was to Mr. Attree's initiative that the Sussex County Association was formed in 1884, and he was the first secretary as well as, later on, the first Master. It used to be said that he dominated the Association. Unquestionably he wielded much power, but, then, he had done much to make the Association what it was.

He was concerned in the formation of the Central Council, upon which he served for a number of years, and it was he who first compiled the annual analysis of peals, which labour was subsequently taken over officially by the Council.

In after years, Mr. Attree met with adversity in business, and his association with ringing ceased before he left to try to rebuild his fortunes in Canada. For one who took such an active part in ringing, Mr. Attree was never 'great' in the technicalities of the art, yet he must be given credit for the work which he did for ringing, and particularly for ringing in Sussex. To the younger generation, the name of Mr. Attree is perhaps unknown, but those who recollect the ringing of 20 or 30 years ago, will regret the passing of one, who in his particular sphere, did not a little to popularise Surprise ringing.

DEATH OF DONOR OF CAERPHILLY BELLS.

At Caerphilly Parish Church, on Saturday, June 8th, a quarter-peal of Grand sire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 48 mins., by: S. Vozzey 1, F. Boucher 2, J. Jones 3, G. Cooke 4, D. Stephens 5, F. Evans 6, J. W. Jones (conductor) 7, W. Williams 8. Rung half-muffled immediately at the conclusion of the interment of Miss Catherine Anthony, of The Grove, Caerphilly, the donor of this ring of bells, which were installed and rung for the first time on February 25th, 1911. She was a great benefactress to the church.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held at Boreham, on Saturday week, members attending from Chelmsford, Writtle, Maldon, and the local company. Owing to very serious illness near the church, the tower bells could not be rung.

Chelmsford was selected as the place for the next meeting, to be held in October, and will be the annual meeting for the district.

BRISTOL.—On April 17th, at St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grand sire Triples: F. Poreh 1, A. Pearce 2, *W. Lewis 3, *H. Brown 4, W. Short 5, E. Guise (conductor) 6, *A. Wallace 8. * First quarter-peal. This was rung without the 7th, as one of the band failed to turn up. Arranged for Inspector Wallace, who, although a ringer and living in Bristol for 20 years, had not entered a tower until a couple of months previous.

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MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

IN THE QUORN COUNTRY.

On Saturday last, the venue of the quarterly meeting in connection with the Midland Counties Association was held at Quorndon, more popularly known as Quorn, situated 2½ miles S.E. of Loughborough (Leicestershire). Quorn is not only known to ringers living in the immediate neighbourhood, but also known throughout the world as the hub of the hunting universe. Some distinction, therefore, seems to pervade the air, for it is an historic place where kings and queens and the world's elite have paid visits to enjoy the popular pastime. Since the advent of war's fetters very few have been able to carry on in this healthy pursuit. The object of the gathering on Saturday was of an entirely different character, but was equally interesting to ringers, with, perhaps, a little more sincerity, coupled with dignity and devoutness. In the writer's opinion the meeting was a very serious rival to an annual festival, judging by the large numbers gathered, doubtless to attempt a grand revival of the good old-fashioned period of peace.

The day was beautifully bright, with a gentle but acceptable breeze which helped to make the conditions tolerable in the exertions that were to follow. Those assembled did full justice to the opportunities and privileges granted by the kindly Vicar (the Rev. H. H. Rumsey).

The church stands prominently upon elevated ground, and is adorned by ancient monuments, one dating back to the year 1587, in which lies the remains of John Farnham, Penchner (pensioner) to Queen Elizabeth.

The visitors on Saturday included many talented ringers, and touches of Double Norwich, Stedman, Kent Treble Bob and Grand sire, percolated from the louvre to the critical ears below. Nothing in the way of adverse criticism reached my own, however. The President (Mr. John W. Taylor) joined hands with the company in their efforts, much to the satisfaction of those taking part, and the umpires 'sitting it out.'

It was pleasing also to observe among the members the Rev. C. J. Sturton (Orston), the Rev. Pinn (Prestwold), Messrs. W. H. Incelesant, William Willson (Leicester), W. E. White, Walter White, S. Squires (Cotgrave), W. C. Hunt and Vickers (Nottingham), Albert Ward (Derby), E. Gobey (Ilkeston), Swinfield (Burton-on-Trent), Miss Hilda Willson (Leicester), Messrs. Thompson and White (Colgrave), E. Reader (Loughborough), J. Flower and Bates (Duffield), J. Wilson, and A. Martin (Leicester), R. Lane (Loughborough), and others. The company were highly delighted with the substantial repast that was provided for them, and after tea the meeting was held.—The President, in his usual happy vein, welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Association, and then dealt largely with the question of the Central Council. He suggested that the Association should be made responsible for suggestions in regard to any alterations in existing state of affairs. He could not acquiesce in the attitude recently taken by critics of the Central Council, which was quite uncalled-for. Criticism could be made welcome, but it must be borne in mind that the functions of the Central Council were entirely different to those of an Association. The unhealthy criticism that has passed through the medium of the Press was worthless reading, in his opinion, and certainly reading of a dull character. He could not see the force of altering the moral law or principle that had existed for upwards of a hundred years or so. To do so would be adding difficulty upon difficulty. Anything emanating from the Association by way of alteration, or even by any ringer through his secretary, would no doubt be welcomed by the Central Council. Mr. Taylor sounded a solemn warning in regard to the ringers' position in the Church of England. It behoved them to be ready in face of dangers that may confront them in the near future in regard to interference with the Church's organisation. Another matter Mr. Taylor introduced as one which needed reflection was in reference to record peals, and, perhaps, others. These, he said, should not be attempted in the absence of a qualified expert to see that these peals were truly rung before being placed on record.

Mr. Taylor then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar (the Rev. H. H. Rumsey) for providing such an excellent repast.

This was carried very cordially, and the Rev. H. H. Rumsey, in reply, referred to the pleasure derived by himself and parishioners in having been able to listen to their bells once again. It was also a great pleasure to himself and those who joined with him to give the tea.

The tit-bit of the afternoon followed the adjournment to the church, viz., to witness eight lady bell ringers at the rope ends. Ladies who took part included Misses Lily Dutton, M. Gamble, W. G. Burrows, M. Gamble, a Quorn lady, Messrs. Thompson and White (Cotgrave), and last, but not least, Miss Hilda Willson (Leicester), who holds the record of having rung two peals in one day, covering seven hours, when only 14 years of age. The Quorn lady ringers deserve credit for the handling of their ropes and keen striking. Their doings in the art will be heard of in the future. My acquaintance with Mr. Herbert, the sexton and charge d'affaires, who has held office at Quorn upwards of 40 years, is not without interest.

NOTICE TO READERS & CORRESPONDENTS

During the illness of the Editor, correspondents are requested to address all communications to 'The Ringing World,' and not to the Editor personally, as delays may otherwise arise.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT NORTHWRAM.

The June meeting of the Western District was held at Northwram on Saturday week, and was attended by over 30 members, representing 16 towers. The bells, a fine ring of eight (tenor 16 cwt.) were rung in several methods during the afternoon and evening. Members and friends sat down to tea in the schools, the Vicar kindly providing tea, the visitors bringing their own rations.

The business meeting was held afterwards. Mr. G. Bolland's presided, supported by the Rev. C. C. Marshall (President of the Association), the Rev. Geo. Watkinson (Vicar of Northwram), Mr. Sutcliffe (churchwarden), and other officers of the Association. The Vicar was unanimously elected a life hon. member of the Association, and Messrs. Greenwood and Toomer, of Northwram, and Sadler, of Burley, elected ringing members.

The Rev. C. C. Marshall moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens for the use of the bells, and arrangements made that day.—This was seconded by Mr. J. Lawson, and carried.—The Vicar, in replying, said he was pleased to meet the ringers again at Northwram, and glad to be made an hon. member of the Association, and he on one of them. He was sorry he could not give them a good tea, as circumstances would not permit. He was doubly pleased and proud that one of his ringers had rung a 720 that afternoon to enable him to join the Association, and he looked forward to some of his other younger ringers following this example. He was pleased to say that they had rung their bells every Sunday during this last 3½ difficult years. Ringing, he added, was a real work of skill and a real art, and he wished the Association every success. In conclusion, he gave the society a standing invitation to Northwram, whenever they wanted a place for a meeting.

Mr. Sutcliffe said how cheering it was to hear the bells ring that afternoon, and hoped they would often have the pleasure of welcoming the visitors there.

The place for the September meeting was discussed, the secretary being instructed to see if it was possible to hold it at Idle.

Mr. P. Johnson, in proposing a vote of thanks to the local company for making the necessary arrangements, said it was up to those left at home to carry on the work of those who were serving with the forces, and to keep things going as far as possible.—The motion having been seconded by Mr. Cotterell, Mr. Jagger, conductor of the local company, replied.

Handbell ringing was then indulged in, and the tower again visited, where touches brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM REED, OF NORTH SHIELDS.

On June 25th there passed away one of the early pioneers of ringing in the North, Mr. Wm. Reed, of North Shields, a solicitor. He took ardently to ringing in the early seventies, and by dint of his untiring efforts the old ring of six was augmented, first, to eight in 1874 (the additions being a treble and tenor and one recast), and later, in 1878, by the addition of two trebles to a ring of ten. On the formation of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association in August, 1877, he became its first president. This he resigned in 1884, after seven years' uphill work, and was followed by the late Mr. Robert Spencer Story, who carried on the good work for over three times that period. From this date Mr. Reed's interest in ringing seemed to wane, as he was devoted to music, and acted for over 20 years as organist at the Parish Church, where he had so successfully carried out the duties of the bellfry.

He conducted the first peal by the Association, one of Grandsire Triples, Holt's 10-part, in 1878, rung on North Shields' bells in the remarkably short time of 2 hours and 30 minutes. He was very fond of quick ringing, but even in peals of 3 hours and 15 minutes or more, his striking was a feature to be admired. He conducted about three or four peals in all, one of which was the writer's first peal, 5088 Kent Treble Bob, in 1884, and rang in about seven altogether. Of those who formed his original band at the Parish Church all have passed away now except Mr. Paul Horn, who completes 50 years of Sunday service ringing this very day (Friday, July 5th). In fact, there are few left in the Association now who remember his genial handsome presence at the meetings, to which he always lent dignity and at the same time instilled a strong touch of camaraderie among ringers. This did a good deal to strengthen the ties of friendship amongst the members of the Association, and the writer remembers well with what dismay all received the news of his resignation in those days.

He was laid to rest in Preston Cemetery, North Shields, on Saturday, June 29th, the Rev. R. E. Holmes, Vicar, conducting the service, and at 3 p.m. the parish church bells rung, muffled, in touches of Bob Minor on the front six, with 7-8 covering, and later two of Stedman Triples, 575 and 504. Both the president of the Association (Mr. C. L. Routledge) and the secretary (Mr. G. F. Polton) were in the bellfry, but could not be at the funeral for lack of sufficient notice.

Mr. Reed, who was 78 years of age, was twice married, but left no family. He was an old P.M. of St. George's Lodge of Freemasons, and Past Provincial Grand Deacon of Northumberland. C. L. R.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have been looking with more than usual interest for my weekly 'Ringing World,' curious to know what the Central Council had to say about its future. I should have been pleased to have been at Westminster myself, but that could not be. Now I have read Mr. Davies' paper, and I am disappointed with it. It is very clever, and we all will agree with most of it, but, after all, it is only good special pleading, and does not really touch the matter at all.

It is true that most of the criticism of the Council has been ill-informed and unreasonable, but the fact remains that the Council has not got the status and influence in the Exercise it should have. Our business is not to deny the fact, but to see if we cannot remedy it. Mr. Davies seems to imply that the question is between the Council and the Exercise. That is not so by any means. The men who most realise what the Council might be and are most disappointed by what it is are members of the Council. They are not seeking to injure it, but to strengthen it, and I count myself among them.

I have already made some suggestions for reform (which Mr. Davies did not deign to notice), and I need not cover again the same ground. This I will say. You have already in the Council a most excellent set of men who are fully qualified to represent the Exercise, if the Exercise is prepared to be represented. They are men who have great ability, knowledge and experience, and their knowledge could and should be placed at the disposal of the Council and the Exercise. But you will not get it so long as you continue the present procedure by resolution and haphazard debate.

One other matter I must mention. It is a rather delicate matter but plain speaking is sometimes necessary. During these last few years, power and influence in the Council has not depended on a man's ability, knowledge, experience, or work, but simply on whether he had the entrée into a select circle. If he had it, his path was easy. If he had it not, he was by turns used or ignored, patronised or snubbed. But never was he treated as an equal—as equal, I mean, as an authority on any matter, not as equal socially, which is another and trivial matter.

It may be that this phase has passed. I hope so. I have every confidence in the new president. While this was last, nothing definite can be settled, but when it is finished, if the Council faces facts squarely and honestly tries to set its house in order, there is no reason why a long existence of usefulness should not be before it.—Yours faithfully,
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

B.E.F., France, June 19th, 1918.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A Western district meeting was held at Arundel on Saturday week, when members were present from Heene, St. Peter's, Brighton; Stinfold, Shoreham, Lyminster, and the local tower. Mr. J. Shepherd came just in time to make up a band for Stedman Triples, and during the afternoon and evening several touches were rung of Grandsire, Bob Major, Cambridge Minor and Stedman Triples.

Tea was partaken of at Owen's Restaurant, and at the business meeting, Mr. E. C. Merritt was voted to the chair.—One new member was elected, viz., Mr. Balchin, of Arundel. The Rev. C. Winn (Vicar of Arundel) was elected as hon. member.

All the present officers for the Western division were re-elected. West Tarring was chosen for the next meeting, some time in September.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Vicar for granting the use of the bells; also to Messrs. J. Nalley and Balchin for having everything in readiness; also to Mr. Merritt for presiding.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GRIMSBY.—On April 7th, at the Parish Church, for morning service, 630 Grandsire Triples: F. T. Howden 1, J. W. Seamer (conductor) 2, C. Taylor 3, Sergt. R. Richardson (Surflee) 4, A. S. Hill 5, W. H. Heyhoe 6, W. Ayre (Gainsborough) 7, J. Lamb 8. For evening service, 224 Bob Major: A. S. Hill 1, P. Pigg 2, J. W. Seamer 3, A. B. Shepherd 4, C. Taylor 5, W. H. Heyhoe 6, Sergt. R. Richardson 7, W. Ayre (conductor) 8. Also 336 Grandsire Triples: F. T. Howden 1, J. W. Seamer 2, P. Pigg 3, A. B. Shepherd 4, W. H. Heyhoe 5, W. Ayre 6, C. Taylor (conductor) 7, Sergt. R. Richardson 8.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKS.—On Sunday evening, April 14th 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: M. Tune 1, Sergt. E. Morris 2, A. Hatfield 3, W. A. Hudson 4, G. Terry 5, E. Rickitt 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, by: W. A. Hudson 1, E. Rickitt 2, G. Terry 3, A. Hatfield 4, M. Tune 5, Sergt. E. Morris 6; both conducted by Sergt. Ernest Morris, A.S.C., of Leicester.

YORK.—On Sunday, May 5th, for morning service, at York Minster, 557 Grandsire Caters, by: A. Haigh 1, P. Firth 2, F. Earnshaw 3, W. Ayre 4, A. Horner 5, G. Horner 6, A. C. Fearnley 7, H. Ineson 8, A. Hodgson 9, Sergt. E. Morris and W. Thornton 10. For evening service, at St. Mary Senior, Bishophill, 720 Bob Minor: Sergt. E. Morris 1, W. Thornton 2, A. Horner 3, H. Ineson 4, E. Rickitt 5, A. C. Fearnley 6. Both were conducted by Sergt. E. Morris, A.S.C. (of Leicester).

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—As a compliment to our American Allies, the bells at St. Paul's Cathedral will be rung on Independence Day, July 4th, from 5.15 to 6.25 p.m. A meeting will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday, July 6th, at 6 p.m. Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on July 2nd, 16th and 30th, and for handbell practice on July 11th and 25th, all 7.30 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Saturday, July 6th. Meeting in St. Mary's Schoolroom at 3.30 p.m., tea to follow; service in St. Mary's Church at 6. The bells of St. Mary's (10), St. James' (8) and Wilton (6) will be available all the afternoon.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, July 6th, 1918. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting at 6.30.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—A meeting of the Western District will be held at Paulton on Saturday, July 6th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; service at 4 p.m.; tea and meeting at the Vicarage at 4.30 p.m. Members and friends cordially invited. Those requiring tea please notify me not later than July 2nd.—N. Gillingham, Portishead, Somerset.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Middleton on Saturday, July 6th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; business meeting at 6 o'clock. All ringers and friends welcome.—S. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Calverley on Saturday, July 6th. The bells will be available from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m., and the business meeting will be held in the "Thornhill Arms" (near the church) at 7 p.m.—Wm. Gage, Hon. Sec., 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Westerleigh on Saturday, July 6th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m.; tea at 5 p.m. (tea only), to be followed by business meeting.—W. Stafford, Hon. Branch Sec., 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol, E.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The July meeting will be held at Wortley on Saturday, the 6th. Eight bells available afternoon and evening. Visitors who bring rations can obtain hot water and milk near the Church.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The summer meeting will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, July 6th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—Rev. Canon Baker, The Rectory, Dunstable.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of the Maidstone District will be held at East Farleigh on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock; service at 5; tea at 5.45, business meeting after. The Secretary would be glad to know not later than Tuesday, July 9th, of any members intending to be present. All will be welcome.—Stephen Hayzelden, District Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society—Estab. 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 4 p.m.; business meeting to follow at the Nag's Head Tavern at 8.30. All ringers welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting of the above district will be held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 13th. By kind permission of the Vicar the bells (8) will be available all day. Business meeting at 5.—W. Hinton, District Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. Established 1755.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Solihull on Saturday, July 13th. Bells (10) available from 4 o'clock. Tea will be arranged for 5.30 at the Masons' Arms Hotel for those who advise me *not later than the 9th inst.* of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A Combined Practice will be held at Cranleigh (8 bells) on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 3.30 till 9 p.m. Tea at 4.30 o'clock (members must bring their own eatables), at Mr. W. Charman's cottage. All intending to be present please inform Mr. R. Whittington, Winterfold, Cranleigh, by Wednesday, July 10th.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Wellingboro District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Earls Barton on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock; tea at 4.30.—W. Perkins, District Sec., 6, Addington Road, Irthlingboro.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—A Summer meeting will be held at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, on Saturday, July 27, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Ringing 3 o'clock, evensong 5.30, and tea 6 p.m. for those who notify the hon. sec. that they will be present.—W. H. Fussell, Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.—A friendly gathering for bell ringing and tea drinking is proposed for Saturday, July 13th, at Great Missenden, Bucks. Bells available at 4 p.m.; tenor 27cwt. The Branch Committeemen are asked to make this known to all members.—The Annual Committee Meeting of the Diocesan Guild takes place at Oxford on Saturday, July 20th.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A District Meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, July 20th, 1918. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. till 9 p.m. Full particulars shortly.—E. J. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, July 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; service 4.45, followed by business meeting.—J. H. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—By kind permission of the Rev. T. F. J. Mummery, the next quarterly meeting will be held at Eynsford, on Saturday, July 20th. Bells will be available at 4 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. Half railway fares up to but not exceeding 2s. paid to those attending.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Rainford on Saturday, July 20th. Bells ready at 2.30; service at 5; meeting at 5.30.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Secs.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. H. A. COCKEY.—The Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, having started a fund to help forward the Memorial, appeals to all ringers for voluntary subscriptions, which should be forwarded to Mr. H. K. Howell, hon. treasurer, Thornbury, Glos.

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.

MEETINGS.

Special attention is drawn to the notice of the meetings of the Bedfordshire Association at Dunstable, and of the St. Martin's Guild at Solihull, which did not come to hand in time for insertion in last week's issue.

WEDDING BELLS.

At Derby, on June 19th, at the Church of St. Alkmund, Derby, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 45 mins., by: F. Leo 1, C. Draper 2, W. Wileman 3, G. Tomlinson 4, J. Elcock 5, J. Lord 6, G. Freebrey (conductor) 7, George Cook 8. This was arranged to celebrate the marriage of Mr. Geo. Robinson, junr., a much respected member of St. Alkmund's band, which took place earlier in the day.

SELBY ABBEY RINGERS' OUTING.

On Saturday, June 15th, the Selby Abbey ringers held their annual outing, and paid a visit to Queensbury, Idle, and Shipley churches. The weather was cold and showery, with sunshine at intervals. Touches of Stedman and Grandsire were indulged in, and a very pleasant and enjoyable time was spent. The ringers took the opportunity to present a handsome cigarette case to their secretary (Mr. Arthur Hall), in appreciation of the work done by him.

BOYS RING TREBLE BOB ON HANDBELLS.

On Friday week, at 10, Mitford Road, Armley, Yorkshire, 3072 of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung in 1 hr. and 30 mins., in an attempt for a peal which came to grief owing to a change course: Malcolm Moorhouse (aged 13) 1—2, P. J. Johnson 3—4, J. W. Moorhouse 5—6, Gerald Moorhouse (aged 14) 7—8. Witness, Mr. A. Windsor. The writer would like to know how far he would be right in assuming that this is the longest length in the method by boys of that age on handbells retained in hand.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CREWE.—Chester Diocesan Guild.—On Sunday, May 5th, at Christ Church, for evening service, 809 Grandsire Caters: W. T. Holding 1, R. Langford 2, H. Overton 3, G. H. Crawley 4, R. D. Langford 5, A. Crawley 6, G. Harding 7, J. Dentith 8, R. T. Holding (conductor) 9, W. Barnard (longest touch) 10.

ISLEWORTH.—On May 12th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): G. A. Ransom 1, A. Beckensale 2, T. Beadle 3, A. Disereng 4, Pte. J. Preston (Middlesex Reserves) 5, W. H. Liddetter (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, P. Norton 8. This was rung with the bells muffled for a service for those who had lost their lives fighting for their country.

YORK.—On Sunday, May 12th, at SS. Philip and James', Clifton, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Sergt. E. Morris A.S.C. (conductor), 1, G. Horner 2, A. Horner 3, J. Thompson 4, E. Rickitt 5, A. Haigh 6.

BROXBORNE.—Herts. Association.—For evening service, on Sunday, April 14th, in 46 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: C. Goldsmith 1, G. Andrews 2, W. Mumford 3, G. Maxim 4, F. J. G., 5, S. Knight 6, S. Proctor (conductor) 7, G. Radley 8.

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