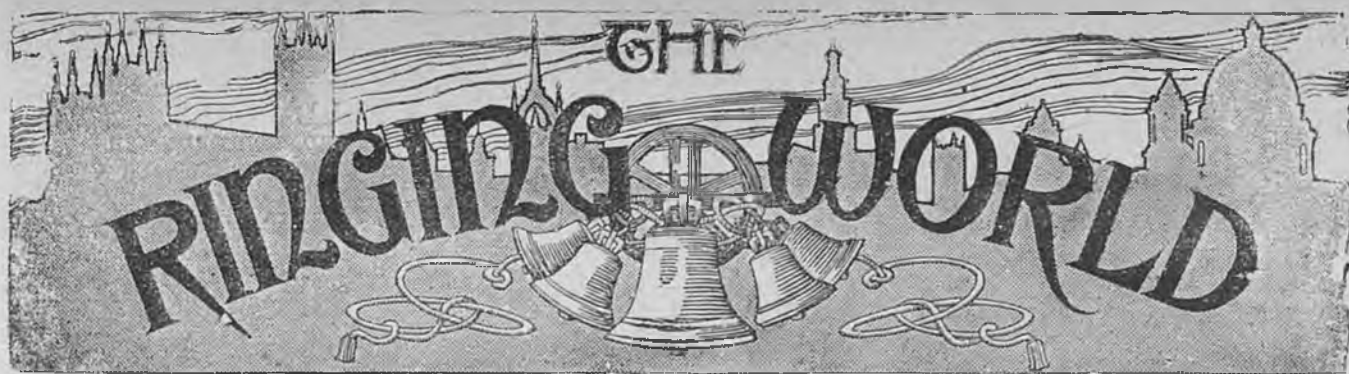




No. 728. Vol. XX

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1925.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Happily the recent experience at a Surrey district meeting, of which a correspondent complains this week, is not a common occurrence. A meeting at a six-bell tower was arranged and duly advertised, but only nine ringers attended, and those attached to eight and ten bell towers were notable for their absence. As our correspondent points out, this is extremely disheartening to the officials, and especially to a secretary who is struggling to work up a district and has been promised help from outside, which assistance failed to materialise. It is seldom, especially in areas where hands are fairly numerous, that ringing meetings are as poorly attended as the one mentioned, but the point of greatest interest is whether, as our correspondent seems to think, ringers on higher numbers than six bells shun meetings at six-bell towers. This is a complaint which, we think, cannot be made of ringers in general. Experience proves that, as a whole, ringers at eight and ten bell towers give valuable support to the six-bell meetings. Often they are more strongly represented than are the six-bell men at eight-bell towers, and their assistance is a great asset.

The question arises, however, do we make the most of the opportunities which these district meetings present? For the most part the ringing is of a casual kind, with no definite object in view, except that everybody shall get a pull. Often, of course, someone gets a touch in a fresh method, or some beginner is given a start, but there is generally an entire absence of any organised attempt to make the ringing progressively educational. Nor would it be easy to arrange the ringing on these lines. At the same time we think something might be done, particularly in those districts where it is the practice to hold monthly meetings, which enable members to come together with frequency. For instance, it might be possible to arrange to devote certain periods at each meeting to the definite practice of specific methods, efforts being made beforehand to secure the attendance of sufficient accomplished ringers to ensure adequate help for those who availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered for advancing themselves in the art. Obstacles to such a step as this are easy to be found, but there is unquestionably a need for ringing more organised, educationally, than is usually the case at district meetings, and the subject is worth thinking over. We are pleased to note that our earlier observations on the question of more advanced instruction for ringers at such gatherings is already bearing fruit, and that in more than one association arrangements are being made for competent ringers to read papers on subjects dealing with the art.

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TEN BELL PEALS.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5183 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt.

*FREDERICK VICARS Treble	CLIFFORD ROLLINGS 6
ERNEST HERBERT 2	HORACE H. SMITH 7
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 3	EDMUND J. HOBBS 8
*ALBERT FLEET 4	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 9
MISS EVELYN STEEL 5	JOSIAH NICHOLLS Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN.

* First peal on ten bells. First in the method by all except the ringers of the 2nd and 9th. First peal in the method on the bells.

EPSOM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5139 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*ERNEST J. TRIMMER Treble	FRANK W. CHAPMAN 6
CHARLES H. CHAPMAN 2	JACK CARMAN 7
WILLIAM H. HEWETT 3	C. W. R. GRIMWOOD 8
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	RICHARD F. DEAL 9
FRANK I. HAIRS 5	WALTER GLOVER Tenor

Composed by G. DALTRY

Conducted by W. H. HEWETT.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

TICKHILL, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

GIBSON JACKSON Treble	*OLIVER GREATHEAD 5
GEORGE CLARK 2	*EDGAR C. STACEY 6
*PERCY GLEDSON 3	*ROBERT SAREBY 7
*FREDERICK CLARK 4	HAROLD WALKER Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by HAROLD WALKER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

(DUFFIELD BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMOND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

*REGINALD BOULTON Treble	HARRY HILL 5
WILLIAM BATES 2	*GEORGE WARRINGTON 6
HENRY LETTS 3	SYDNEY DAWSON 7
*MISS ELIZABETH FOULK 4	CHARLES BRADLEY Tenor

Conducted by HENRY LETTS.

* First peal. Miss Foulk is believed to be the first Derbyshire lady to ring a peal in the county. First peal by a Duffield Sunday Service band since 1910.

AYLESFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*FRED A. LEASON Treble	CHARLES H. SONE 5
MRS. H. BAKER 2	JOHN S. MORTON 6
WILLIAM E. PITMAN 3	LOUIS HEAD 7
HARRY BAKER 4	WILLIAM J. DAY Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM E. PITMAN, Mus. Bac., Oxon, F.R.C.O.

* First peal.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 16, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

WILLIAM SPICE	Treble	SAM TAYLOR... ..	5
*GEORGE KENWARD	2	THOMAS JULL	6
*WILLIAM NYE	3	WILLIAM J. WALKER	7
ERNEST J. DOBBIE	4	C.Q.M.S.G. GILBERT, R.E. Tenor	

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by G. GILBERT, R.E.

* First peal in the method. First in the method on the bells. Rung in honour of the birth of a grand-daughter to the ringer of the treble.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 16, 1925, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 20 cwt. 42 lb. in E flat.

GEORGE JENNINGS	Treble	ALFRED J. TRAPPITT	5
ARTHUR H. BUNDLE	2	DANIEL COOPER... ..	6
EDWARD G. TALBOT	3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN	7
FRANK E. DAREY... ..	4	*JOHN AVERY	Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to John Henry Bridges, who was buried at Ewell the same day. He was patron of the living, a former High Sheriff of Surrey, an honorary member of the above association, and son of the late Canon Bridges, the former Rector of Beddington, who gave the present peal of ten bells. * First peal.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 17, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*THOMAS LIGHTFOOT	Treble	HENRY C. COLLYER	5
*NORAH M. BIBBY	2	JOHN E. BIBBY	6
*CYRIL VALENTINE	3	GEORGE RANGLES	7
WILLIAM BIBBY... ..	4	FRANCIS BIBBY	Tenor

Composed by JAMES S. WILDE. Conducted by FRANCIS BIBBY.

* First peal in the method.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 17, 1925, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

ALFRED PITSTOW... ..	Treble	ARTHUR JAMES	5
WALTER PRIOR	2	WILLIAM T. PRIOR	6
LEONARD PITSTOW	3	FREDERICK DENCH	7
ERNEST PITSTOW... ..	4	FREDK. J. PITSTOW	Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by ALFRED PITSTOW.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the brothers Alfred and Fredk. J. Pitstow. The brothers Prior hail from Stansted.

FULHAM.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

(The All Saints', Fulham, Society.)

On Thursday, February 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

H. A. FOLKARD	Treble	FRANK SKEVINGTON	5
ARTHUR CUTMORE	2	ARTHUR HARDING	6
FREDK. GOODFELLOW	3	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD	7
WILLIAM H. HOLLIER	4	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE	Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Arranged as a birthday peal for Mr. Hollier, and rung after meeting short for Stedman Calers.

HURSTPIERPOINT, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 18, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED J. TURNER	Treble	ALFRED W. GROVES	5
GEORGE SHOKER	2	ERNEST GOWER	6
JOHN T. RICKMAN	3	WILLIAM C. HART	7
OLIVER SIPPETTS... ..	4	KEITH HART... ..	Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by KEITH HART.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 18, 1925, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes

At the Church of St. Helen,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

GEORGE HATTON... ..	Treble	CHARLES DRAPER	5
MAURICE SWINFELD	2	JOHN CURTIS... ..	6
JOHN H. SWINFELD	3	JAMES GEORGE	7
JAMES PAGET	4	GEORGE F. NEWMAN	Tenor

Conducted by M. SWINFELD.

The members of the band wish to congratulate Mr. Geo. Hatton upon the excellent way he rang the treble, he being 74 years of age.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Illtyd,

A PEAL OF UNION TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*ALFRED W. WRIGHT... ..	Treble	CHARLES H. PERRY	5
RICHARD EVANS... ..	2	ALLEN C. JONES	6
JOHN W. JONES	3	DAVID R. JAMES	7
FREDERICK J. BAILEY	4	BERT WEAVER	Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by CHAS. H. PERRY.

First peal in the method by all the band and for the association. Also the first peal of Union Triples rung in Wales. The ringer of the 3rd bells from Newport; 4th from Whitchurch; tenor from Penarth; the rest are local men. * First peal away from the tenor.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF DARTFORD LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN.	Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN	5
FREDERICK M. MITCHELL	2	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M.	6
FREDERICK A. COLEY	3	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE	7
JOHN WHEADON	4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... ..	Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS. Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

This is the first time a peal in this method has been rung. It was Mr. J. A. Trollope's 300th peal. Rung on the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the Archbishop of Canterbury, president of the Kent County Association, his first curacy being at Christ Church, Dartford.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE AND DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes.

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JAMES F. PARKER	Treble	FREDERICK OAKEILL	5
JOHN AUSTIN	2	ALBERT BURCOMBE	6
*HORACE V. ROBINSON	3	HENRY W. FUSSELL	7
JESSIE GILLET	4	JAMES L. SMITH	Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

* First peal of Bob Major.

NEWCHURCH, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK REYNOLDS Treble	JOHN YATES 5
WILLIAM GOULD 2	ERNEST LEATHERBARROW ... 6
GEORGE POWNALL 3	JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW ... 7
WILLIAM HAMPSON 4	*WILLIAM LEATHERBARROW Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. LEATHERBARROW.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. Oscar Reginald Plant, who was inducted at the above church on Saturday, February 7th.

BUCKLEY, FLINTSHIRE.
THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION
AND CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Matthew,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 14½ cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	WALTER THOMAS 5
THOMAS BUTLER, SEN. 2	GEORGE R. JONES 6
EDWARD HARRISON 3	JAMES H. RIDING 7
THOMAS BUTLER, JUN. 4	ALBERT J. HUGHES Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by A. J. HUGHES.

First peal of Treble Bob as conductor. The band wish to thank the Rector for granting permission, and also Mr. Jones for having everything in readiness.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5080 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

*HARRY HILL Treble	ALLAN R. HICKTON 5
EDMUND C. CHASTY 2	JAMES F. GEORGE 6
*HENRY FLETCHER 3	HENRY HARRISON 7
*HENRY LETTS 4	EDWARD C. GOBEY Treble

Composed and Conducted by E. C. GOBEY.

* First peal of Spliced Treble Bob. This composition is now rung for the first time, and is the first peal of Treble Bob rung containing these qualities, viz., 22 of the 468's at back stroke, also 22 of the 568's.

MILNROW, ROCHDALE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

W. STAFF Treble	*S. W. DONN 5
*H. HAMER 2	G. STAFF 6
JOHN FITTON 3	*A. BUCKLEY 7
*JAMES SHAW 4	J. H. C. MASSEY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by G. STAFF.

Rung to commemorate the long service at this church of Mr. J. Fitton and the late Mr. R. Buckley. Both were devoted ringers from the installation of the bells, and Mr. Fitton is still a regular ringer. The peal also commemorated Mr. N. Butterworth's jubilee as a chorister.

MALVERN LINK, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Matthias,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16½ cwt.

ERNEST GIBBS Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD 5
WILLIAM NIBLETT 2	SIDNEY T. HOLT 6
*JAMES R. NEWMAN 3	JOHN J. JEFFRIES 7
ROBERT G. KNOWLES 4	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

* First peal of Surprise.

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 9 cwt.

LEONARD NELMES Treble	WILLIAM BISHOP 5
JOHN J. BEVAN 2	ERNEST MATTHEWS 6
WILLIAM T. POSTON 3	WILLIAM POSTON 7
GEORGE WILKS 4	WILLIAM BEARD Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

Arranged for Messrs. Nelmes, Wilks, Bishop, Matthews and Beard, of Ruardean.

CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
Tenor 12½ cwt.

ALFRED BLOGG Treble	JOHN H. GARTSIDE 5
WILLIAM LANCASTER 2	*JOHN BOOTH 6
HARRY FRANCE 3	BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... 7
*JAMES W. GROUNDS 4	†EDWARD ARMSTRONG ... Tenor

Composed by E. C. GOBEY. Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS.

* First touch in the method. † 50th peal. A birthday peal to Alfred Blogg.

CROYDON.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 31 cwt. in E flat.

FREDERICK G. WOODISS ... Treble	ALFRED J. TRAPPITT 5
HERBERT J. SKELT 2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 6
JAMES E. COOPER 3	DANIEL COOPER 7
FRANK E. DARRY 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by C. H. KIPPIN.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 13½ cwt.

OLIVER G. NORMAN Treble	ALBERT E. NORMAN 5
ALBERT T. SCRIVENS 2	MORRIS J. MORRIS 6
RICHARD INGRAM 3	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH 7
GEORGE F. SWANN 4	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT E. NORMAN.

WITHYCOMBE, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.
(EXETER BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 19 cwt.

WILLIAM MANLEY Tenor	*JOHN SPRAGUE 5
FRED DIMOND 2	*JOHN GLANVILLE 6
JOHN M. SKINNER 3	ADOLPHUS SNOW 7
JOHN R. HAYMAN 4	EDWARD G. STOCKER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. R. HAYMAN.

Rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. E. Pook, a local ringer, and Miss Rendell, daughter of a local ringer. * First peal. Ringer of 6th is from Woodbury; 7th from Otterton; rest are local men.

THOS. J. GROOMBRIDGE

Church Bell Hanger,

CRAYFORD, KENT.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FOR NEW OR REPAIR WORK

OLD CLEEVE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(St. James' Society, Taunton.)

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Groves' Transposition of Parker's Twelve-Part.

Tenor 18 cwt. 3 qr.

ALFRED J. WYATT Treble	DAVID G. TAYLOR 5
PERCY MERSON 2	EDGAR E. BURGESS 6
WILLIAM CORDING 3	JAMES HUNT... .. 7
WILLIAM H. COLES 4	WILLIAM J. TARR... .. Tenor

Conducted by JAMES HUNT.

First peal on the bells.

LOWER BEBINGTON, CHESHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Sir A. P. Heywood's Variation of Thurstan's. Tenor 9 cwt.

*ERNEST L. HUMPHRISS ... Treble	ARTHUR LINTOTT... .. 5
THOMAS C. LARKEY 2	GEORGE R. NEWTON 6
CLAUDE S. BENWELL 3	EDWARD CAUNCE... .. 7
ERNEST JONES 4	HENRY MARTIN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE R. NEWTON.

* First attempt to ring a peal in this method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KEMPSTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1924, in Three Hours & Eighteen Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, each called differently, and 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 19 cwt.

W. FRANCIS Treble	C. W. CLARKE 4
G. HUTCHINGS 2	N. WILES 5
A. DOLLING 3	P. INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 5th.

HARROLD, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 7, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 6000 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kingston Treble Bob, London Scholars' Pleasure, College Exercise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob, and 240 Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt.

WM. SHARP Treble	ALFRED ROBINSON 4
WM. STOCK 2	PEARL INSKIP 5
HENRY W. GAYTON 3	CHAS. WM. CLARKE Tenor

Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

Longest peal on the bells.

BICKER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Swithin,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, three 720's of Kent Treble Bob, and one of Plain Bob, each called differently.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK PEARSON... Treble	STANLEY E. BENNETT ... 4
FREDK. W. BENNETT, SEN. 2	ALBERT H. BENNETT ... 5
JOHN PHILLIPS 3	ARTHUR H. PALMER Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. PALMER.

* First peal, with Treble Bob methods included. The ringer of the treble is only 15 years of age. This peal was arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. W. Bennett, wife of the ringer of the 2nd, and mother of the ringers of 4th and 5th.

CHALFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE & ST. DUNSTON'S DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*PERCY HOWELL Treble	BASIL LATHAM 4
LESLIE BARRY 2	TREVOR PRITCHARD 5
GEORGE ORCHARD 3	GEORGE LATHAM Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE BARRY.

* First peal. † First peal inside. Rung as a birthday peal to the ringer of the 4th.

ASTON CANTLOW, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores in twelve different callings.

LAURIE HAWCOTT Treble	ALBERT BOSWELL 4
HORACE TERRY 2	HENRY COLLEY 5
*ARTHUR GOWER... .. 3	*GEORGE PARSONS Tenor

Conducted by HORACE TERRY.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

KIRTON-IN-LINDSEY, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1925, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 20 six-scores of Grandsire, 12 of Plain Bob, and 10 of St. Simon's.

Tenor 20 cwt.

BERNARD GILLATT Treble	GEORGE HOBBS 4
ERNEST F. GODFREY 2	JACK BRAY 5
WILLIAM LEANING 3	JOHN H. CRAWSHAW Tenor

Conducted by J. BRAY.

First peal in three methods by all the band. Believed to be the first peal on the bells.

FRAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, February 18, 1925, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven differently called 720's.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN YOUNG Treble	WILLIAM E. CLARKE 4
ARTHUR H. PALMER 2	HARRY PALMER 5
*FRANK DEWEY 3	GEORGE COLEMAN Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. PALMER.

* First peal.

WIDFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 18, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*ARTHUR WREN Treble	JOHN SUCKLING 4
*LEONARD LADLEY 2	†WILLIAM T. COOK 5
MISS E. CHITTY... .. 3	ARTHUR REDDINGTON Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM T. COOK.

* First peal. † First peal as conductor. First peal on the bells by a local band.

TEYNHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 20, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Kent Treble Bob, College Single, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

SAM TAYLOR... .. Treble	THOMAS JULL 4
GEORGE KENWARD 2	WILLIAM J. WALKER 5
C.Q.M.S.G. GILBERT, R.E. 3	WILLIAM NYE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM NYE.

MADRESFIELD, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Friday, February 20, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 10 six-scores of Stedman, 12 of Plain Bob, and 20 of Grand-sire, each called differently. Tenor 14 cwt.

HENRY CHANCE Treble	FREDERICK STANTON 4
WILLIAM NIBLETT 2	ROBERT G. KNOWLES 5
ERNEST E. BARBER 3	FRANCIS HILL Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT G. KNOWLES.

Rung to celebrate the birthday of the Rt. Hon. Earl Beauchamp, K.G.

GUILSBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 22, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ETHELDREDA,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising seven different 720's.

*CHARLES SMITH Treble	NORMAN HEERPS 4
WILLIAM BOTT 2	FRED WILFORD 5
THOMAS LAW 3	TOM TEBBUTT Tenor

Conducted by TOM TEBBUTT.

* First peal.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
GUILDFORD DISTRICT MEETING.

The two villages of Bramley and Womersh were visited on Saturday by members of the Guildford District of the Winchester Guild. There was a good attendance, and the ringing during the afternoon at Bramley, and in the evening at both churches, each of which possesses six bells, included Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Treble Bob. The Rev. Selby Lowndes, Rector of Bramley, conducted the service, and, led by the organ, the singing was very hearty. The Rector, in a practical address, offered words of encouragement, appreciation and exhortation to the members, and, in urging ringers to put their best into their work and to do it for the glory of God, instead of for purely personal pleasure, pointed out that music and art were material adjuncts to worship in which men should offer to the service of God the great gifts which He had bestowed upon them.

Mr. W. Melville, chairman of the district, presided over the tea and business meeting which followed, and was supported by Mr. C. Hazelden (Ringing Master), Mr. E. Raddon (hon. secretary), and nearly thirty members.

The Chairman referred to the loss which the Guild had recently sustained by the death of Mr. E. Lucas, of Shalford, and the members expressed their sympathy with the relatives by standing in silence for a few moments.

The Ringing Master reported that since the last meeting the Guild had been asked to open the bells at West Horsley, after restoration. There were only three bells, and they were not hung for ringing, but the Guild were glad to be of service. He believed they made an impression, and that in future, perhaps, something more might come of it. Change ringing on handbells provided a voluntary at the service, and demonstrated the advantages of a larger number of bells.

Congratulations were offered to the band that rang the peal of London Surprise at Holy Trinity, Guildford, recently, there being several 'firsts in the method,' and none but the conductor had previously rung more than two peals in the method.

Admiral T. P. Walker, D.S.O., churchwarden of Woking Parish Church, was elected an honorary member; Mr. Norman Harding, of Glandon, was elected a practising member; Mr. Voller, of Womersh, a probationer; and Mr. W. Farley, late of Wells, and now of Folkestone, a compounding member.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Rectors of Bramley and Womersh, and to the organist.

Touches of Grandsire Triples and Stedman were rung on handbells, and then the visitors divided themselves between the two towers for further practice.

A MEMORIAL TOUCH.

On Friday, February 13th, at the Church of SS. Thomas and Edmund, Erdington, Birmingham, a touch of Stedman Triples (1,383 changes) was rung in 50 minutes, with the bells muffled, to the memory of Francis Genders, donor of the bells, it being the 34th anniversary of his death: C. Waithman 1, T. Ward 2, W. Stringer 3, *H. Price 4, W. Davies 5, *C. Dale 6, B. W. Wittchell (conductor) 7, J. Caulfield 8. * Longest touch in the method.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
THE BOUNDARY LINE.

The annual meeting of the London County Association was held on Saturday, February 14th. Ringing took place at All Hallows', Lombard Street, from 2 to 3.30 p.m., and at St. Clement Danes' from 3.30 to 4.30. The service was conducted by the honorary chaplain, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, M.A., and the preacher was the Rev. J. A. Mayo, M.A., Rector of Whitechapel, who gave a very interesting and helpful address. The presence of organist and choir was much appreciated. With the Rector's approval it was subsequently decided to devote the offertory to the James W. Washbrook Memorial Fund.

Sixty-three members sat down to tea at the Express Dairy, and afterwards proceeded to the Parish Room for the business meeting, where they were joined by further members.

The balance sheet was presented, and passed. The secretary gave a report on the past year's work, and mentioned, among other things, the centenary dinner, the summer outing to Chertsey, and the successful efforts to restart the Northern District organisation. Sixteen new members were elected during 1924, and thirty peals were rung as follows: Grandsire Cinques 1, Bob Major 2, Bob Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 2, Stedman Triples 10, Stedman Caters 3, Stedman Cinques 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 4, and Superlative Surprise Major 3. Eighty different members, representing thirty different parishes, took part in these peals, of which the Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender, conducted 25, Mr. J. Bullock 1, Mr. J. H. Cheesman 1, Mr. E. J. King 1, Mr. F. Skevington 1, and Mr. J. A. Trollope 1.

Proposals were brought forward dealing with the rearrangement of the boundary line between the two districts, but these met with little support, and no alteration was made. — The District Master and Secretary stated that they were content with the present division, and were hopeful of the future. It was, however, suggested that help might be given by the central body to certain local bands who were striving to become proficient, and this will be considered by the committee in due course.

Mr. T. H. Taffender was again re-elected Master, without opposition, the meeting registering its full support in his favour. Mr. A. H. Keighley was appointed hon. secretary, and the other elections resulted as follows: Senior assistant secretary, Mr. R. Newman; junior assistant secretary, Mr. T. W. Taffender; treasurer, Mr. E. A. Young; trustees, Mr. J. George and Mr. E. A. Young; senior steward, Mr. W. E. G. Hewson; and junior steward, Mr. F. W. Chorley.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to those who had helped in the arrangements, and to the retiring officers.

LADIES' GUILD.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF CENTRAL DISTRICT.

The first meeting of the newly-formed Central District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Beckenham on Saturday, Feb. 7th, and the enthusiasm shown by the members present augurs well for the success of this district. With the help of the gentlemen, ringing was commenced about 3.30 p.m., and later a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by eight members of the Guild. Service was held at 5 p.m., followed by a splendid tea at the Greyhound Hotel, to which ample justice was done, the company numbering in all 16.

At the business meeting which followed, Mrs. R. F. Deal was elected to the chair. Mrs. A. W. Clarke, Miss E. E. Chapman, Miss P. Moss and Mrs. R. F. Deal were elected to form the committee, while the last named, with the secretary (Mrs. F. I. Hairs), were voted to the general committee.

The following new members were elected, viz.: Miss Dorothy Tall, Miss Ida Swinger and Miss Olive Hairs.

The next meeting was proposed to be held at Willesden, if permission is granted, at the beginning of April, and it was also decided to arrange a few week-night practices where possible.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. W. Smith, who so kindly made the arrangements, concluded the business.

Another visit was made to the tower, when a capital touch of Stedman Triples was rung by the ladies, followed by touches of Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge, until 9 p.m., thus bringing to an end a very successful and pleasant gathering.

AN UNFORTUNATE ENDING.

At Wern, Shropshire, on Saturday, at the Parish Church, a peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted, all going well until in the last 500, when the conductor had to call stand, owing to one of the band being indisposed, after ringing 2 hours and 38 minutes: F. Grocott (longest length and first attempt for a peal) 1, F. A. Barnett (churchwarden) 2, W. J. Benimas 3, W. Lycett 4, G. R. Lilley (conductor) 5, W. T. Goodfellow 6, H. Vickers 7, R. H. Faulkner 8; 1st and 2nd are local men; 3rd from Ludlow; 4th from Stanton; 5th and 6th from St. Chad's, Shrewsbury; 7th from Morton; tenor from Ightfield.

'A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RECORD.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the above record, I always take it that 'local band' means all the ringers belong to one tower. I had not forgotten the peals of Oxford Treble Bob of 1774, or Kent Treble Bob rung in 1836, but there is no record of those ringers belonging to one tower, and the great probability is it was not so. I am afraid my delight at our band accomplishing the peal of London Surprise Major (which I had almost given up as impossible) made me forget for the time being the peal of Stedman by the Retford men, and I apologise to them and withdraw all claim with regard to that method. I should like to add, in conclusion, that the only two peals of London conducted by Notts men have been by members of the Beeston band, viz., Mr. A. Coppock and Mr. P. Price.—Yours faithfully,

FREDK. S. PRICE.

BRISTOL SURPRISE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your leader this week is especially interesting to me, and probably others in the city, from whence it takes its name. I think it was early in 1900, at the annual dinner of the St. Stephen's Guild, that the late Mr. F. E. Ward spoke of the method, and promised to send on a lead of it. This I duly received, and in my spare time set up in type the full plain course, and printed off some 150 copies. We then set to and rang it, and it was only then we heard the Brighton men were ringing it. This, I confess, put the damper on a little. We knew their capabilities; Brighton was up to the 'London' standard when Bristol was in the 'Grandsire' stage. However, a peal was not rung at once, and we might have been first had we persevered.

When the peal was rung I wrote to the 'Bell News' and offered congratulations, but disagreed with the description 'harder than London,' but was told I would soon find it was when we started to make the bobs. (I have made a few since, but still say London is the most difficult.) At the same time, I offered free copies of the plain course to anyone who would send me a stamped addressed envelope. I have the list of those who sent; it was a very short list. I have, however, given all the 150 away now. Has this done a little to popularise it, do you think?

I have received another Surprise Method (Major) from the Rev. E. Banks James. Perhaps I will do the same with that. I said, perhaps!—Yours truly,

W. A. CAVE.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Reading on Saturday last, 70 members being present from the various belfries of the district. Proceedings commenced with short touches on the bells of St. Lawrence's, St. Mary's, and St. Giles' Churches. A bright service was then held at St. Mary's, the Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn) and the Rev. A. T. Gray officiating, while an appropriate address was given by the Rev. Canon E. J. Norris.

The members then proceeded to the Central Cafe, Friar Street, for tea. The business meeting which followed, with Mr. P. Routh in the chair, was quite an animated affair, helpful suggestions, of interest to ringers, coming from many members.

All the officers were re-elected, among those present, other than those already mentioned, being the Rev. Canon F. G. Coleridge, Crowthorne; Mr. J. Evans, High Wycombe; Mr. J. Bower, Goring; Mr. A. J. Wright, Supt. Wiggins, Mr. H. Tucker, Mr. A. W. Pike, etc.

Special mention was made of the deaths of three members of the branch, Messrs. W. Newell, C. Giles, and A. Lovejoy, the members standing in silence as a token of respect.

A report was received from the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Hopgood), showing an increase of 27 members during the year, the branch now having 165 members. Tower reports were received from Messrs. J. Swain, St. Mary's; A. Osborne, St. Giles'; J. R. Mackman, St. Lawrence's; A. D. Cullum, Caversham; E. G. Foster, Tilehurst; G. White, Henley; E. G. Frankum, Mapledurham; H. Tucker, Purley; and W. Ford, Mortimer.

After the business meeting the members entertained themselves with pianoforte solos, songs, humorous stories, and handbell ringing, the artists being Mrs. Wood, and Messrs. Julian Were (from Birmingham Cathedral), A. W. Pike, E. G. Foster, J. R. Mackman, W. Webb, S. E. Davis, Supt. Wiggins, etc. The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS. — On Saturday, Feb. 14th, at the Parish Church, 1,440 Bob Minor: F. A. Salter (conductor) 1, A. Barrett 2, R. Elson 3, L. Chadburn 4, E. Elson 5, H. Elson 6, G. West 7, G. Wright 8. Rung with 6-8 covering.

JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,
LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE
LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

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Established
A.D. 1670**

(12th year
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HANDBELLS

In Sets of any number.

BELL ROPES. MUFFLES. &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

A large gathering is, as usual, assured for the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham to-morrow, and those who will be present can be sure of an enjoyable evening. This year's celebration falls on the actual anniversary of Johnson's birth in 1809. His birthday in 1881 was celebrated by a 9,238 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, then the longest length in the method.

The ringing at Bishop Ryder's Church for visitors to Birmingham to-morrow will be from 2 to 2.40 p.m. only, as a peal attempt is to be made at 2.45. Last week it was stated, in error, that the ringing there would begin at 2.40.

The first peal of Union Triples in Wales has been rung at Bridgend, Glam., conducted by Mr. C. H. Perry. Incidentally, it is quite a long time since a peal of Union Triples was rung anywhere.

Members of the Central District of the Ladies' Guild attempted a peal of Stedman Triples last Saturday at Ewell. After some very fine ringing for 2 hours 5 minutes a shift course unfortunately occurred.

A birthday to-morrow which will bring him congratulations and good wishes is that of Ted Horrex, of the College Youths, who will be 87. And be it remembered as long ago as 1866 on March 3rd he rang in a peal of 8,448 Kent Treble Bob Major.

Sunday is the anniversary of two long peals at Painswick. One in 1734, when 8,064 Grandsire Caters was rung, and the other in 1735, when 10,080 in the same method was rung in 6 hours 27 minutes.

On March 1st, 1889, 13,440 Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham, Sussex, in 7 hours, 45 minutes.

W. D. Crofts called a peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on March 3rd, 1778.

One hundred and forty years ago, on March 3rd, the Anacreontic Society rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Oswestry. Who or what they were, no one now knows.

We are informed that the peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, rung at Edenbridge on 10th May, 1924, conducted by Chas. H. Kippin, should not be credited to the Kent County Association.

We learn that, apart from the interesting explanation upon 'In and Out of Course,' which will be given by Mr. W. A. Cave, at the Bristol United Ringing Guilds' Social on March 7th, there will be a very good and varied programme.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

HELP WANTED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Surrey Association, at Beedington in 1923, a lady was asked if she would take over the none too easy duty of re-forming the Western district, which had fallen away almost to nothing. She assented, and, I think, deserves praise for taking on such a task. She has worked very hard to bring the membership up to the present strength.

The point to which I wish to draw attention, however, is that a good many members of other districts promised to help her, by attending the meetings as much as possible, but the lady must have felt like giving up her responsibilities as hon. secretary at the meeting at Esher on February 7th last, when only nine members attended.

The reason may have been that it was only a six bell tower, and it seems to me that these towers are shunned by nine out of every ten ringers connected with towers which have a larger number of bells.

I would like to ask as many as possible of all districts of the Surrey Association to come to the help of the secretary of the Western District in her hard, uphill work, and not to forget the six-bell towers.

A MEMBER.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT MEETING.

A meeting of the Leicester district was held at Wigston Magna on Saturday, Feb. 21st, members being present from Syston, Market Harborough, Croft, Leicester, and the local band. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major were all brought round during the afternoon.

A business meeting was held in the Schoolroom, at which the proposed new rules were freely discussed.

After the business had been disposed of, the next move was back to the belfry, and with the aid of 'the peal snatchers' (who had now made their appearance), further touches of Bob Major, Kent and Cambridge Surprise Major were rung. This brought the tower bell ringing to a close. Afterwards, a very enjoyable time was spent at a place 'within the meaning of the act' (kindly reserved by the Wigston friends). The handbells were brought into action, and touches of Stedman Cinques were rung, followed by tunes and various kinds of jazz ringing, and, last but not least, a rise and fall (more fall than anything). This brought an enjoyable half-day to a close.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR WIGHTMAN. MEMBER OF A WELL-KNOWN RINGING FAMILY.

Deep regret will be felt by a large number of ringers at the death of Mr. Edgar Wightman, late of Woodford, Essex, who passed away on Sunday evening, February 15th, at Uxbridge Hospital. He had had an attack of influenza, and got out too soon after it. A relapse followed, and pleurisy and pneumonia developed. He was removed to hospital on the Thursday, but despite all efforts on the part of the doctors and nurses he succumbed on the following Sunday.

Born at Framsdon, Suffolk, in 1875, he was one of the well-known ringing family of Wightman, father and six sons forming the bulk of the band at Cretingham. Farrier and general smith by trade, he went to Woodford, Essex, in 1896, and while there assisted the young bands at Woodford and Leytonstone, where he soon made things move. His ringing activities were carried on in the Essex, Kent and Middlesex Associations, and with the Cumberland Youths. Unfortunately he kept no record of his considerable number of peals, but among those that he rang was the 15,072 Double Norwich (his favourite method) at Erith on April 3rd, 1899, one of his own compositions. He also rang a pair of handbells in the first double-handed peal of Stedman Cinques by the Middlesex Association, conducted by Mr. W. Pye. Mr. Wightman was very active among the Cumberlands in the early years of the present century, and later, while with Messrs. Warner and Son, got together a handbell party connected with the foundry. He was a very fine ringer and conductor, thoroughly at home at either end, but particularly good round the back.

Only last year he removed from Woodford to take up a new business at Uxbridge, Middlesex, where he was assisted by his son (who is also a ringer). He was making excellent progress when stricken down by illness. His death will be keenly felt amongst ringers in the South-East of England, especially in the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, where he had endeared himself by his courteous manner, and his readiness to help at all times. For a number of years he acted as Master of the Division.

The deceased was buried on Wednesday, February 18th, at Uxbridge Cemetery. Amongst those present were Messrs. W. Miller and F. D. Smith, of the Leytonstone St. John's band; Mr. C. Morris, of the Woodford band; and Mr. E. J. Butler, representing the Essex Association. Amongst the numerous floral emblems was a wreath from the St. John's, Leytonstone, Society, and also one from the members of the Woodford and Loughton bands.

On Sunday, February 22nd, and Monday, Feb. 23rd, half-muffled ringing took place at St. John-the-Baptist's Church, Leytonstone. On each occasion 720 London Surprise Minor was rung non-conducted and strictly 'silent,' as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Wightman, who conducted the first extent of London Surprise on these bells on April 17th, 1898.

READING'S LOSS.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES GILES.

On Sunday, Feb. 8th, there passed to his rest one of Reading's best ringers, in the person of Mr. Charles Giles, a member of St. Mary's bellry. A regular Sunday Service ringer, he will be a great loss to St. Mary's tower, where he had rung for many years.

Mr. Giles was a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and several other societies. He was a keen ringer, and his services were frequently sought after for special occasions. He was a clever ringer in most methods, having rung peals from Grandsire Triples to London Surprise, one of his best feats being the 'silent' peal of Stedman Triples at Drayton, Berks, the first time Thursdays' peal was rung non-conducted. This feat he accomplished without any previous practice in Stedman calling, this alone proving the possession of no mean ability. He was a safe conductor on 6, 8 or 10 bells, and had rung somewhere about 200 peals.

The funeral took place at Reading Cemetery, the first part of the service being conducted at St. Mary's Church by the Ven. Archdeacon of Berks and the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (Master of the Oxford Guild). After the committal, a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by A. Wiggins 1-2, L. Osborne 3-4, F. Hopgood 5-6, H. Simmonds 7-8. In the evening, touches were rung at St. Mary's, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect by ringers from all the towers in the borough.

Deceased, who was 58 years of age, had been unwell for some time, but kept up his service ringing and employment with Messrs. Huntley, Bourne and Stevens, where he had been since boyhood, until a fortnight before his death. He leaves a widow and one daughter to mourn their loss.

HENDON, N.W. — At the Parish Church on Feb. 20th, 720 Bob Minor: B. Windmill 1, R. Bevan 2, A. Bonfield (first 720) 3, E. Bonfield 4, E. E. Pratchett 5, C. H. Martin (conductor) 6.—Also 120 Kent Treble Bob Minor.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Council will be held on June the 2nd (Whit Tuesday) next, at Chester. Full particulars of the meeting will be published later. Notice of any proposed motion should be sent before April 18th.

Will secretaries please note that the annual subscription is now due, and, together with the names and addresses of representatives, should be sent to the hon. secretary, Mr. E. Alexr. Young, of 155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

Dear Sir,—Your readers will be interested to know that for the Central Council meeting on Whit Tuesday, at Chester, the local committee have already arranged for the use of the Cathedral Refectory, and that further we have the very grateful promise of the Lord Bishop of Chester that he will himself attend and welcome the Council.

The subscriptions to the Council are now due, and so far only three have been received, viz., Peterborough, Ladies' Guild and Chester (a very poor return compared with previous years). I wish also to add that three Guilds or Associations have dropped out on account of non-payment of the subscriptions for the year 1924. It is not too late for them, however, if they will forward the amount for both years, to be reinstated.

We should also be happy to think that a well-known Guild in the South of England would reconsider its present position, and rejoin the Central Council.—Yours faithfully, E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN DIVISION AT COGGESHALL.

The first meeting of the Northern Division for the year was held on Saturday last at Coggeshall, the place having been selected from the fact that the old band of ringers had become extinct, and a young band had been formed to carry on the work. It was thought, therefore, that a meeting would give them help and encouragement in mastering the art of change ringing. The ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and ringers were present from the following 23 parishes: Coggeshall, Maldon, Dunmow, Braintree, Kelvedon, Sudbury, Earls Colne, Rayne, Broomfield, Foxearth, Great Bentley, Mistley, Stebbing, Peering, Assington, Sible Hedingham, Greenstead Green, Great Cornard, Polstead, Haistead, Long Melford, Romford and Harlow.

Service was held in the Church of St. Peter-ad-Vincula, and the Vicar gave a short and helpful address.

After the service, the ringers, to the number of 43, sat down to tea in the room in the Vicarage grounds, the chair being occupied by the Vicar, supported by Mr. C. H. Howard (Master of the Association), Mr. W. J. Nevard (District Master of the North-Eastern Division), Mr. E. J. Butler (secretary of the South-Western Division), Mr. D. Elliott (Assington), Mr. F. W. Wiffen (District Master) and Mr W. H. Dyson (district secretary).

At the business meeting, five of the young Coggeshall band were elected members of the association.

It was decided to hold the June meeting at Sible Hedingham, and a bye-meeting, about the end of April, at Belchamp St. Paul's.

A question arose as to the custody of the association's peal book, and the Master promised that it should be produced at the annual meeting for inspection.

It was mentioned that a well-known ringer, in the person of Mr. Edgar Wightman, of Woodford, had, during the past week, passed away very suddenly, and the members rose for a few moments in silence, as a token of respect to his memory.

The District Master announced that a peal board would be unveiled at Braintree on Saturday, March 7th, at 4 p.m., when any visiting ringers would be welcomed, and a tea provided at a small cost.

A hearty vote of thanks was moved to the Vicar for kindly allowing the use of the bells, for taking the service, and for his helpful address; also to the organist for presiding at the organ.—This was carried with acclamation, and the Vicar suitably replied, expressing the pleasure it had given him to have the meeting at Coggeshall.

During the day, the following methods were rung: Superlative, Cambridge, Stedman, Grandsire, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

RINGER'S DEATH AT PRESTBURY.

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 17th, the local band met at St. Mary's Church, Prestbury, Gloucestershire, and rang a well-struck quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 47 minutes. The bells were half-muffled, as a mark of respect to an old ringer, Mr. James Major, who was laid to rest earlier in the day. He was carried to his grave by colleagues of the bellry. Ringers stood as follows: C. Tovey 1, W. C. Rose 2, H. Newman 3, J. J. Causon 4, G. Walters 5, W. Hale 6, T. Pendry (conductor) 7, J. Harrison 8. Afterwards, the 'whole pull and stand' was rung 68 times, corresponding with the age of the deceased, T. Compton taking the place of W. C. Rose.

Deceased, who was much respected, had been a ringer for about 34 years, but had been unable to take an active part in ringing for the last two years owing to illness.

LEEK MAJOR.

PROOF OF ROUND BLOCKS AND PROOF OF CONSTRUCTION.

By GEORGE BAKER.

In an old but not forgotten controversy of 1913, I found that a particular method, one of my own discoveries, published in 'Bell News,' March 17th, 1900, was produced by three orthodox bobs, Quick 6th's, Quick 3rd's, and Quick 6th's, and there and then I laid it down as an axiom that all methods, principles and systems were produced by making Bobs and Extremes in the Primary Principles.

Except that I have adopted the term 'Shunts,' I have never deviated from that statement, and that I was right in making it can now be abundantly proved. Moreover, I can go a step further, and declare that there is a general law in method construction, and that law applies whether it be method, principle or system, and the axiom laid down in 1913 can be amplified in 1925 as follows:

All methods, principles and systems, double or single, regular or irregular, symmetrical or asymmetrical, with one, two, or any number of hunts, or no hunts at all, are produced by making SINGLE SHUNTS which form ROUND BLOCKS in the Primary Principles or the Treble Bob Principle, and these round blocks are not confined to the first lead or division, but run right through the Plain Course.

A crude way of proving the axiom above would be to write out a full plain course of LEEK MAJOR, but I hope to make myself understood by the use of two divisions only.

12345678	68472513	Round block transposition row from left to right.
21436587	86745231	48763215
12463578	88754213	
21645387	86572431	
26154837	85627341	
62518473	58263714	
26581437	85236741	43172865
62854173	58327614	
68245713	53872164	
86427531	35781246	
68472513	53718264	68472513

In the first row of shunts * 12463578 must be transposed by 48763215 until the first row appears again.

In the second row of shunts * 26581437 must be transposed by 43172865 until the first row appears again.

In the third row of shunts * 68472513 is in coursing order, and the round block is completed when rounds turn up.

Here, then, is proof of the existence of round blocks in Leek Major, and what is true of Leek Major is true of any method, principle or system whatsoever.

It will be well to explain here and now that proof of round blocks in a method is not proof of construction; this can be proved by transposing the round block transposition rows of Leek Major in their consecutive order:

Round block rows	Transpositions.
48763215	48763215
43172865	67418523
68472513	53127864

It will be 'clear to the meanest intelligence' that 53127864 is not 12345678.

Proof of construction is finding the actual lead or division head which will produce as a PLAIN ROW, a row that has already been produced by a shunt, and then transposing all the lead or division heads of the shunts of the method or principle in their consecutive order.

For proof of this we will take the shunts of Leek Major, and I must explain that these are double bobs, i.e., Quick 3rd's and 6th's, but being made in the same row they count as a SINGLE Shunt.

The first double bob produces 58672314 at 9th change of Q. P.

The second double bob produces 67418523 at 9th change of Q. P.

The third double bob produces 87536421 at 11th change of Q. P.

To prove the truth of the above it will be sufficient to give the transpositions of the first and last division heads.

Shunts	Transpositions.
58672314	58672314
67418523	31754286
87536421	68472513
	57836142

And now, at long last, we have the real truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in the matter of method construction, and all the arbitrary definitions ever laid down are scattered to the four winds; for what is true of Leek is equally true of London Surprise Minor and London Surprise Major, or any method, principle or system that ever has been, or ever will be, constructed.

Leek Major contains three round blocks produced by shunts, and seven by plain hunting.

London Minor contains 16 round blocks produced by shunts, and eight by plain hunting.

London Major contains 22 round blocks produced by shunts, and ten by plain hunting.

I have no doubt, now that it has been pointed out to them, my opponents will be able to prove the fact for themselves, and indeed I should not be surprised if eventually they want to claim all the credit for this discovery for themselves.

The only extenuating circumstances that I can find for one of my opponents is the fact that he was one of the first members of the Legitimate Methods Committee. The importance of the position seems to have muddled his brain, and as years went on every arbitrary definition that he became a party to appeared to him as a natural law.

Before I leave the subject of Leek Major, I want to call the attention of the Exercise particularly to that method.

The method was sent to me early in the year of 1913 by my intimate friend, Mr. E. A. Ridgway, of Leek, Staffordshire, with a request that I should examine and give him my opinion of same. I did so, I found it was produced from the Quick Principle by three double bobs, that it had what I term reciprocal relationship of the opposite pairs of bells, 1-8, 2-7, 3-6, and 4-5; a characteristic of the Primary Principles and of the Treble Bob Principle, that the changes were alternate quadruple and triple throughout, that the places were all made the right way, i.e., at hand and back stroke, that the division heads and ends were in coursing order, that musically it was far in advance of anything previously discovered, the Plain Course containing both Queen's and Titlums, and being a double method the eighty changes of the plain course consist of forty rows, and these forty rows reversed, bringing up all the backward coursing rows, backward Queen's and backward Titlums, etc.

I also proved the method, and found that with the tenors together, if bobs only are used, there is only one false course-end 126543, if singles are used there are two extra 124635 and 125364, but if 6, 7, 8, are fixed the method then has a clean proof scale.

This unique method was 'murdered' as soon as published by a gentleman, who shall be nameless, declaring that it was a 'mongrel' method.

I, being the sponsor for the method and partly responsible for its publication, came out of my retirement, and asked the nameless one his reason for calling the method 'mongrel,' and I was informed that Principles could only have the following division heads and ends:

(1) head 12345678	(2) head 12345678
end 13254763	21436587

It only took me a very short time to prove the above definition of a Principle to be an arbitrary one, and later I published in the 'Bell News' and 'Ringing World' a method which could be produced with any one of the four possible rows as the first division head, i.e.,

24163857
68472513
75836142
31527486

Did the gentleman retract, or apologise to the author of Leek Major for having killed his firstborn method. Not he, people of his calibre rarely admit the possibility of their making a mistake, and like Felix the cat, 'who keeps on walking still,' so does he 'keep on talking and writing still,' without having the least knowledge of what I have now disclosed to the Exercise.

My life's labours may soon be at an end, but should the Exercise be desirous of learning more of what I am in a position to tell them, my knowledge, while I am spared, will be at their disposal, provided our Editor can find the space. On the other hand, if the Exercise is not interested, I shall go back to my retirement, from which I only emerged in 1913, to vindicate the legitimacy of Leek Major.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

DEAR Sir,—Would you permit me, through your columns, to ask all life members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association to send in their names and addresses to me not later than March 4th, 1925. The list needs revising, and those who write will be included in the new lists. Thanking you, Yours truly,

EDGAR GUISE, Hon. Secretary.

39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

A DATE TOUCH.

At Bramley, Yorks, on Sunday, February 22nd, for evening service, a date touch (1,925 changes) of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hour 8 mins.: W. Waterhouse 1, W. Popplewell (conductor) 2, T. Latimer 3, E. Redshaw 4, S. Wheatley 5, J. W. T. Holgate 6, J. Eastwood 7, H. Ward 8. Ringers of the 2nd and 5th are from Calverley; the tenor ringer from Pudsey; the others are members of the local company. This is the longest length rung on the bells, and longest length of Major by ringers of the treble, 4th and 7th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

INTERESTING GIFTS TO PRESTON TOWER.

A very successful meeting of the Preston Branch was held at Whittle- Woods, on Saturday, February 14th, about 30 members being present from Brindle, Brownedge, Chorley, Hoghton, Leyland Parish, Preston Parish, Penwortham, and the local tower, together with visitors from Standish. The methods rung ranged from Plain Bob to Superlative Surprise.

Tea, partaken of at the Bungalow Tea Rooms, was followed by the business meeting.

On taking the chair, Mr. E. R. Martin said he was pleased to welcome the visitors who were present.

After the transaction of the ordinary business, the Secretary read correspondence between Mr. Thomas Russam, of St. Martin's, Birmingham, and himself, in which Mr. Russam said he had in his possession a print of Preston Parish Church, as it was in 1821, together with two peal records, which he offered to give to the Preston ringers, as he thought they were the people who ought to have them.

The secretary wrote thanking him for his generous offer, and suggested that he (the secretary) should hand them over to the Preston ringers at this meeting, on Mr. Russam's behalf. To this Mr. Russam had agreed, and had forwarded the print and records.

The secretary then read to the meeting the records, which are as follows:—

'On Thursday morning, Sept. 8th, 1831 (being the day of the Coronation of his most Gracious Majesty King William the Fourth), the Society of Change Ringers of this town ascended the noble Gothic tower of the Parish Church and rung a true and complete peal of Bob Major, consisting of 5,120 harmonious changes, in three hours and ten minutes; conducted by Mr. John Chew. The following are the names and the bells to which each was placed:

Treble.—Mr. Thomas Croasdale.
Second.—Mr. Thomas Thompson.
Third.—Mr. Benjamin Anderton.
Fourth.—Mr. Richard Graham.
Fifth.—Mr. John Mayor.
Sixth.—Mr. John Smith.
Seventh.—Mr. John Chew.
Eighth.—Mr. John Simpson.

Weight of tenor 25 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs.'

'On Monday evening, January 30th, 1837, a select band of the Society of Change Ringers, Preston, accompanied by Mr. Wm. Bowker, of Manchester, and Mr. John Varley, of Croston, rung on the bells in the tower of the Parish Church, the celebrated ten course peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5,040 changes, in two hours and 59 minutes; conducted by Mr. Thomas Brodric. The following are the names and the bells to which each was placed:—

Treble.—Mr. Edward Halliwell.
Second.—Mr. Thomas Thompson.
Third.—Mr. Benjamin Anderton.
Fourth.—Mr. Richard Graham.
Fifth.—Mr. Thomas Brodric.
Sixth.—Mr. Samuel Leivesley.
Seventh.—Mr. William Bowker.
Eighth.—Mr. John Varley.

Weight of tenor 25 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs.'

The print was then handed round for the members' inspection, and all were highly pleased with it.

The Chairman said he would like to move that the best thanks of all present, and especially of the Preston ringers, be accorded to Mr. Russam for his gift. He added that he had a special interest in the records, as one of the ringers named was one of his ancestors, and no doubt others in and about Preston would also be relations of them.

The secretary hopes Mr. Russam will accept the vote of thanks through 'The Ringing World.'

It is the intention of the wardens and ringers that the souvenir should be framed, and a suitable footnote added, to show the origin of the gift, and then to put it in the Preston Church tower.

The print differs in some respects to the church as it is to-day, as in the picture the tower is surmounted by four pinnacles only, while to-day there is a spire as well as the pinnacles; also one of the entrances to the churchyard is different.

Another item of interest was then discussed, this being the question of educating the ringers on the lines suggested by a recent leader in 'The Ringing World.' After a fairly lengthy discussion, it was decided to ask Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Penwortham, to prepare a paper for the next meeting.

This closed the meeting, and most of the members went back to the tower.

The best thanks of the meeting were passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to the local men for having all in readiness.

F. R.

BIRTHDAY COMPLIMENTS.

It is pleasant to know that one is remembered by one's friends. On Tuesday, January 13th, at Southover Church, Lewes, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by R. W. E. Dawe 1, L. Boyes 2, D. White 3, B. Heasman 4, W. Boyes 5, A. J. Turner 6, R. J. Dawe (conductor) 7, G. Wilkinson 8. Some touches of Bob Major and Grandsire Caters were also rung, in which W. Ward, J. F. Steadman, A. Scrivens and R. Hide also took part.

The ringing was arranged by Mr. A. J. Turner as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (an old member of the tower), and the kindness thus shown is fully appreciated.

At Rotherfield, Sussex, on Tuesday, January 13th, at St. Denys Church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Hammond 1, S. Russell 2, E. Bishop, junr., 3, E. Bishop, senr., 4, C. Brasier (conductor) 5, F. Hammond 6, W. Rogers 7. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

At St. Mary's, Hornsey, N., on Feb. 16th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, in 46 mins.: W. G. Blee 1, T. G. Deal 2, J. G. Nash 3, A. Howell 4, H. Blee 5, C. H. Ross (conductor) 6. Rung in honour of the 21st birthday of the ringer of the treble, and also as a 19th birthday compliment to J. G. Nash.

At Hornsey, on January 19th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes), in 50 mins.: H. Blee 1, T. Langdon 2, J. G. Nash 3, A. Howell 4, A. Putland 5, C. H. Ross (conductor) 6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. A. Howell on his 70th birthday.

At Northampton, on Monday, January 12th, at St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples by: A. Stade 1, J. C. Dean 2, W. H. Austin 3, E. Sibley 4, W. R. Parker 5, W. Sturges 6, W. J. Dove (conductor) 7, J. Wilkins 8. Rung in honour of the tenor's birthday. First quarter in the method as conductor.

YOUNG RINGER'S DEATH

The funeral of Wilfred Stephenson, who died at the age of 17 years, took place at Goolse on Friday, Feb. 13th. The deceased was a ringer at the Parish Church, and a member of the Yorkshire Association. His brother ringers attended the funeral, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave, as a last token of respect, by H. Waud 1—2, C. W. King 3—4, H. Drake 5, L. Woodhead 6, M. Tate 7, J. Drake 8. Afterwards a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung at the Parish Church, with the bells half-muffled, with Messrs. J. Swingle, A. Jackson and J. T. Smith also taking part.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

A VARIATION OF C. MIDDLETON'S ORIGINAL PEAL.

By J. S. WILDE, Dunedin, N.Z.

5,024.	
23456	M W 4ths H
42356	—
32654	—
56423	—
347265	—
587324	—
427536	—
637452	—
257643	—
25634	In
62534	—
58234	—
56342	Before
35642	—

The calling of the last two parts of original completes the peal.

5,160 TREBLE BOB ROYAL.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

23456	M in & 5th's	H	35426	x
23564	x	1	24536	1
62354	x	2	43526	1
32465	1	x	25346	1
64235	1	x	24326	1
43652	x	2	54366	1
				2

First rung, in the Kent Variation, at St. Martin's, Epsom, by the Surrey Association on December 26th, conducted by C. W. Roberts.

BRISTOL.—At Clifton Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,280 changes): Mrs. W. Thomas 1, A. E. Parker 2, Mrs. R. J. Wilkins 3, C. Rawlings 4, W. H. Thomas 5, W. Parker 6, H. Burt 7, R. Clark (conductor) 8.—On Saturday, Feb. 14th, with bells muffled for the late Mr. Edgar Wills, who was killed by an avalanche in Switzerland, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Major: H. Pring 1, A. E. Reeves 2, W. H. Thomas 3, C. H. Gordon 4, W. A. Cave 5, J. A. Burford 6, J. R. Jones 7, R. Clark (conductor) 8.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

MORETON-IN-MARSH, GLOS.—On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 45 mins.: F. Jones 1, C. Grimes 2, J. Gardner 3, B. Thoms 4, N. Bryan 5, A. White 6, W. Large (conductor) 7, H. Hiatt 8.

LIVERPOOL.—At St. Nicholas' Church, on Sunday evening, Feb. 22nd, 808 Stedman Caters, for Divine service: W. Davies 1, W. Fisher 2, G. R. Newton (conductor) 3, C. S. Benwell 4, E. Bounphrey 5, T. Hammond 6, A. Lintott 1, T. C. Larkey 8, E. Caunce 9, A. Griffiths 10.

LONDON.—At All Hallows', Lombard Street, on Sunday, Feb. 22nd, for evensong, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: E. J. Trimmer 1, Miss E. E. Chapman 2, Mrs. F. I. Hairs 3, W. H. Hewett 4, W. J. Nudds 5, J. Carman 6, F. I. Hairs 7, J. Davis 8.

NORTHREPT, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, for evening service, 720 Grandsire Doubles (6 six-scores each called differently), in 25 mins.: E. L. Risebrow 1, J. W. J. Brown 2, C. Pooley (conductor) 3, H. F. Carter 4, F. N. Golden 5.

CHEDISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, for afternoon service, 720 Stedman Doubles: F. Peck 1, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 2, T. Crane 3, J. Howard 4, A. H. Took 5, J. Jolly 6. Also 240 Bob Minor.—At Halesworth, for evening service, 336 and 168 Stedman Triples.

KENSINGTON, W.—On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. E. Garrard (conductor) 1, F. A. V. Sinkins 2, R. Congreve-Pridgeon 3, W. E. Judd 4, P. L. Miles 5, H. G. Miles 6, C. W. Roberts 7, S. R. Tompsett (first quarter-peal) 8.

BRISTOL.—At Clifton Parish Church, on Sunday, Feb. 15th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Mrs. W. Thomas 1, C. Rawlings 2, Mrs. R. J. Wilkins 3, A. E. Parker 4, G. Price 5, J. Jones 6, R. Clark (conductor) 7, W. H. Thomas 8.

ROCK FERRY, CHESHIRE.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, for morning service, at St. Peter's Church, for morning service, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: T. Birch 1, R. Fitzsimmons 2, F. C. Amos 3, F. Banton 4, J. Hughes 5, W. Dean (first 720 in the method as conductor) 6.

PRESTON, LANCS.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, for evening service, 1,344 Double Norwich Major: S. Bleasdale 1, W. Sharples 2, J. Bimson 3, R. Armstrong 4, B. A. Knights (conductor) 5, F. Harwood 6, J. Gartside (longest length in method) 7, E. Armstrong 8.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, at St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,263 changes), in 52 mins., for evening service: A. Simpson 1, F. A. Salter 2, T. Kirkby 3, L. Chadburn 4, A. Leader 5, F. Bradley 6, F. Bailey 7, G. West 8, W. Hunt (conductor) 9, H. Cragg 10.

FRODSHAM.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, for evensong, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: T. Lightfoot 1, O. Valentine 2, N. M. Bibby 3, J. C. Bibby 4, G. H. Randles 5, F. Bibby (conductor) 6.

STEBBING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, for morning service, at St. Mary's Church, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob: A. Barker 1, J. T. Barker 2, F. Harrington 3, H. Emery 4, H. Young 5, E. Claydon (conductor) 6.—For evening service, 720 Plain Bob: A. Barker 1, J. T. Barker 2, H. C. Ruffel 3, H. Emery 4, F. Harrington 5, E. Claydon (conductor) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to ringer of treble.

SOUTH HACKNEY.—At the Church of St. John of Jerusalem, on Sunday, Feb. 8th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: J. Martin 1, F. Smith 2, F. Alloway 3, S. Wapshare 4, I. Attwater (conductor) 5, H. Hill 6, S. Penfold 7, F. Clark 8.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—For morning service, on Sunday, Feb. 8th, 504 (Thurstans') and 252 Stedman Triples: W. Harwood 1, W. A. Arnott 2, B. Thompson (conductor) 3, H. Hammond 4, H. Wright 5, W. Lee 6, E. Kett 7, H. Jarmy 8.—On Saturday, Feb. 7th, 791 Grandsire Caters: H. Hammond 1, W. Harwood 2, G. Clayton 3, W. A. Arnott 4, F. C. Lambert 5, D. Hayward 6, H. Wright 7, W. Lee 8, B. Thompson (conductor) 9, H. Jarmy 10. Rung for inaugural service of combined churches' eleven days' mission, addressed by the Lord Bishop of Norwich.

WILLINGHAM, CAMBS.—For evening service, on Sunday, Feb. 8th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: B. Huckell 1, F. Warrington (conductor) 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, J. T. Newington 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. H. Dring 6. This was the first 720 in the method on the bells.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, on the occasion of an organ recital given by Mr. Ponsoby (organist of Ely Cathedral), when there was a collection for the Bell Fund, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: B. Huckell 1, C. W. Cook 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, F. J. Cook 4, F. C. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

NORTH SHIELDS, NORTHUMBERLAND.—On Sunday, Feb. 8th, 864 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Robertson 1, J. George 2, E. Gosden 3, C. Waugh 4, J. Scott 5, G. Dix 6, A. Tully 7, E. Hern (conductor) 8. Longest length in method by ringers of 1st, 2nd and 3rd.—On Sunday, Feb. 15th, 672 Grandsire Triples: R. Gray (first touch of triples) 1, C. Waugh 2, E. Gosden 3, J. George 4, J. Scott 5, E. Hern 6, G. Dix (conductor) 7, A. Scheof 8.

ST. MARY'S RINGERS' GUILD, HANDSWORTH.

On Saturday, February 21st, the members of the above Guild held their third annual social and dance in the Endowed Schoolroom at Handsworth, Sheffield, where 150 pairs of feet tripped upon the floor in metric fashion, to the merry strains of music. The dancing was interspersed with song, solo, humour, and the ever-popular 'double-handed.' Mrs. S. Godden sang, in rich contralto, 'In an old-fashioned town,' and the 'old-fashioned' audience demanded an encore, the artist obliging by singing 'Absent.' Then there was a turn from the inimitable Mr. Bert Copley (humorist), who proved very popular as he rolled off an action song, 'The Cautious Lover.' And then Mr. M. Payling (baritone) followed with 'Mate o' Mine,' and, singularly, Mrs. Godden launched out in her next song with 'My Ship,' to be followed by Mr. Copley with the tickler, 'My word, you do look queer.' The old lady who sat next to the writer huddled over so much that her jewellery jingled like the chains of a cart horse, and she laughed until her ribs rattled. This artist could not be let go until he had obliged again, and again, with 'Won't yer, Bill?' and 'It may be so,' but in the writer's opinion, the forte stroke of the evening was given by this great humorist in a sentimental monologue, entitled 'Earthen Ware.' It was chock full of home-truths, and, being of rather a serious nature, no wonder it 'touched.' A course of refreshments was followed by a course of Grandsire Triples: Old Watkinson 1—2, Wilson 3—4, Godden 5—6; and, it's a fact, a 'Garth' completed the circle on 7—8. The wife of the 'Chief Baker' in Handsworth presided at the piano, accompanied by Messrs. Glossop (violin), and P. Mettram on the drum cymbals and 'oojahs,' the latter reminding one of a peal of 'one, two,' and one once heard and can never be forgotten. Messrs. Watkinson, Godden and Garth acted as M.C.s, and a fellow near the door took the Card-well, and then took his hook.

B. A. T.

POTTERY RINGERS' 'OFF DAY.'

On Saturday last, six members of the Stoke-on-Trent Association paid a visit to the mother town of the Potteries (Burslem) to attempt a peal of Treble Bob Minor at the Church of St. John. After ringing 25 minutes the tenor rope broke. The handy men of the band soon spliced this, and a fresh start was made. The peal was gliding along beautifully in the fifth method, when, after two hours' ringing, the rope of the second bell came tumbling down on the writer's shoulders. This put the 'tin hat' on the attempt, as it was now too late to make another start. One of the band attributed this ill-luck to the fact that had they got through this peal it would have been his thirteenth.

The local ringers have made application several times for a set of new ropes, but the Rector and churchwardens are evidently under the impression that bell ropes belong to the perpetual system.

The first stage of the journey home was by electric car, but before reaching Hanley it came to a dead stop, something having gone wrong with the mechanism, which held up quite a string of other cars as they arrived behind it. Eventually the ringers arrived at Hanley safely. Here the writer boarded a 'chara' for Milton. 'As soon as I got seated,' he says, 'I heard the conductor say to the driver, "Let her go steady, Jim." What this meant I was very soon to find out, as Jim had evidently forgotten the conductor's advice, for a noise was heard as of many pistols firing, and the motion of the 'chara' was very similar to a cake-walk movement. However, Jim pulled himself and the engine together, and I arrived at my destination. When I went into the house I was rash enough to tell my wife of my experiences, and she said, 'It serves you right, you shouldn't go gadding about to all these different towers. Why don't you be satisfied with ringing in your own belfry; you knock about like a lad of 18 or 20, instead of a man the wrong side of fifty.' So I replied that it was just the ringing that kept me young. She didn't say anything, but I could tell by the flicker of a smile creeping into her face that she thought there was some amount of truth in it.

J. E. W.

INCUMBENTS IN THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The Vicar of St. David's, Glandda, Bangor, until recently, came regularly in the belfry to ring; often three times on a Sunday, always twice, and once a week for practice. He also took part in a considerable number of peals. This he kept up for many years, and even now, at an advanced age, he occasionally ascends the belfry, if there are any visitors, or there is a chance of a touch of something out of the ordinary. The 'grand old man' is still absolutely keen. I refer to the Rev. T. Lewis Jones, M.A., President of the North Wales Association.

A. J. H.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Sunday, Feb. 1st, for service, 720 Duke of York: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, A. Woolston 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter (conductor) 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/8.

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ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 37th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 28th, at 6 o'clock, when the chair will be taken by Mr. Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., B.C.L. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30, Bishop Ryder's 2 to 2.40 p.m.—A. Paddon Smith, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this Association will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, 28th February. Bells will be available from 3 o'clock. Tea will be followed by the meeting at 6 o'clock, after evensong. Will Secretaries kindly advise Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, numbers attending from their towers.—Chas. Dean, Hon. Sec., 59, Wellesley Road, Croydon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —The next branch meeting will be held at Clitheroe on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Sec., 48, Shear Bank Terrace, Palmer Street, Blackburn.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Ottershaw on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Short service 4.45, followed by tea and business meeting. Subscriptions for 1925 now due.—J. B. Hessey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Queen Street, Chertsey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand. A good attendance is requested.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—Spring meeting at Carisbrook (8) on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5.—W. Upton, Hon. Dis. Sec., 10, Elm Grove, Newport, I.W.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting of the above will be held at Daybrook on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Tower open 2.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in Social Centre at 5 p.m.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, South Shore (6 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells ready 2.30. Business meeting 4.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., (altered address) 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Dunster Deanery Branch.—By the kind invitation of the Rev. H. P. Boulton (Rector) the annual meeting will be held at Exton on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting to follow in the Schoolroom.—G. Stacey, Hon. Local Sec., 6, Park Street, Minehead.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next ringing meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells (6) available at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec., 'Cambridge,' Wexham, Slough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Sapcote on Feb. 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. Important business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—W. Cope, Local Hon. Sec., Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch. —The next branch meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Ramsbottom, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are due. Reports to hand.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at West Ham on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall.—E. Butler, Dis. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells available from 2 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Farnworth, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting at Milton Ernest is postponed until Saturday, March 7th.—L. Turner, Dis. Sec., 7, High Street, Kempston, Beds.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. —The quarterly meeting will be held at Trowbridge on Saturday, March 7th. Bells (10) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5. Meeting directly after tea. If tea required, please write by March 3rd to F. Green, Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Finchley on Saturday, March 7th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 p.m., 1s. to members. Please advise me by March 4th all who require same. Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1925 are now due.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, March 7th. Bells (10) available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service in the Abbey at 4 p.m. Tea in the Hawdon Institute at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Applications for tea tickets to be made to Mr. W. A. Hall, 12, Newport Avenue, Brayton Road, Selby, not later than Wednesday, March 4th. For further details see circular.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.—A social will be held at St. Thomas' Church Room, Victoria Street, Bristol, on Saturday, March 7th. Commence 7 p.m. Mr. W. A. Cave will give explanations upon 'In and Out of Course.' Mr. W. Knight in the chair. All ringers and their friends heartily invited. — E. Guise, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Portishead on Saturday, March 7th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., at White Cot Dairy. Kindly let me know by Tuesday, March 3rd, if requiring tea. — E. E. Emm, School House, Evercreech, Bath, Somerset.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Wickwar on Saturday, March 7th. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. G. Phillips, Branch Hon. Sec., The Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—A district meeting will be held at Petersfield on Saturday, March 7th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5, in the Church Hall, to be followed by business meeting. Subscriptions for 1925 are now due. Will those requiring tea kindly inform me not later than Tuesday, March 3rd? All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Sec., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Harlestone on Saturday, March 7th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will all those who require tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, March 3rd?—T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church, Swansea, on Saturday, March 7th. Ringing from 3 p.m. (8 bells).—J. Hammond, Branch Sec., Garthmor, Neath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Parbold on Saturday, March 7th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. — Jas. Grounds, Sec., 8, School Lane, Standish.

APPLETON, BERKS.—The 107th anniversary of these bells will be celebrated on March 7th, instead of the 4th. Tower open all day. Dinner at the Tatched Tavern at 4 o'clock.—R. White.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A new peal board will be opened at Braintree on Saturday, March 7th, at 4 p.m. Any visiting ringers will be welcomed and a tea provided at a small charge. Will those intending to be present at the tea please notify Mr. W. H. Dyson, High Street, Braintree, not later than March 5th?

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Worksop on Saturday, March 7th. Bells available 1.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea provided at 1s. 4d. each. It is very necessary for those requiring tea to advise Mr. G. Hardwick, 20, Sparken Cottages, Worksop, not later than Thursday, March 5th. All ringers welcome. — T. W. Chown, Hon. Sec., 68, Canada Street, Sheffield.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meetings for March: St. Clement Danes, Sunday, the 1st, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 2nd, the 16th and the 30th, at 7.30.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18, Merrick Square, S.E.1.

STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Bucknall on Saturday, March 7th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m., followed by a committee meeting.—A. Vaughan, Hon. Sec., 10, High Street, Knutton, Staffs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at Chiswick on March 14th. Particulars later.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LADIES' GUILD (Midland District) will hold a quarterly meeting at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, March 14th. Bells available 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30. Business meeting after tea. Gentlemen cordially invited. All intending to be present kindly send in their names not later than Wednesday, March 11th, to Mrs. Groves, 43, Malvern Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North and South Forest Branch.—A meeting will be held at Lydney on Saturday, March 14th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at Feathers Hotel at 4.45 p.m., followed by business meeting. We would like to have the support of any members of other branches.—Edgar Guise, Gen. Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Walton-le-Dale on Saturday, March 14th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea, at 1s. 3d. a head, to all who notify Mr. A. E. Woodhouse, 104, Victoria Road, Walton-le-Dale, not later than Wednesday, March 11th. A good attendance is requested.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 14th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30. Tea and business meeting afterwards. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Leicester on Easter Monday. Nominations for the offices of president, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary should (vide rule 7) reach me one month before the meeting.—A. C. Wright, Hon. Sec., Strathallan, Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

WESTBURY, WILTS.—The Vicar and churchwardens give notice to change ringers that, owing to the fixing of a lantern and alterations to the tower roof, long peals cannot be rung until completion of the work.

WANTED.—Particulars of peals of bells in Roman Catholic churches. Will ringers please send me post-card giving number, weight and date of same in their district and oblige.—Chas. Draper, 25, Western Road, Derby.

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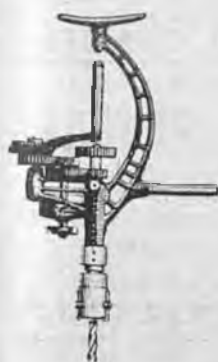
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