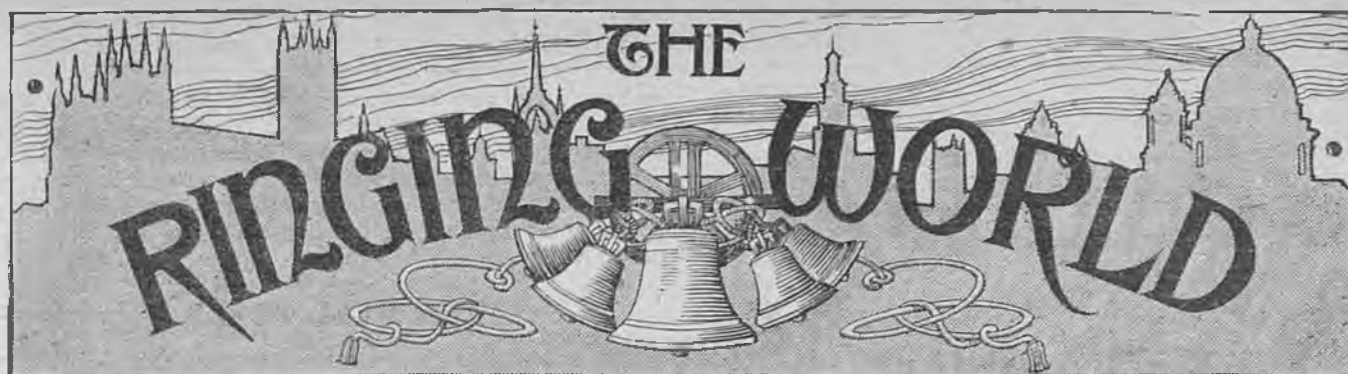




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INSTRUCTION OF BEGINNERS.

Recent letters which have appeared in our columns with regard to the instruction of beginners and the right course to follow from the elementary to the more advanced stages of the art, raise a subject which is of paramount importance to the Exercise. It has been discussed before, but it is well that it should be brought again to the front, because it is too often lost sight of. While individuals may disagree as to details, there ought not to be much difficulty in laying down a general course of instruction, which experience has shown to provide the best line of advance in the Art, and it might be possible for the Central Council to issue some simple handbook dealing with the question, which would put the 'curriculum' on to well defined lines, that could be recommended for general use.

In our opinion, however, there is even more immediate need for some sort of organised tuition to be instituted by the various associations. There is, it seems to us, need for a general scheme setting up a system of properly directed instruction, under efficient tutors, whose duties should not end when a new band has been taught to ring Doubles or simple Minor methods, but should be extended until they are led on to much more advanced stages, and have been taught, those of them who are capable of learning, something of the art of calling and conducting. There are few instances at present where instruction supplied officially by associations takes a band beyond the very fringe of change ringing, the result being often a waste of effort, because as soon as the instructor ceases his work, the band, left to their own devices, do not know sufficient to maintain either progress or interest.

Instruction of beginners has been a much too casual business. It is really an extremely important part of the work of the Exercise, and ought to be given a much more prominent place in the policy of our associations. There is no more reason why a Grandsire band should not be given the services of an instructor in Stedman, or a Bob Major company provided with a tutor for Double Norwich or Treble Bob, than that a company of 'stoney' ringers should be shown the first step in change ringing. Indeed, there is ample scope even among Treble Bob ringers for instructors to lead them on to the Surprise methods, and if associations are really anxious to raise the standard of their ringing, this is a plan which they could adopt with profit so far as progress is concerned. For the most part, ringers now have to shift for themselves and make their own opportunities of extending their accomplishments; but, if the Exercise would make

(Continued on page 50.)

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real progress, new means will have to be adopted. Once the associations showed the will to advance in this all-important work, the Council could then prepare and issue a manual which might prove of real service to ringers. In the meantime they might turn their energies to stirring up the indifferent associations to a realisation of the importance of the whole subject.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, January 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET, WESTMINSTER.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5091 CHANGES;

Tenor 26½ cwt.

WALTER AYRE Treble	WILLIAM H. HEWETT 6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 2	CECIL V. EBBERSON 7
JAMES E. DAVIS 3	ALBERT W. COLES 8
FRANK I. HAIRS 4	REUBEN SANDERS 9
CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 5	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE Tenor

Composed by EDGAR BENNETT.

Conducted by W. H. HEWETT

Arranged for Messrs. R. Richardson, of Surfleet, Lincs, and W. Ayre, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, and as a 50th birthday compliment to the tenorman.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

ALFRED H. WINCH Treble	JOHN H. WHITE 6
JOHN BEAMS 2	ALFRED J. TRAPPIST 7
GEORGE MARRINER 3	JOHN HOYLE 8
*LEONARD MANNERING 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE 9
ARTHUR C. OTWAY 5	ARTHUR DEAN Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. H. WINCH.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. Ring after meeting short for Treble Ten.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND
ST. MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON, GUILD.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in D.

HENRY G. MILES Treble	ALBERT V. SELBY 6
ARTHUR CUTMORE 2	*S. C. REEVE FLAXMAN 7
GEORGE W. FRAYNE 3	GILBERT H. HARDING 8
*FRANK V. H. SINKINS 4	ARCHIBALD F. HARRIS 9
CHARLES W. ROBERTS 5	WILLIAM E. JUDD Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor. Rung on the 152nd anniversary of the first peal on the old ring of eight which were erected in the year 1772, the tenor of the old ring being the 9th of the present ring.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LLANSTEPHAN, CARM.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 2, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 Six-scores.

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb.

*HENRY HULLOCK Treble	*GEORGE MORRIS 5
*EDMUND MORRIS 2	*THOMAS OWEN 6
DANIEL J. WILLIAMS 3	*CAMPBELL WILLIS 7
ALBERT J. PITMAN 4	*MARK SKINNER Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. PITMAN.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles on the bells. Rung with 7, 8, 8, covering. The ringer of 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 are local men; 3 and 7 from Gorseinon; 4 from Aberavon. Rung to celebrate the jubilee of the opening of the bells, and in memory of the late Mr. Henry Parnall, of London and Llanstephan, who presented the bells to the church; also in acknowledgment of the present Vicar's support in the introduction of change ringing.

ASHTFELD, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 11, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 1½ cwt. in F.

JOHN BEAMS... ..	Treble	ALBERT HARMAN	5
JOHN A. COLE	2	*GEORGE A. COOK	6
WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN... ..	3	JOHN HOYLE	7
GEORGE MARRINER	4	ALFRED H. POLLING... ..	Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

* First peal of Surprise on an inside bell, and first in the method.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLF.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

HERBERT E. AODSLEY	Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN	5
C.Q.M.S. G. GILBERT, R.E.	2	GEORGE MORRAD... ..	6
ISAAC G. SHADE	3	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M.	7
JAMES GEORGE	4	HENRY SIMMONS	Tenor

Conducted by J. H. CHEESMAN.

BOLSTERSTONE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 12, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 13 cwt.

LEONARD SHAW	Treble	ARCHIE BREARLEY	5
SAMUEL HARRISON	2	JAS. H. CHARLESWORTH	6
WM. A. WOOLER	3	JNO. R. BREARLEY	7
JNO. A. BREARLEY	4	WM. HARRISON	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. R. BREARLEY.

Rung on the 17th anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich on the bells, which was rung on Tuesday, January 12th, 1909, conducted by the late Mr. David Brearley, and in which five of the above ringers took part. The same peal was also rung on this occasion, Y.A.C.R., No. 1,253.

WITNEY, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WITNEY & WOODSTOCK DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 12, 1926, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

*CLARE WHEELER... ..	Treble	GEORGE BROOKS	5
LESLIE OLIFFE	2	JOHN MONK... ..	6
THOMAS BOLL	3	REV. CYRIL W. O. JENKYN	7
N. SPINDLOW	4	GEORGE HARRIS	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN MONK.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 12, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

EDWARD F. GOBEY	Treble	JAMES F. GEORGE	5
HENRY HARRISON	2	EDWARD C. GOBEY	6
ISAAC HUFON	3	HENRY BEARDSLEY	7
CECIL J. BAKER	4	WILLIAM THORNLEY	Tenor

Conducted by E. C. GOBEY.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mrs. Mary Moss, aged 87, mother of the ex-Mayor (Alderman Horace Moss), who for many years took great interest in St. Mary's Parish Church, especially the choir and ringers, and who was interred on the above date at the Park Cemetery.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.—On January 13th, 720 Carlisle Surprise: A. E. Austin 1, W. A. Tack 2, F. E. Haynes 3, Miss K. Willees 4, E. H. Kinch 5, R. Howard (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by all.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 12, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 10 cwt.

EDWARD LANCASTER	Treble	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE	5
WILLIAM JUDD	2	HARRY KILBY	6
GEORGE KILBY	3	ARTHUR HARDING	7
CECIL EBBERTSON	4	JAMES E. DAVIS	Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by JAMES E. DAVIS.

DERBY.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
Tenor 30 cwt.

THOMAS MEREDITH	Treble	JOSEPH BAILEY	5
JOHN HENRY SWINFIELD	2	RICHARD WM. DRAGE... ..	6
MAURICE SWINFIELD	3	JAMES PAGETT	7
CHARLES DRAPER	4	JAMES GEORGE	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JAMES PAGETT.

First peal in the method on the bells. Longest length on the bells. A birthday compliment to the 5th ringer.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN.

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 18½ cwt.

SIDNEY T. HOLT	Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD	5
ROBERT G. KNOWLES	2	*WILLIAM LEWIS... ..	6
*JAMES HEMMING	3	*JOFFREY J. HEMMING	7
JOHN J. JEFFRIES	4	CHARLES CAMM	Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

SIDNEY WYATT	Treble	DAVID G. TAYLOR	5
*GEORGE S. COLES	2	PERCY MERSON	6
ALFRED J. WYATT	3	THOMAS R. HENSHER... ..	7
*ARTHUR W. HAYWARD	4	JAMES HUNT... ..	Tenor

Composed by E. BARNETT.

Conducted by JAMES HUNT.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Double Norwich.

UCKFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.			
ROBERT J. DAWE	Treble	FRANK BENNETT	5
*HAROLD S. HODDEN... ..	2	GEORGE H. SHUKER	6
*PHILIP S. THOMPSON	3	ALFRED J. TURNER	7
HERBERT RANN... ..	4	JAMES A. HART	Tenor

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

* First peal in the method.

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FRIENDS
TO SUPPORT

THE RINGING
WORLD

BY
TAKING
A COPY
EVERY
WEEK

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF CRAYFORD LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ERNEST NOY... .. Treble	HERBERT E. AODSLEY ... 5
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES 6
FREDERICK A. COLEY... .. 3	EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 7
C.S.M. JAMES BENNETT ... 4	ELWIN BARNETT, SEN.... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

This is the first peal in the method ever rung.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIAM HODGETTS Treble	WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD ... 5
JOSEPH J. ALLEN 2	FRANCIS A. SMITH 6
PERCY PARLOW 3	WILLIAM SEELEY 7
WALTER H. L. BUCKINGHAM 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by M. F. R. HIBBERT.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Parlow. This composition, the author's odd and even five-part, is now rung for the first time.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

C.Q.M.S.G. GILBERT, R.E. Treble	WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN... 5
CHARLES A. BURDOCK... .. 2	GEORGE W. STEERE 6
OLIVER SIPPETTS... .. 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE... .. 7
JOHN A. COLE 4	ALFRED H. POLLING Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

First peal in the method by all the band except ringers of 3rd and tenor.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(St. Stephen's Guild.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

REGINALD G. GILBERT Treble	WILLIAM KNIGHT... .. 5
EDWIN J. RIDLER... .. 2	HENRY PRING 6
E. GEORGE TREW 3	JOHN A. BURFORD 7
ALFRED E. REEVES 4	WILLIAM A. CAVE Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by WM. A. CAVE.

The ringers of the 2nd and 3rd had not previously struck a blow in the method, and the conductor had not called a bob.

PENISTONE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

EDWARD ROBBINS Treble	JOHN HOLMAN 5
GEORGE LEWIS 2	BERNARD DITCHER 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL... .. 7
ARTHUR CRAVEN 4	JOHN FLINT Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

First Surprise peal on the bells.

PORT SUNLIGHT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIRRAL BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

*THOMAS BIRCH Treble	THOMAS A. ROGERS 5
WALTER J. BATTLE 2	WILLIAM DEAN 6
SYDNEY F. BARNES 3	HERBERT LUDKIN 7
†FREDERICK C. AMOS 4	JOHN COOKE Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by J. COOKE.

* First peal. † First peal of Major, and first attempt. First peal of Major as conductor.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

EDWARD KEMP Treble	THOMAS LINCOLN... .. 5
WILLIAM KEEBLE 2	WALTER ARNOLD... .. 6
HENRY HEAD 3	JOHN WOOD 7
EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM ... 4	ARTHUR HEAD Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 176). Conducted by WM. KEEBLE

ABERAVON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*JOHN HAMMOND... .. Treble	ALFRED TALBOT... .. 5
*JOHN E. BLONHAM 2	FRED CHAMBERLAIN 6
ERNEST SMITH 3	*HARRY BOYCE 7
JOHN W. JONES 4	ALBERT J. PITMAN Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by A. J. PITMAN.

* First peal of Kent Major. First peal of Kent Major on the bells. First 'touch' as conductor in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BRAMFORD, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, January 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Double Oxford, Double Court, Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob, and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. in G

ALBERT GYNS Treble	HARRY J. MEE 4
WALTER BROWN 2	CHARLES F. MEE 5
LESLIE E. RIVERS 3	EDGAR RIVERS Tenor

Conducted by E. RIVERS.

DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Monday, January 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently.

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*ARTHUR COMMINS Treble	HARRY GIBBARD 4
FRANK TAYLOR 2	*HARRY WILLERTON 5
*HERBERT TAYLOR 3	ARTHUR REGGALL Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR REGGALL.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor. Ringers of 1st and 4th were proposed members before starting. * First peal. First peal as conductor. Also first peal on the bells by entirely local band.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—At the Parish Church of St. Mary, for evensong, on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor; 1. Haddon 1. W. Redrup 2. L. Bells 3. W. H. Joiner 4. F. Starr 5. A. Mburu (conductor) 6.

ICKLETON, CAMBS.—At the Parish Church, on Thursday, Dec. 24th, to usher in Christmas, a quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (1,320 changes), in 50 mins.: R. Clements 1, G. Lilley 2, P. Webb (conductor) 3, W. Hutley 4, W. Flitton 5, A. G. Lilley 6. First quarter in the method by all.

CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

With ten different callings.

Tenor 20 cwt.

*WILLIAM T. WEBBER ... Treble	†HERBERT W. PEARCE ... 4
RONALD G. BECK ... 2	REGINALD F. BECK ... 5
†FRED A. TARGETT ... 3	THOMAS SNELL ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles.

DAVENHAM, CHESHIRE.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 14 cwt.

ARTHUR HANN ... Treble	*ALBERT SMITH ... 4
JOHN S. ROYLE ... 2	ALBERT BOOTH ... 5
HARRY W. HOWARD ... 3	HARRY PARKER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

* First peal, and elected a member of the Guild before commencing. Rung as a birthday compliment to J. S. Royle.

NEWINGTON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 15, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 12 cwt, 14 lb. in F.

SAM E. TAYLOR ... Treble	MUS. V. A. JARRETT, R.E. ... 4
CECIL E. BISHOP ... 2	WILLIAM J. WALKER ... 5
C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... 3	C.Q.M.S.G. GILBERT, R.E. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT, R.E.

This was Mr. Jarrett's first peal of Minor for twelve years.

HONINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

FRED WILBY ... Treble	GEORGE LOVE ... 4
FRED OSWICK ... 2	TIM HAMMOND ... 5
WILLIAM LOVE ... 3	BERT GOGLE ... Tenor

Conducted by BERT GOGLE.

Rung in commemoration of Mr. T. Hammond's completion of 40 years as a ringer at Honingham.

BUTTERWICK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 10 cwt.

FRANK DEWEY ... Treble	WILLIAM E. CLARKE ... 4
*FREDERICK LEGGOITT ... 2	GEORGE COLEMAN ... 5
JOHN PHILLIPS ... 3	ARTHUR H. PALMER ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. PALMER.

* First peal in four methods. First peal of Minor on the bells, and first for 30 years. Also first since the bells were rehung and augmented to six.

RAYNE, ESSEX.—At All Saints' Church, on Nov. 15th, for even-song, 720 Grandsire Doubles: G. Barnard 1, A. Redgwell 2, Basil Redgwell 3, J. Gentry 4, H. Redgwell (conductor) 5, J. Hart 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. F. Yuill for 22 years choirmaster.

RINGSTEAD, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 16, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently.

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK KIRK ... Treble	GEORGE H. ROBERTS ... 4
GEORGE JEFFS, JUN. ... 2	LESLIE GROOM ... 5
WILLIAM J. GILBERT ... 3	FRANCIS KIRK ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANCIS KIRK.

First peal as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor, whose 19th birthday occurred on Monday, January 18th. The ringer of the 3rd is in his 75th year.

SILVERDALE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 16, 1926, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM ROBINSON ... Treble	WILLIAM ATKINSON ... 4
*WILFRED BOLTON ... 2	*THOMAS F. TAYLOR ... 5
*THOMAS J. CLEMENT ... 3	EDWIN JENNINGS ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM ROBINSON.

* First peal. The ringers of the 2nd and 5th are members of the local band, and were elected members of the association before the peal; 3rd, 4th and tenor ringers are from Kendal, and of treble from Ambleside.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 17, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent of Woodbine and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

*FRED H. CRAWLEY ... Treble	WALTER LONGMAN ... 4
*GEORGE H. CRAWLEY ... 2	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 5
*ALBERT CRAWLEY ... 3	*HARRY PARKER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

* First peal in four methods. First peal in four methods on the bells.

HELD OVER.

We regret that, owing to the unusual demands on our space this week, we are compelled to hold over Mr. J. A. Trollope's usual 'Notes by the Way,' and letters to the Editor.

PRESENTATION OF PEAL RECORD IN MACCLESFIELD.

After the watch-night service on New Year's Eve, the Vicar (the Rev. H. E. Stevens) attended in the belfry to present a record of the last twenty peals which had been rung in the tower, which he had had printed and framed at his own expense. He said how pleased he was to present the record to be hung in the belfry, and as that would be his last time in the belfry he thanked the ringers for their cordial and hearty co-operation in the eleven years he had been Vicar. He was leaving to take up work as Vicar of Billesden, in Leicestershire, where he was to be instituted and inducted on the following Tuesday, January 5th, and he assured the ringers that he should never forget the eleven happy years he had spent in Macclesfield.

On Tuesday, January 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Cater's (1,260 changes) was rung in 53 minutes, in honour of his institution by the following: J. Burgess 1, E. Atkin 2, W. Wamsley (conductor) 3, G. Bottomley 4, S. Dean 5, H. Davenport 6, T. Mottershead 7, J. Westwood 8, J. Norbury 9, J. V. Norbury 10.

NOW ON SALE.

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FORTY-EIGHT PAGES OF INSTRUCTIVE MATTER.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.

FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER.

The 'Dinner of the West,' organised by Bristol United Guilds, was held at Bristol on Saturday, January 9th. The Guilds were again fortunate in having the valuable help of Mr. W. S. Emery, of the Medical Department, Bristol University, and, through his good offices, the arrangements were augmented by his having obtained from the Bristol University authorities permission for ticket holders to view the new buildings and inspect and ring the 'Great George' bell, weighing 9½ tons. This privilege was greatly appreciated by approximately 120 of the guests. The party went straight to the belfry, and found Mr. Roberts, the chief engineer, waiting to extend a cordial reception and assist in the party's happiness. The honorary secretary was highly amused to find that, having detailed a big heavy man to ring the bell, 'little ladies' were having a 'pull.' Whilst the bell was swinging, a press photographer took a picture of the party who surrounded the great mass of moving metal. After a good long stay with 'Great George,' which was much admired, he was silenced and bidden 'adieu.' The rest of the University buildings were viewed with interest, and, in the case of the beautiful hall, with 'awe.'

Ringers afterwards made their way to the various towers in the city to find the usual disappointments (not due to the lack of organisation and satisfactory alternatives. Ringing took place until 6 p.m., and even then some of the visitors seemed loath to leave the bells and consequently delayed the dinner, which was served at the Grand Hotel. During the meal, which was splendidly served, the party were entertained with music provided by Mr. George Lloyd and Mr. Alec Clark, who were later engaged in the Grand ballroom.

The chairman was Mr. W. Knight, and the visitors included the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild), Mr. John D. Matthews (Master of the Royal Cumberland Youths), Mr. Chas. Burden (College Youths), Mr. H. Walker and Miss Kathleen Jackson (Yorkshire Association), Miss E. Ennn (Devonshire Guild), Messrs. J. T. Dyke (Secretary), E. E. Burgess, J. Hunt and G. Stacey (Bath and Wells Association), Messrs. S. Jones (Newport), J. W. Jones (Secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), S. R. Roper (Croydon), W. J. Nevard (Essex), J. Austin, H. Beckett and E. Davis (Gloucester), C. Gardiner and S. Hopper (Swindon), Cecil J. Matthews, J. Sparrow and W. J. Hazell (London), W. Farley (Willis), J. Dart (London), A. Wright (Painswick), and many ringers from Bath and surrounding districts.

The Chairman gave the loyal toast, and remarked that it was a great gratification to him and his colleagues to see such a fine gathering. He believed it was a record as far as members went. The success of those annual meetings was entirely due to the indefatigable energy of the hon. secretary, Mr. Edgar Guise, backed with a hard-working committee, and he (the speaker) did not know how they would get on without their secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from the Lord Bishop of Bristol and many church dignitaries of the West. An apology was also read from Sir Thomas Inskip, Solicitor-General, who, it is hoped, may attend the sixth annual dinner. Apologies from ringers showed that those unable to attend were thinking and wishing success to the West.

A GIFT FOR THE GUILDS.

Mr. E. G. Leaker (past chairman) then presented to the Guilds a chairman's hammer, made from oak which was, in the 15th century, used for roofing in Temple Church (the Leaning Tower).

The Chairman, accepting the gift, thanked Mr. Leaker, and humorously expressed the hope that it would not be used for what it was intended. It is a handsomely carved gavel.

The Chairman then proposed the toast of 'The Church,' and said we now had preachers of the Church of England and the Free Churches speaking in each other's pulpits, and he hoped that one day there would be the union of churches into one great Brotherhood. He asked that all ringers should take an interest in their church. His experience with the clergy was that—with one or two exceptions—their sympathy towards ringers depended upon the amount of interest the ringers took in the church. He coupled with the toast the name of the Rev. M. Paterson, Vicar of St. Thomas's, City, who had done so much for the Bristol United Ringing Guilds. The Vicar of St. Thomas's was always prepared to help the Guilds, and without his help in the past the work of the committee would have been very difficult.

The Rev. M. Paterson, responding, said that it had been said that clergy did not know what men were (laughter), but he must be an exception, as not only did he know his ringers, he actually knew them by their nicknames, such as 'Bolshevik Sam' and 'My Enemy.' He regarded his friendship with his ringers as most important in his life. It began the day when he was walking with trembling knees towards the church to be inducted, but his courage returned when, nearing the church, the bells of St. Thomas's struck out. He was not nervous after that (laughter). He felt that the men in the belfry were doing good service. He found a remarkable spirit amongst them, and also several virtues that might well be copied by others. The relations between the clergy and ringers should be the closest in the work of the Church. Many of the

ringers were most devoted Churchmen, and the clergy wanted them to take an even greater share in the work and services of the churches to which they belong. The clergy had invaded the belfries and wanted the ringers, not singly, but as a body, to invade the churches (applause).

Mr. J. T. Dyke proposed 'The Bristol United Ringing Guilds.' He said that whenever he came to Bristol he was sure of a hearty welcome. This welcome was extended to all ringers, whether they were Surprise ringers, or even only rounds ringers. He also paid a compliment to Bristol in respect of good ringers and conductors, and he made special comment upon the fact that they were not confined to one tower, or even to two or three. The reason for that lay in the fact of the word 'United.' Bristol, he said, was also showing the progress that was being made, and was in front of many places. Bristol was a city in which ringers from other places were always welcome, and had taken a lead in helping and encouraging all ringers in their work. He coupled with this toast the name of Mr. Guise (hon. secretary of the United Guilds), to whose energetic work to further the interests of ringing in the West he paid tribute.

Following the drinking of the toast, musical honours were accorded to Mr. E. Guise, and cheers were also given for Mrs. Guise. When these had subsided there was a call for a cheer for 'all the little Guises,' but there is only one. By this time, unfortunately, Mr. Guise had had to leave the festivities, but his response had been left in the hands of the vice-chairman (Mr. H. J. Way), who stated that Mr. Guise, on behalf of his committee, expressed thanks to those whose continued help made their efforts successful. He also urged that the facilities for cheaper travelling should be persistently forced. The efforts during the past few months had arisen from the Bristol United Ringing Guilds, and the question should be kept to the front.

'The Visitors' was proposed by the Vice-Chairman, who said it was a great compliment to the Bristol Guilds to find that they had received as visitors that night members of the Central Council, College Youths, Cumberland Youths, Yorkshire Association, Bath and Wells, Essex Association and other bodies. He was very gratified to find that the visitors had made such long journeys to visit Bristol, and he hoped that their visit would be a very enjoyable one. He coupled the names of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn and Mr. J. D. Matthews with that toast.

A PRICELESS ART.

Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, responding, said that it was largely due to the country enthusiasts that the priceless art of ringing was kept going. It seemed to him that change ringing and all that the present gathering stood for, was intended to preserve what he believed to be the British way of using church bells. They stood between the animal way, though he was not lacking in admiration for good, straight ringing, and the mechanical. He did not think there was anything else in the whole world like it in its social influence. Long might the Guilds stand for it, and such social gatherings as that present be held in order to preserve, strengthen and increase the science and art of change ringing.

Mr. J. D. Matthews, also responding, remarked how different it was in Bristol now to what it was in the days when he resided there. He had, however, the satisfaction of knowing, that in the advance of the West he was instrumental, because he was one of the band that rang the first peal of Double Norwich Caters and the first peal of Surprise. He was agreeably surprised to find the present day state of things, and those who, as he could, remembered the old 'rats and mice' day, would appreciate what had been done and what was being done by the present day ringers in Bristol to uplift the art and science of change ringing (applause).

Rev. R. H. Whitford proposed the toast of 'The Press,' and made comment upon the Shakespearean quotation, beneath the toast, 'I rather would have been his hangman,' saying he would be the last person in the world that would hang an editor, especially the editor of 'The Ringing World.' He thought that the editor of 'The Ringing World' was too generous in praising the clergy for giving addresses at ringers' meetings, and felt that they (the clergy) did not deserve his praise, as they were only doing what he thought was their duty. He was very pleased with the articles published in 'The Ringing World,' and felt quite sure that the editor was doing his best for the Exercise (applause).

Mr. James Hunt, of Taunton, spoke, in the unavoidable absence of the editor of 'The Ringing World.' He thought that the reference in 'The Ringing World' to the clergy attending the meetings was a compliment to those clergy who were interesting themselves in ringing and to induce all ringers to get their own clergy interested also. The editor, Mr. Hunt said, had recently done the Exercise a great service in making prominent 'Spliced Methods.' The book was a masterpiece of change ringing, and every change ringer should immediately become possessor of a copy.

Toasting 'The Artists,' Mr. F. G. Leaker said he thought after the first annual dinner the committee had made a great mistake in aiming at so high a standard, because he was afraid it could not be maintained, but he had to admit a wrong conception. It had gone higher every year. He thanked Mr. Spurrier, churchwarden of St. Thomas's, for the active interest he had displayed in securing, by

kind permission of the Prince's Theatre, a flying visit of Messrs. Teddy Brogden and Walter Outhwaite, the dame and demon respectively of the Prince's Theatre pantomime, whose items will long remain a happy memory. They were 'just great.' He also thanked Mr. William Snowden and Mr. Charles Read (accompanist). The latter one of the busiest men in Bristol's musical circles. To both they owed an immense debt of gratitude, for so willingly giving their services year after year.

The following also contributed to the delightful musical items: Miss Ivy Baker (contralto), Miss Stella Walters (elocutionist), Mr. Fred Esbester (in some Bransby Williams' character studies), Mr. G. Palmer (violin solos), and the Guilds' great friend, Mr. Herbert Spiller, the baritone of whom Bristol is so justly proud. That every artist was recalled for an 'extra' conveys the true sense of the company's appreciation.—Mr. Read responded to the toast.

The proceedings concluded with 'Auld Lang Syne.'

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. RECORD YEAR DESPITE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of Nottingham District was held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, January 2nd, and was attended by the vice-president (Mr. A. Coppock), Mr. F. Blood (hon. local secretary), Mr. F. W. Bailey (a member of the committee), Mr. H. Walker (Doncaster), and representatives from Beeston, Bottesford, Greasley, Ilkeston, St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Nottingham, Lenton. Ringing commenced about 4 p.m., and the meeting was held in the tower at 6 p.m., the vice-president being in the chair.

The secretary's report was read, and, after several members had offered congratulations on the successful condition of the district, and warmly praised the local secretary for his work.—The report was passed.

The Secretary stated that the year had again been a record as regards members and financially. Eleven monthly and quarterly meetings had been held, and the attendance at some was good, but at others not very encouraging. He therefore appealed to the members to try and make the present year a record for attendance at these gatherings. It was with regret the Wollaton meeting was abandoned owing to the death of Queen Alexandra, but the permission still held good, so he trusted they would pay this promised visit early in the new year. They had lost by death two ordinary members in Mr. E. Foster (Bulwell) and Mr. G. Oldham (late of Beeston), also two old hon. members in Mr. G. H. Johnson and Mr. J. Woolley. The association was represented at three out of the four funerals. The position of the district now stood as follows:

Hon. members 34, a nett increase of 3; ringing members 205, a nett increase of 16. In addition to the above, three life members were also elected in peal attempts. Total receipts amounted to £25 2s. 6d., and the hon. local secretary's expenses to £1 3s., leaving a balance on the year of £23 19s. 6d. Eleven members were in arrears on December 31st, 1925. The receipts did not include the hon. members' subscription obtained through the president (Ald. R. B. Chambers), which, when added to the above, would reach nearly £30, which was a record for the district. During the secretary's three years of office the receipts had risen from £12. He asked the members seriously to consider the question, now that the association was in a good financial position, of making some allowance to the local secretaries, on whom depended the success or failure of the branches. The secretaries had to incur expenses out of their own pockets, and were not always in a position to afford the expenses of seeing others' pleasures assured. Having now held the position three years, he would be very grateful to be relieved of the duties, as he felt it might do good to have a change.

The secretary, having been induced to undertake office for another year, the officers were re-elected en bloc.

It is a matter of regret that so little enthusiasm was displayed amongst the members that there were only fifteen present out of a membership of 200; representing seven towers out of 21 affiliated. The secretary appeals to the members to assist during the present year to alter this state of things and give the officers more encouragement.

LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT.

A successful meeting of the Loughborough District was held at Loughborough on January 9th, when some 80 ringers from various parts of the country sat down to tea. The bells of the Parish Church and at the bell foundry were utilised during the afternoon and evening, some admirably struck touches on Stedman Caters and Kent Treble Bob Royal being brought round. The Rev. — Street acted as chairman at the business meeting, in the place of Canon Briggs, who was away through illness. Two new members were elected, viz.: Mr. Allen W. Rands, of Hugglescote, and Miss B. M. Bailey, of Loughborough.

Canon Briggs was again elected as president, Mr. J. Saddington as hon. district secretary, and Mr. J. H. Dean, of Hugglescote, and David Collins, Loughborough, on the committee.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the district secretary for his past services, also to the Rector and to Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. for their kind permission to ring and for enabling the visitors to look round the foundry.

Hugglescote was chosen as the next place of meeting.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

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**HANDBELLS
In Sets of any number.**

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Monmouthshire town of Usk is now in possession of a fine new ring of eight bells which Messrs. Taylor and Co. have supplied, by recasting the old six and adding two trebles. They were dedicated on January 15th by the Bishop of the Diocese. The peal, which has been replaced, was cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1715.

Mr. E. H. Lewis, as president of the West of Scotland Iron and Steel Institute, was in the chair at the annual dinner of the organisation in Glasgow on January 15th, when the guests included Sir John Gilmour, Secretary of State for Scotland. Mr. A. A. Hughes (of the Whitechapel Foundry) and Mrs. Hughes were among the party of 330, and Mrs. Hughes delighted the company with her handbell selections, playing with marvellous skill, 'Land of Hope and Glory,' 'Solvieg's Song' and 'Annie Laurie.'

The Rev. Bernard Oliver Francis Heywood, M.A., Vicar of Leeds, has been appointed to the Bishopric of Southwell, vacant by the death of the Rt. Rev. Sir Edwyn Hoskyns. The new Bishop was a cousin of the late Sir Arthur Heywood, and he was last year's guest of honour at the Snowdon Memorial Dinner at Leeds. His presence resulted in a renewal of interest in the need for bell restoration at Leeds Parish Church, and it is to be hoped that his departure will not result in losing sight of the necessity for the work.

A conducting performance of more than ordinary interest, and, may we say, merit, was that achieved at Bushey, Herts, on Saturday, when Mr. Maurice Hibbert called an 'odd and even' bob peal of Stedman Triples from the tenor. This peal is in five equal parts, has 400 calls, and this is the first time it has been rung. It is the composition of Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland.

A peal is to be attempted on Saturday at Croyland Abbey, Lincs, on the famous old bells which were heard both near and far when broadcast quite recently.

In reference to the peal rung at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, last Saturday, it is interesting to note that it was rung on the 152nd anniversary of the first peal on the old ring of eight bells, which hung in the old tower before the present handsome steeple was built, and which were placed there in 1772. When the new tower was erected and the bells augmented to ten, all the old peal boards were restored and hung in the ringing chamber. Among them is one recording this ancient performance, worded as follows: 'Sunday, Jan. 16th, 1774. The Society of London Youths rang in this steeple the true and complete peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples, in 3 hours and 10 minutes, it being the first complete peal ever rung on these bells. Performed by: Edward Butler treble, Jno. Frazier 2, Wm. Hadden 3, Thos. Groves 4, Fras. Beale 5, David Davis 6, Edwd. Fagin 7, Jno. Tofteld tenor. The peal was called by Jno. Frazier. Mr. Thos. Stokes, Mr. Jno. Fossbrook, churchwardens.'

The St. James's Society rang the first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill (one of the London churches where little ringing is now done), on Jan. 24th, 1857. Some well-known men of that day took part, including Cocter, Mat. Wood, Stockham, Nelmes and Haworth. A peal of 5094 Grandsire Caters was rung here on Jan. 28th, 1751.

By a coincidence two false peals of more than ordinary length were rung in Gloucestershire on Jan. 25th, 1842. One was 8105 Stedman Caters at Painswick, and the other 8081 Grandsire Caters at Stroud.

On Jan. 26th, 1735, a peal of 10,080 'Bob Majors' was rung in 6 hrs. 40 mins. at Fulham, by the Fulham Youths. The anniversary of a 10,386 Grandsire Caters, rung at Kingston, Surrey, occurs on Jan. 27th. This peal was rung in the year 1803.

One hundred and ten years ago next Thursday, was rung at Richmond, Surrey, 'a complete Peal of real Double Eight in. 5040 changes, with two bobs in a lead, as many 7th's as 2nd's, with bobs behind and before alternately.' There must have been a good band, who kept well together for some time, at this church about that period, for seven of the company who rang in the peal referred to, took part in 8448 Oxford Treble Bob on the same bells in December, 1810, over five years before, and five of those in the 1810 peal rang in the first peal of Stedman Triples on the bells in 1824. The conductor of all three of these peals was George Cole.

THE GRAMOPHONE AND CHANGE RINGING

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Although I have quite recently made inquiries from all the producers of records known to me, I have so far found it impossible to obtain any gramophone records of actual change ringing. There are, however, records by the Gramophone Company ('His Master's Voice' series) of a few leads of Grandsire Caters, and also of some call changes, both tapped on the Rouneville carillon. In this respect, the gramophone appears to be at a disadvantage, as compared with 'wireless,' the latter having given the public at least occasional displays of scientific change ringing.

Do any of your readers know if any gramophone records of actual change ringing are to be obtained? And if so, might I suggest it would be of interest to have the information through the medium of your columns?—Yours very truly,

G. P. BURTON.

COVENTRY BELLS' INQUIRY.

(Continued from page 42.)

WELL-KNOWN RINGERS GIVE EVIDENCE.

Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, next gave evidence. He said that his firm were responsible for casting the present bells in 1774. He had made a great study of bells and their tones, going back over a long period. He certainly did not agree that these bells were cast at the worst period, so much depended on the founders. As a matter of fact, the 18th century was better than the 17th.

Asked by the Chancellor as to what was the worst period, he replied that the first half of the last century was.

In further examination he said that at the same period they had cast three very similar peals to the one in question, viz., Steepney, Rotherham and Wakefield, all considered good peals; but he thought Coventry still better, and undoubtedly a very fine peal.

The Chancellor: Your firm have cast a number of peals of different kinds?

Mr. Hughes: Yes, we have cast many hundreds of peals, some vary, certain peals stand out, and always have done so. He had always heard Coventry bells well spoken of.

Further evidence was then given as to the history of the bells, and Mr. Hughes was examined as to his report. He said that he had recently inspected the bells, and closely checked their 'tap-tones' with the aid of specially tested forks. He certainly could not agree with Drs. Brazil and Starnier. As an old peal the bells were remarkably in tune. He pointed out that only the 9th had any appreciable error, viz., 0.25 of a tone, or 5½ vibrations per second out in a total of 308. So much for the main tones. He then described the 'hum-notes.' These were not based upon the octave, but varied from a seventh to an augmented seventh. As regards the 'fundamentals,' the faults were quite negligible, and as to the 'hum-notes,' they could, if it were desired to bring them into accord with present foundry practice, be readily adjusted by the modern tuning machine.

Asked what he would propose, he said it would be better to have the four new bells cast to agree with the old ten, that was, cast upon the old line, with a flat seventh 'hum-note.' In further reply, he said that he thought that the latter had been adopted because in change ringing it was more pleasing to the ear. Nothing useful would be effected by the proposed recasting.

The Chancellor: Would there be an improvement if the peal were recast for chiming purposes only?

Mr. Hughes: Some improvement might be noticed by those with very musical ears.

The Chancellor: Would it not be noticed by the great majority of people?

Mr. Hughes: I cannot say, my experience is (and I have spoken to many on the subject) that most people are quite surprised when I tell them that there is more than one note in a bell.

Sir Henry Maddocks (cross-examining): Then, Mr. Hughes, we may now take it that there are two kinds of peals, one in perfect tune suitable for weddings, and the other out of tune, to ring for funerals? (laughter). At any rate, you will agree that the peal would sound better if the defects which you have enumerated were removed?

Mr. Hughes: Undoubtedly.

Sir Henry: And still better if improved on the five-tone principle?

Mr. Hughes: That is a matter of opinion. Some people object to bells being tuned on the 'Simpson' principle.

The Chancellor: And some people object to bells being tuned at all (laughter).

The Chancellor followed his remark by a series of questions as to bell-tones, and also as to modern practice in the various foundries. In replying, Mr. Hughes said that the present day founders cast a large number of 'Simpson' tuned bells, and they had at Whitechapel cast many such. His experience was, however, that whilst many might prefer one style, there were, on the other hand, many who preferred the other. He found himself that, as regards tone, a flat seventh gave a certain quality of tone or character to a bell. The 'Simpson' principle had now, however, become very generally adopted.

Sir Henry: What objection can you urge against the 'Simpson' tuning?

Mr. Hughes: My objection, especially in the case of very heavy bells such as we have here, is that the harmonic overtones are very greatly accentuated, producing a howl which is very disagreeable to many people.

The Chancellor: If you were asked to produce again such a peal of bells from your foundry, I take it, then, that you would cast them in the same manner?

Mr. Hughes: Yes, but with the 'hum-notes' adjusted to a more uniform pitch.

OLD BELLS NOT FOR SALE.

Mr. E. A. Young, district surveyor for Lewisham, in giving evidence, said that he had been a ringer for some 35 years. He was

the present secretary of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, which represented the Ringing Guilds throughout the country. It represented some 10,000 ringers, but it was impossible to give the exact figures. There were, however, 140 delegates who were sent by the Guilds. On the instructions of the President and the Standing Committee, he had, last June and since, taken whatever steps he could to save the Coventry bells. As a ringer he had always understood that these bells stood foremost among the bells of England, and as secretary of the Council he desired, on its behalf, to heartily deprecate the proposed destruction of them. He supported the caveat entered by Mr. Caldwell.

Mr. Pritchett: Do you know Shipway's book?

Mr. Young: Yes, it was published in 1816.

Does it contain a list of bell towers?—Yes, and it quotes Coventry amongst the famous peals.

Sir Henry Maddocks, intervening, said he objected to the evidence, and eventually the Chancellor said: I think we can all agree that Coventry's bells are famous, and we will do our best to preserve them.

In further examination, Mr. Young said that he had made a study of bell-tones, had a musical ear, and did not agree with 'Simpson' tuning. He considered it wrong to melt down these bells.

Mr. Pritchett: Did you, last June, on behalf of the ringers of England, offer to guarantee the purchase of these bells?

Mr. Young: Yes, my object being to store them for Coventry until in better times the proposed campanile should have been built.

Sir Henry Maddocks, cross-examining: You have heard all the experts' evidence to-day, that these bells would be considerably improved by recasting and retuning. Do you disagree with it?

Witness: I do.

Sir Henry: What, entirely?—Yes.

Sir Henry: But your own Mr. Hughes says they can be improved. Do you disagree with him, too?

Mr. Young: Yes, I say let well alone.

Sir Henry, proceeding to put questions as to the chords by which tones had been demonstrated on the piano, Mr. Young admitted that the one was harmonious and the other discordant.

Sir Henry: Then you admit that our bells are discordant?

Mr. Young: I admit nothing of the kind, what I say is that it is futile to attempt to demonstrate such tones upon a piano.

A bell is a musical instrument, he added, but of a totally different kind: it has very indeterminate tones, as to the theory of which it was desirable that they should know far more than they did at present. He further elaborated this, and said that he considered it wrong for the 'Simpsonians' to attempt to push their theory by piano demonstrations as they often did.

Replying to the Chancellor, Mr. Young said that he was convinced that our bell founders in the 17th century definitely adopted the flat seventh 'hum-note' from sheer knowledge that it was an improvement, consequently the 'Simpson reversion' was wrong.

The Chancellor: Why was the flat seventh adopted?

Mr. Young: It was put there to fulfil the function of keeping certain of the upper harmonies in check, and to brighten and give character to the 'tap-tone' and further to reduce what we know as the 'Simpson howl.'

Mr. Young offered to refer to a standard book on the 'sounds of musical instruments,' and said he would be pleased to give the Court an imitation of the 'Simpson howl.'

The Chancellor: Please don't, I think we will imagine it (laughter).

Sir Henry Maddocks then questioned the witness at some length in respect to the offer to buy the bells and the reasons underlying it—if the ringers expected to make money by re-selling at a higher price—and why he was so suspicious that he could not leave them in the tower where at least they could be chimed.

Mr. Young replied, in effect, that he had thought the Cathedral might require further funds. The offer might be quixotic, but it was bona fide, and Coventry would have had the bells back at cost. He agreed that the bells might remain in the tower for chiming. He was always pleased that bells should remain in their towers, as all sorts of unfortunate accidents often happened to them when they left it.

The Chancellor: What do you mean?

Mr. Young: Well they might get cracked, or otherwise injured in lowering, or in their long journey to and from London.

Sir Henry: You would rather they went to Taylors?

Mr. Young: Yes, it certainly has the advantage of being nearer.

Sir Henry concluded his cross-examination by saying, 'Our bells are not for sale.'

46,500 RINGERS.

Canon G. F. Coleridge, M.A., then gave evidence. He said that he was the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and he had had 50 years' experience of ringing, from the time he was at Oxford until now. He had rung peals of from 5,000 to 15,000 changes. The question had been asked as to the number of ringers. He was able to state that there were according to a recent census, 46,500, and all the best of them were in touch with the Central

Council. He had always known that the Cathedral Church of St. Michael at Coventry was famous for its bells, and that they were compared with two other famous peals, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, and Painswick (the old 10). It would be disastrous to tamper with them, and he was sure that if this proposal came before the Council at Whitsun next, it would be rejected in toto.

Questioned by the Chancellor, Canon Coleridge said that he thought the 'Simpson' principle might be all right so long as it was confined to town halls and such public buildings, but for St. Michael's and such towers, nothing should be done to alter the bells.

Sir Henry Maddocks, cross-examining: What principle do you advocate should be adopted in respect to this proposal?

Canon Coleridge: I should put them in as they now are.

Sir Henry: Would you recommend the augmented seventh?

Canon Coleridge: Don't ask me anything about music, I know nothing of it or augmented sevenths.

Sir Henry: You, as President of the Bell Ringers' Association, say you know nothing about it?

Canon Coleridge: No, I am not musical, and it is the practical side of ringing which I enjoy.

Sir Henry: What you want is to get a bell with a good swing with it?

Canon Coleridge: Exactly! And one that has got a wheel on it (laughter).

In further reply to the Chancellor, he said that not having a musical ear, it could not be said to make much difference to him personally, whether the bells were in tune or out of tune.

Mr. F. E. Dawe, in giving evidence, said that he had been a ringer for 50 years, and had rung Coventry bells over 40 years ago. Examined as to the reputation of the bells, the witness said: There are, of course, in the many peals up and down the country bells good, bad and indifferent, and there are exceptional cases of one, or, even more rarely, two good bells standing out because of their fine tone. There was, for example, Bow tenor, the 11th at Southwark, the old 9th at Exeter.

Sir Henry, intervening, said he protested against irrelevant statements, and asked that the witness should confine himself to the question on Coventry bells.

In reply to the Chancellor, Mr. Dawe said that he was going to say that all the bells at Coventry were exceptionally fine, absolutely perfect.

Cross-examined by Sir Henry, the witness was asked as to his manner of testing or coming to an expert decision in regard to a peal. He said that he disagreed with the experts on both sides (laughter), as he did not think the tests fair to the bells, the latter should be allowed to speak for themselves. Asked further as to whether his memory could be relied upon after so long a period as over 40 years ago, Mr. Dawe replied that all knew that peal conductors necessarily had exceptionally fine memories. His chief objection to 'Simpson' tuning was that as a conductor it made his task more difficult, inasmuch as owing to the 'howl' he had often to rely on rope-sight, and not upon being able to check the bells coming up at the course-ends by ear. He took great exception to the statement that had been made that ringers had not good 'ears,' the exact contrary was the case.

A FINE PEAL OF HISTORICAL INTEREST.

The Rev. H. H. Drake, secretary of the Suffolk Guild, said that his Guild of 500 members were, as a body, opposed to the scheme. He was not an opponent of 'Simpson' tuning, his point being that it was wrong to destroy old peals simply because they were not on that principle. St. Michael's, Coventry, bells were not only a fine peal, but were of the greatest interest historically. If we thus went on destroying peals we should have no record left of the fine craftsmanship of the old founders.

Mr. T. Miller, of Birmingham, stated that he had had 50 years' experience as a ringer. By trade he was a bell-tuner. He was one of the few left who had rung upon these bells, having rung there as many as eight times, he thought. Ringers would often rather listen than ring. He and everyone knew them to be a very fine peal. Their notes had a certain quality which he called 'solid.'

In cross-examination, his attention being called to the series of faults in the bells, as enumerated by the experts, he said if these faults did exist (i.e., that all the bells except the two lower ones were 1-tone flat), then it was quite easy to lower those two, so as to bring the whole into line.

The witness was asked several questions by the Chancellor in regard to tuning, and 'Simpson' tuning in particular. Mr. Miller referred to his retuning work on the Lichfield Cathedral bells, for which he got a special testimonial. As regards 'Simpson' bells, he did not like them, they had a peculiar quality, inasmuch as their main tones lacked solidity, and their harmonics were nearly always 'shivery.'

Mr. J. George, of Birmingham, in giving evidence, said that he was a ringer of 50 years' standing. He had rung in 300 towers, including St. Michael's, Coventry. He had never come across a finer peal of bells, and it would be unwise to recast them. When he was

in the railway service, and travelling to and fro, Coventry was in his district, and taking advantage of this he had on many an occasion spent an hour at Coventry just for the pleasure he found in hearing the bells, though they were only chimed.

Sir Henry: I notice that you appear somewhat deaf; can you hear?

Mr. George: Fairly well.

How long have you been deaf?—30 years.

Sir Henry: But do you think your hearing good enough to judge bell tones?

Mr. George: Though one ear is deaf, I hear twice as well with the other.

Mr. J. E. Groves, of Birmingham, said that he was a ringer of 40 years' experience, and was by trade a bell hanger. Though he had not been fortunate enough to have heard Coventry bells in peal, he had often heard the bells chimed. In all his experience he never heard anything better as bells, and he did not think that they could be improved.

THE PETITION GRANTED.

Mr. Pritchett then addressed the Court. He said that there was a conflict of evidence as to the necessity of recasting the bells for the purpose of improving them. He thought it would be seen that it was quite possible to keep the present bells and add the new four on similar lines. The bells had historical value as a type of a remarkably good peal of their period, a point to which he lent great emphasis. It was somewhat on a parallel with church plate, etc., two or three centuries old. Eight of the bells had been in existence since 1774, and it was not suggested that they were inefficient, cracked or unusable. They had heard a lot about musical defects, regarding which there was much difference of opinion. He would like to remind the Chancellor, in regard to the properties of the flat seventh, that it was analogous to what they had studied in mathematical problems where a factor was introduced for the purpose of preventing recurrence. He thought the function of the flat seventh hum-note was very probably somewhat similar, inasmuch as it prevented the harmonics getting control of the primary wave lengths of sound. Ringers would gladly see these bells preserved as a fine peal, and he submitted on their behalf that a case had not been made out for the destruction of the identity of the peal, and that the petitioners ought to have time to reconsider it.

Sir Henry Maddocks said there was common ground for agreement on either side that the bells were not harmonious. It was strange that the only opposition practically was from outside Coventry. The petitioners were quite unanimous, and all they desired was to do their very best for Coventry and its Cathedral bells. Here they had an anonymous generous donor prepared to spend £2,300, whose only impulse was a desire to effect an improvement.

The Chancellor: Can the inscriptions be reproduced on the recast bells?

Sir Henry: Easily.

The Chancellor then reviewed the evidence, and said a friendly spirit had prevailed throughout. They had had considerable evidence from the ringers, and this had been very helpful, and he felt that from their point of view their intervention was quite justified. He must, however, give due weight to the fact that this was a very generous offer, and that it would appear that the 'Simpson' principle would make the peal in tune in every respect. If scientifically they could tune to an octave, why not do it? As to the 'howling,' that could not take place until a campanile was built. He had come to the conclusion that to recast the bells was the proper method; they would be having the same metal, and the same inscriptions and the same weight and keynote, the same bells, but improved. The faculty would be granted in accordance with the amended petition. There would be no order as to costs.

[Letters which we have received on this subject will appear in due course.]

NEW RING OF SIX AT COUNTESTHORPE.

On Friday evening, January 8th, a new ring of six bells was dedicated at Countesthorpe (Leicestershire), by Canon Payne, R.D., of Knighton, the service being conducted by the Rev. S. H. Thomas (Vicar). After the dedicatory prayers in the belfry, the bells were chimed while the clergy proceeded to the chancel, after which Canon Payne gave an address on the origin of bells, and went on to say that in no other country were bells rung as they were in England.

At the close of the service, a good and well-struck 720 of Minor was rung, the ringers being very pleased with the 'go' of the bells, which reflect very great credit on the bell founders, Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. The whole of the work of recasting and rehanging has been splendidly carried out.

ATTEMPT ON THE 'LONDON' RECORD.

On Saturday, Feb. 6th, eight members of the Sussex County Association will (p.v.) attempt 14,114 London Surprise Major at Warnham, Sussex.

Time of starting will be notified later.

The present record is the 14,112 rung at King's Norton by the Worcestershire Association.

DEVON MEN'S PEAL OF CINQUES.

The congratulations of the Exercise will be extended to the men of Devon upon having rung the first peal of Cinques with a resident band. The bells at Exeter Cathedral were augmented in 1923, but the opportunities for practice (despite every help given by the Cathedral authorities) have been very limited, and the ringers have had to acquire their twelve-bell knowledge without any outside help. Indeed, practically all the band learnt to ring under the auspices of the Devon Guild. The peal, Grandsire Cinques, rung on Saturday week, is a highly creditable performance, and is a fine tribute to the general enthusiasm and progress of ringing which is being shown by the Devon Guild. It was rung at the first attempt, and for eleven of the band was the first peal on twelve bells.

By a typographical error the time of the peal was given in our report last week as 2 hrs. 55 mins.; it should, of course, have been 3 hrs. 55 mins.

On Wednesday, January 6th, at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung in 44 minutes J. D. Lewis 1, T. G. Myers 2, F. Tippet 3, W. Richards 4, J. O. Pook 5, W. Rundle (conductor) 6, J. Woodley 7, S. Symons 8.

This quarter-peal was rung as a compliment to the Rev. R. D. Wynne, R.A., curate of the above church, who was married on Jan. 5th, at Rhosddu, near Wrexham, and also as a birthday compliment to Mr. Pook, the ringer of the 5th.

On Thursday, January 7th, at Plympton St. Maurice, Devon, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) was rung in 45 mins.: *H. M. Ashton 1, T. G. Myers 2, A. W. Meyers 3, *R. J. Beer 4, W. Rundle 5, W. Richards 6, W. Wonnacott (first quarter-peal as conductor, and first attempt) 7, *W. G. Lavers 8. * First quarter-peal of Stedman.

**BARNESLEY & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.
CUP CONTEST PROPOSED.**

The annual meeting was held at Barnesley on January 9th. The bells of St. Mary's, Barnesley, and Monk Bretton, were rung during the afternoon, and also in the evening at St. Mary's. Service was held in the Lady Chapel, ornamented and enlarged in memory of the men of the parish who fell in the Great War. About 30 members attended the service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. H. H. Hone), special prayers and hymns being used, and an address given. Mr. S. Palmer presided at the organ. Tea was served at Whitham's Cafe, Church Street, 41 sitting down. The Rector was present, and kindly consented to fill the chair for the business meeting.

The passing away of several veterans in the art was duly noted, and a letter was read from the family of Mr. James Smith, a respected member of the association, and of the Horbury company, with whom sympathy had been expressed, and all stood to pay a silent tribute to the deceased.

The secretary was requested to note in the minutes the death of Mr. Geo. Bolland, a vice-president of long duration in the Yorkshire Association a great exponent of Minor methods, so much admired and practised by Yorkshire ringers.

The question of the society's headquarters was then raised by the secretary (Mr. C. D. Potter), who advocated change of place and probable change of name. No support whatever was offered to this suggestion, however, and the association's headquarters will remain as at present.

In the election of officers little change was made. Mr. S. Palmer (Badsworth), a young and enterprising brother ringer, who has yet to earn his laurels in the art, was elected president; Messrs. Wm. Reynor and R. Thickett were elected vice-presidents; and the treasurer (Mr. A. Panther) and secretary (Mr. C. D. Potter) were re-elected. The auditor's report was given in detail, and passed: £15 is in the bank ready for use or investment. Messrs. E. Crossley and Ottley were elected members.

A committee meeting was ordered to be held at Barnesley on Saturday, January 23rd, at 6 p.m., in the Parish Room, Barnesley, to consider the question of a cup contest on association lines.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding, and to Mr. T. Bone, of the Barnesley company, for the arrangements made.

RINGER'S GIFT OF NEW BELL.

A new treble bell, to augment the old five to a ring of six has been added to the bells at Butterwick, Lincs, by the generosity of one of the local band, Mr. John Phillips, and his cousin, Mr. A. N. Whitworth. Mr. Phillips had the satisfaction of ringing in the first peal of Minor on the bells on Saturday last, and kindly entertained the ringers after the performance. Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, carried out the addition, and also rehung the other bells.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICERS.**

The Southern district of the above society held their annual meeting at Fulham last Saturday. The tower was opened at 10h o'clock, and the company were soon warming themselves with touches of Grandsire, Stedman, etc.

Tea was held at the 'Cocky Cafe' over the bridge, and while thus engaged, the party were also entertained with a loud speaker. The children's corner was in progress, but no ringers present were fortunate enough to have their birthdays on that date, so no one was asked to look inside the tenor bell, or do anything so exciting.

The business meeting followed the tea, Mr. H. Mance (the Master) taking the chair.

The balance sheet was presented, and showed that the past year had been very successful.

The Master then vacated the chair in favour of the secretary, who requested the members to elect a Master for the forthcoming year.—Mr. Mackrill moved, and Mr. Hardy seconded, that Mr. Mance be re-elected as chairman, a proposal which met with loud applause from the members present.

The posts of secretary, treasurer and steward were filled by Messrs. Mitchell, Wood and Essery, respectively.

In conclusion, the usual hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring officers, who had carried out their duties so efficiently during the past year, and this note of appreciation was duly acknowledged by those concerned.

It is the desire of all the ringers to tender their most sincere and grateful thanks to the Vicar for very kindly placing the tower at their disposal.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The South and West District held a meeting at Aclon on Saturday, January 16th, and, though the weather was very wintry, 32 members attended, and good work was done. Service was conducted by the Rev. F. L. Fulcher Medcraft, in the Rector's absence, and Mr. F. L. Bull (organist) presided at the organ. Tea and business meeting followed in the Church Hall, Mr. C. S. Bird (vice-president) presiding, supported by the Ringing Master and the Rev. F. L. F. Medcraft.

Two new members were elected, and the election of four others confirmed.

The annual meeting was announced to take place on February 13th.—A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector, organist, the Rev. F. L. F. Medcraft, the vice-president, the Ringing Master, Mr. Fruin (steepkeeper), and the hostess and lady helpers.

The tower was again visited, and touches of Stedman, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge was rung. The ladies were well represented by the Misses R. Hawksworth, G. Baker, P. Moss, E. E. Harcastle and F. E. Orr, and among those also present were Messrs. F. Goodfellow, R. A. Fardon, F. Corke, A. Harding, C. W. Roberts, H. Kilby, E. V. Ebberson, E. Pike, H. Folkard, J. H. Hunnisett, and others. The bells were lowered at 9 p.m., and all agreed that splendid work had been done, and a pleasant afternoon spent, in spite of the weather.

KING'S NORTON RINGERS ENTERTAINED.

On Saturday, January 9th, the St. Nicolas' Guild, King's Norton, held another of its successful social gatherings. On this occasion the members were the guests of their Ringing Master, Mr. F. B. Yates, at a dinner given by him at the Bull's Head. Others who received invitations were the Vicar and churchwardens, Messrs. A. Walker, A. Paddon-Smith, J. F. Smallwood, W. Brett, W. B. Cartwright, J. Neal, W. Dowding and Harry Withers.

A splendid repast had been provided, consisting of turkey, plum pudding, mince pies and all that go to make a good and substantial old-fashioned Christmas dinner. Needless to say, it was heartily enjoyed.

Afterwards the company were entertained with songs by Messrs. Dowding and H. Withers, and handbell ringing by Messrs. Luffin, Walker, Smallwood, Williams, Neal and H. Withers.

Several toasts were submitted, blended with humour as well as seriousness, and were received with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Paddon-Smith gave 'Our Host.' He stated that the St. Nicolas' Guild were very fortunate in having for their Ringing Master a gentleman with such enthusiasm and generosity as Mr. F. B. Yates. He congratulated the King's Norton ringers accordingly.—The toast was received with musical honours.—Mr. Yates, in reply, stated that he held the office with very much pleasure, and felt highly honoured in doing so. He paid a tribute to the great help he received from the deputy ringing master and conductor, Mr. P. O. Luffin, whose experience and ability were of so much practical use to the Guild.

Amongst other toasts were 'The St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham,' and 'The Visitors.'

Mr. G. H. Smith, churchwarden, spoke in high terms of the local band and its accomplishments.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**CREWE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.****SATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS.**

The Crewe and District Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at Crewe on Saturday, when there was an excellent muster of 60 members, representing the towers of Christ Church (Crewe), Barthomley, Davenham, Wrenbury, Sandbach, Lightfield, Wistaston, Church Minshull, Stoke, Nantwich, Rodnet (Salop), Church Lawton, Acton, Norton-in-Hales, Alsager, Marbury and Market Drayton.

During the afternoon the members rang some excellent touches of Kent Treble Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples, and afterwards attended a service in Christ Church, where an appropriate and inspiring address was delivered by the Vicar (the Rev. H. W. Haworth).

An excellent tea was provided by the Christ Church Parochial Council in the Council Room of the Mechanics' Institute. The chair was occupied by the Vicar, who was accompanied by the Rural Dean of Nantwich (the Rev. W. H. Brind, Vicar of St. Paul's, Crewe), and the Rev. S. T. Stevens (curate of Christ Church).

At the business meeting which followed the branch hon. secretary (Mr. R. D. Langford) read a communication from Mr. E. W. Elwell, of Capenhurst (general hon. secretary of the Guild) expressing regret at his inability to attend.

Mr. Langford, submitting the statement of accounts, said the total income for the year, including a balance in hand of £10 8s. 10d., was £21 17s. 10d. The expenditure included the sum of £7 18s. 6d., the contribution to the Guild, and there was a credit balance of £11 4s. 6d., an increase of £1 4s. 7d. on the balance for the previous year (applause). The finances were in a satisfactory condition (hear, hear).

The Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the accounts. 'I wish the parish accounts were as good,' he remarked, amid some laughter. 'I suppose most parishes here will probably wish that. I am afraid we don't get on as we should like to do these days.'

On the motion of Mr. C. Peake, seconded by Mr. J. Brassington, the accounts were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. R. T. Holding proposed the re-election of the Rev. H. W. Haworth as chairman, and said the Vicar had fulfilled his duties with every satisfaction for the branch (hear, hear).—Mr. E. Harper seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Vicar, returning thanks, said he was sorry he had not been able to attend the meetings of the branch as often as he had intended. When one had a young family at home, it was difficult to get away on Saturday afternoons, but he hoped this year to do better than he had done. He expressed his pleasure at the large attendance of members that day.

The Rev. H. H. Corshie, the Rev. J. H. Armitstead and the Rev. G. S. Tudor Evans were re-elected vice-chairmen.

Mr. C. Peake moved the re-election of Mr. R. D. Langford as hon. secretary. He said Mr. Langford had discharged his many duties with great credit to himself and the branch, and he did not think they could find a more capable and hard-working official.—Mr. H. Edwards, seconding, said Mr. Langford was a 'chip off the old block.'—Putting the motion, the Chairman said he did not think they could find a better branch secretary than Mr. Langford, and they 'would be wise not to let him go' (hear, hear).—The motion was carried amid applause, and Mr. Langford briefly responded, thanking the members for the renewed confidence placed in him.

Mr. W. Holding was unanimously re-elected hon. treasurer, tribute being paid to his excellent services.

Mr. Albert Crawley was elected instructor, and Mr. Ek. Crawley (Wistaston) and Mr. King (Wrenbury) were appointed hon. auditors.—Mr. Harry Holding (Crewe) was appointed representative on the General Committee.

Mr. R. T. Holding stated that he wished to relinquish the office of Ringing Master for the branch meetings, he being of the opinion that such office should go round. His experience had been a very pleasant one, and he had been able to discharge his duties with comparative ease. The idea was to take charge of the ringing in the towers, so that both novices and experts would have an opportunity of taking the rope.—Mr. Albert Crawley was appointed to fill the office.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Ernest Craig, M.P. for the Crewe Division, the Rev. A. L. Moir, the Rev. W. H. Brind and the Rev. S. T. Stevens were elected hon. members. Fifteen new ringing members were elected, and satisfaction was expressed at the increasing interest of the younger ringers.

It was decided to arrange meetings for the year as follows:—February, Bunbury; March, Church Lawton; April, Market Drayton and Chester (Easter Monday); May, Barthomley; June, Church Minshull; July, Alsager and Audlem; August, Wrenbury; September, Tarpole; October, Nantwich; November, Wybunbury; December, Sandbach.

On the suggestion of Mr. R. T. Holding, it was decided to invite the Macclesfield branch to a joint meeting at Astbury, near Congle-

ton. He said the probability was that the tower would be surrendered to the Crewe branch in future years.

Mr. R. T. Holding suggested that in the future the list of meetings for the year should be compiled and passed at the last ordinary meeting, so that the secretary could have the cards printed and issued for that annual meeting. The secretary could then forward the list to the general secretary, and it could be printed on the cards hung in the towers. As it was, they were a month behind, and the list of meetings had gone to press. If his suggestion was carried out it would reduce the business at the annual meeting, and would inflict no great hardship on anyone. He moved that this be done.—Mr. Geo. Crawley seconded, and the motion was carried.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the officials for their services during the year.

On the motion of Mr. W. Holding, votes of thanks were accorded the Parochial Church Council, who had provided tea, and to the Vicar for presiding over the meeting and for the use of the bells.—The Vicar briefly responded.

Mr. Langford appealed to the representatives of the various towers to inform him how many members were expected to attend the meetings of the branch, so that the catering arrangements could be properly carried out.

After the meeting, the company adjourned to the tower, and rang touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Royal, Stedman Caters, Kent Treble Bob Major, Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

TAVISTOCK'S NEW BELLS.**DEVON'S FINE NEW PEAL OF EIGHT.**

The bells of Tavistock, Devon, have been recast and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., who have carried out the work in a highly satisfactory manner, and given delight to the residents of the ancient town, the old bells having been long silent. It was when the bells were used in connection with the peace celebrations that their dilapidated condition was fully brought home to the authorities, who, after examining a number of schemes, decided to make a clean sweep, and do the thing properly while they were about it. The octave have been recast, and the old oak frame has given way to a new steel one. The cost has been something like £1,150, and when the bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Exeter on December 30th, £1,000 had been secured, the amount including two anonymous gifts of £100 and £50 respectively. The new bells have a tenor of 25 cwt. in D, and are one of the finest rings at their weight in the county. The old peal were cast in 1769 by Thomas Billie, of Cullompton, and were the gift of the then Duke of Bedford. There were bells, however, at Tavistock Church at a much earlier date, for it is on record that they were melted down for use as cannon balls.

The restoration of the bells has been shared in by Nonconformists as well as the church people, and this spirit of union was dwelt upon by the Bishop, who presided at a luncheon held in the Congregational Schoolroom prior to the dedication service.

After the act of dedication the bells were rung by Messrs. Marsh, sen., 1. Marsh, jun., 2. W. Hiscott 3. W. H. Rundle 4. A. Westcott 5. the Rev. E. S. Powell (President of the Devon Guild) 6. W. Richards 7. W. J. Woodley 8. Subsequently a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, and among the listeners was the Rev. Maitland Kelly, ex-President of the Devon Guild.

A public tea was afterwards held in the Town Hall and the day's proceedings concluded with choral evensong in the Parish Church.

5,040 STEDMAN TRIPLES.**AN 'ODD AND EVEN' BOB FIVE-PART.**

By J. W. PARKER.

2314567	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	13
4165327	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
5632147	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1254637	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4536217	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
2641537	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1435627	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6512437	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
2134567	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
4356127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6512347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3264517	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
1435267	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4 times repeated.

The 7th is undisturbed throughout the peal.
First rung at St. James', Bushey, on Saturday, January 16th, 1926.

BRAMLEY RINGER'S DEATH.

At Bramley, Yorks, on Sunday, January 17th, for evensong, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob: W. Waterhouse 1, T. Latimer 2, S. Hollowell 3, J. Guy 4, J. W. T. Holgate (conductor) 5, J. S. Eastwood 6. Rung with the bells fully muffled in memory of J. W. Chadwick, who died on the 13th inst., Woodbine being his favourite method.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

STRATTON ST. MARGARET'S, WILTS.—On Sunday, Nov. 8th, for Armistice service, with the bells muffled, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor for morning service: T. Moulden 1, Miss Ellen Moulden 2, J. Woodroffe 3, J. Tuckwell 4, A. Simms 5, G. Lancaster (conductor) 6. For evening service, 720 Plain Bob Minor. N. Sperring 1, Miss Ellen Moulden 2, J. Woodroffe 3, J. Tuckwell 4, T. Moulden (conductor) 5, G. Lancaster 6.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8th, for Armistice service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Webb 1, F. G. Goddard 2, A. E. Hawthorne 3, T. Beadle 4, E. F. Coles 5, J. Milner (conductor) 6, A. Beckensale 7, A. Sheard 8.

HENBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—On Armistice Sunday, for evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: *Mrs. J. Gould 1, *E. Collier 2, E. Deverish 3, *C. Gould 4, J. Martin 5, *H. Baguley 6, J. Gould (conductor) 7, F. Lewis 8. *Longest length.

PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.—On Armistice Sunday, Nov. 8th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Pink (first quarter-peal) 1, S. Greenfield 2, Stanley Picton 3, R. W. R. Picton 4, H. C. Greenfield 5, P. H. Doick 6, Cecil A. Greenfield (conductor) 7, H. J. Doick 8.

GREAT BADDOW.—On Sunday, November 1st, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: Dr. Spencer Phillips 1, W. Rice 2, H. Dawson 3, H. Bush 4, H. Allen 5, A. Richell 6, George Green (conductor) 7, Norman Boughtwood (first quarter) 8. First quarter-peal away from tenor by Dr. Phillips.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—On November 1st, for evening service, 720 Minor, being 240 Kent Treble Bob, 240 Oxford Treble Bob, and 240 Plain Bob: G. E. Allin (conductor) 1, R. Partridge 2, W. Allin, sen., 3, R. Husskisson 4, C. Beckly 5, C. J. Partridge 6.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—At the Parish Church of St. Mary's, on Sunday, November 1st, previous to evening service, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, in 53 mins.: H. W. Else 1, E. W. Day 2, C. V. Hare 3, J. Hare 4, G. Wolfe 5, H. E. Day 6, L. Fidler 7, W. J. Croft (conductor) 8.

LONG STANTON, CAMBS.—On Sunday, Nov. 1st, for early celebration of Holy Communion on the Patronal Festival of the Church, 720 Primrose Surprise Minor: F. Warrington 1, F. G. Gleaves 2, C. W. Woolley 3, H. J. Hazell 4, G. E. Crisp 5, C. W. Cooke (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th.

A HALF-PEAL.

At the Parish Church, Willingham, Cambs, on Saturday, January 9th, a half-peal (2,520 changes) Bob Minor, with the bells half-muffled, in memory of three members of the above church—Mr. T. Hayden, sidesman; Mr. J. Lucas, 35 years sexton; and Mrs. J. F. Gleaves, wife of the late Mr. J. F. Gleaves, who was organist for many years: F. Warrington (conductor) 1, N. Robinson 2, F. Ginn 3, L. Ginn 4, A. J. Ginn 5, B. Huckle 6. Longest length in any method by ringers of 2nd and 4th.

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NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not made 20 attendances in the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meeting for practice will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 26th, at 7.30 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 1s., and meeting to follow. Meeting of District Committee in the Vestry at 4 p.m. The bells of St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, will be available from 3 to 5 p.m., and St. Andrew's, Wells Street, from 7 to 8.40 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Central Division.—Meeting at Burgess Hill on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Tower open 2 p.m., service 4.15, tea (in Parish Room) 5, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Half rail fare (maximum 1s.).—A. D. Stone, Div. Sec., 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Grantham on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells available afternoon and evening. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—S. Procter, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Peterborough Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Chatteris on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Tea at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 19th?—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Worksop Priory on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 8.30 p.m., with interval from 6.15 to 7. A good attendance is requested. There are several cafes in the town. The Co-operative Society in Eastgate will provide a good tea for 1s. 6d. per head. Members to make their own arrangements.—H. Haigh and H. Weaver, Hon. Secs.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Arksey, Doncaster, on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (8) ready early. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting at 5. A good meeting is desired.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held at Paignton on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. J. Hole, Hon. Sec., Tauntonia, Church Street, Paignton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weedon on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30, to be followed by tea and meeting.—W. C. Moore, Branch Sec., Braunston Road, Daventry.

ST. CLEMENT'S YOUTHS.—St. Clement Danes, Strand.—Practice every Wednesday, 6.30 to 8 p.m. Ringing Sundays at 10 a.m. Annual general meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 27th, at 8 p.m.—F. W. H. Sergison, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Clevedon on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Divine service at 4. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Upchurch, where the bells have recently been rehung, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available at 3. Association service at 5, conducted by the Vicar. If sufficient names are sent in by Wednesday, the 27th inst., a tea will be arranged. Business meeting after tea. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due, and can be paid at or before the meeting.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM (Established 1672).—The fourth memorial dinner to the late W. D. Crofts will be held at the Welbeck Hotel, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, can now be obtained from the hon. secretary up to Jan. 29th, first post. Ringing at St. Mary's (10 bells) from 2.30 to 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec., 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. — Annual meeting, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available 4 p.m. Tea at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. It is essential that those intending to be at the tea should let me know by Jan. 26th.—J. Sparrow, Hon. Sec., 84, Meadvale Road, Woodside, Croydon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The fine peal at the Parish Church, Watford, is open for ringing Saturday, Jan. 30th, 4 p.m. Tea 6. Business meeting after. Names of those for tea by Jan. 27th. Excursion tickets from London, 2s. return. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Next meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Short service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. All welcome. — W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea at 5. All ringers invited. A good attendance is requested.—C. J. Ball, 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Hinckley on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 3.30 to 7 p.m. Business meeting will be held at the 'Coffee House,' Market Place, at 7 p.m. Will all members please make an effort to attend?—W. Cope, Local Hon. Sec., Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A district meeting will be held at Melbourn on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (6) available at 3 o'clock. Tea at the Star Inn at 5 o'clock, 1s. each. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Jan. 27th?—A. E. Austin, 4, Hills View, Great Shelford, Cambs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Butterwick on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m., followed immediately by business meeting. As the president is kindly providing tea, I shall be glad to receive names of those intending to be present by first post on Wednesday, Jan. 27th. — John Phillips, Hon. Sec., The School House, Butterwick, nr. Boston, Lincs.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Eastern District will be held at Gateshead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. St. Mary's bells (8, tenor 15 cwt.) will be available from 2.30. Tea at Carrick's Cafe, West Street (opposite the Town Hall), at 5 o'clock. Members intending to be present please advise Mr. Kell, 26, Ellwood Gardens, Gateshead, by the 26th.—G. S. Taylor, Dis. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Grappenhall Branch.—A meeting will be held at Frodsham on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells read at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, for those notifying me by Jan. 26th. Meeting after tea.—F. Bibby, Hon. Sec., London Road, Frodsham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the above association will be held at St. Peter's, City, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Service in the church at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow in the Parish Room. Business: Election of officers, etc. St. Nicholas' bells (10) available after the meeting. Please notify me by Jan. 25th.—P. C. Williams, Branch Hon. Sec., 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James', Taunton, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 'The Bridge' Restaurant at 5.15, at 1s. per head. Business (election of officials, etc.) to follow. Will those who require tea please notify me by the previous Tuesday?—P. Merson, Branch Sec., Bishop's Hull.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of the Ashton-under-Lyne Society will be held at St. George's Church, Hyde, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. The meeting at 7 o'clock prompt.—F. Althorp, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Stockport (St. Mary) on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Committee meet 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5.15 p.m. Subscriptions due.—John P. Fidler, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available at 3 p.m., also St. Mark's, if required. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, Jan. 26th.—S. Hopper, Branch Hon. Sec., 2, Florence Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. **SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. REPORTS TO HAND.** All ringers welcome. — William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hay, Todmorden.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ingatestone on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Parish Room. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due. A good attendance is requested. Will all members intending to be present please notify me on or before Wednesday, Feb. 3rd?—P. Timson, Hon. Sec., 80, Springfield Street, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's, Erith, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea (kindly supplied by the Vicar) and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided only for those who notify me before Tuesday, Feb. 2nd. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, and all members are asked to attend if possible. Ringing at All Hallows', Lombard Street, from 1.45 to 3.15 sharp, and at St. Clement Danes from 2 to 3.30. Service at the latter at 4 p.m., before which, at 3.45, a group photograph will be taken if circumstances permit. Tea in the Parish Room, tickets for which should be obtained in advance, followed by business meeting. Other meetings for February:—St. Clement Danes, Sunday, the 7th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 1st and 15th, at 7.30; St. John's, Wilton Road, Monday, the 8th, at 7.30; and St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 23rd, at 8. — A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18, Merrick Square, S.E.1.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The hon. secretary, Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards, will be out of England for the next few months. All communications should be addressed to the assistant secretary, Mr. T. Hervey Beams, Bradpole, Bridport, Dorset.

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