THE RINGING WORLD

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AND
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THE STRIKE.

In common with the majority of other newspapers and periodicals, the 'Ringing World' was temporarily 'throttled' by the National Strike, and this number is produced under considerable difficulties; for, although the strike was formally called off on Wednesday, the disturbance and dislocation of business which it involved cannot be righted in a moment. With the action of the Trades' Unions in this great industrial upheaval we have no concern in this journal. We have no politics and express no views as to the rights and wrongs which plunged this country into a disastrous domestic struggle; but we do feel this—that whatever their motives, the Trades' Union Congress made a wild tactical error when they attempted to muzzle the Press in these islands. In the grave matters which have been involved, the publication or otherwise of the 'Ringing World' is of small moment; but, had the Unions been successful in their efforts in regard to the Press, they would have created a condition of affairs which would have precipitated this country into a calamity the results of which no one can estimate, and we feel it is necessary that we should add our little protest to the widespread condemnation which this action has aroused.

We feel perfectly sure that no apologies on our own part will be necessary for the non-appearance of 'The Ringing World' for May 7th. Apart from the first and vital fact that the printers' operatives 'came out,' and no type could be set up, we were faced with further obstacles in the matter of distribution—for this journal goes into every corner of England. That it was missed we have ample evidence, from the various enquiries which we have received, and it has to be placed on record that in the fifteen years of the paper's life this is the first occasion that the firm which, from the first, has carried out the printing contract has failed to produce the journal on contract time—and this though we passed through more than four years of war. The dislocation which has thus occurred will not, we hope, prevent our recording, for the interest of present readers and future ringers, anything of importance which has happened in the interim. But ringing affairs themselves were put badly out of joint. It was hardly possible to ring bells while the country was in the throes of such a struggle, while the breakdown of transport caused the postponement of a number of meetings in different parts of the country. The various organisations will, no doubt, quickly get back to work again, if only the uncertainty caused by the dislocation disappears. It is hoped that matters will settle themselves in time for definite announcements as to the Whitsuntide gatherings to be made through our columns.

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TEN BELL PEALS.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

ALFRED J. TURNER	*Treble*	ROBERT J. DAWE	6
JOHN T. RICKMAN	2	FRANK BENNETT	7
EDWARD C. MERRETT	3	JOHN DEARLOVE	8
EDWIN F. PIKE	4	ALBERT D. STONE	9
FREDERICK W. ROGERS	5	KEITH HART	*Tenor*

Composed by W. PYE. Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

GOSFORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;
Tenor 22¾ cwt.

ERNEST E. FERRY	*Treble*	JAMES W. TRAPPITT, JUN.	6
ROBERT ANDERSON	2	JOSEPH E. KEEN	7
WILLIAM H. BARBER	3	BERT N. NEWSON	8
JOHN ANDERSON	4	ADAM DEAS	9
WILLIAM L. GOFTON	5	*JOHN ARMSTRONG	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WILLIAM H. BARBER

* First peal. This peal was arranged for Bert Newson and James Trappitt, who hail from Croydon, and was rung after turning up short for Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND.
THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
On Tuesday, April 20, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

*WILLIAM BROOKS	*Treble*	ERNEST S. FERRY	5
RICHARD A. GOFTON	2	*ADAM DEAS	6
R. ALDER GOFTON	3	THOMAS T. GOFTON	7
WILLIAM GOFTON	4	*GEORGE HILL	*Tenor*

Composed by GEORGE H. CROSS. Conducted by T. T. GOFTON.

* First peal in the method.

CONSETT, DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, April 22, 1926, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

*J. OLIVER	*Treble*	†R. SKELTON	5
†R. OLIVER	2	‡A. DEAS	6
E. A. HERN	3	†G. H. WILKINSON	7
E. E. FERRY	4	‡GEO. HILL	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by E. E. FERRY.

* First peal. † First peal of Major, and in the method. ‡ First peal in the method. The ringers of the treble, 2nd, 5th and 7th are local men, and only had two practices of Major before starting for the above peal. Mr. G. Hill hails from Penistone, and was elected a member of the association in the belfry.

FEERING, ESSEX
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

WILLIAM KEEBLE	*Treble*	WILLIAM J. NEVARD	5
GEORGE WIFFEN	2	ARTHUR SAUNDERS	6
*BASIL REDGWELL	3	JOHN WOOD	7
FRANK CLAYDON	4	WALTER ARNOLD	*Tenor*

Composed by EDWIN BARNETT. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE

* First peal in the method.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-WITHIN-THE-WALLS,

A PEAL OF BELGRAVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES SWINDLEY	...Treble	EDWARD JENKINS	5
ROBERT SPERRING	2	HENRY W. WILDE	6
JOHN E. BIBBY	3	SAM JONES, JUN.	7
ALBERT J. HUGHES	4	JAMES H. RIDING	...Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

This method was first published in 'The Bell News,' September, 1899, and is now rung for the first time. Mr. R. Sperring's 350th peal.

GLODWICH, LANCS.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

ABEL FIELDING	Treble	SAMUEL STOTT	5
ALBERT CLEGG	2	GERALD SCHOFIELD	6
EDWIN B. SHAW	3	ISAAC SCHOFIELD	7
OGDEN MOORE	4	*JOHN KIRK	Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT CLEGG.

Rung to celebrate the Jubilee of St. Mark's Sunday School, and as a birthday peal to the conductor, who has been a ringer at this church for 47 years. * First peal and first attempt.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. in D flat.

ARTHUR SYMONDS	Treble	WILLIAM CHALK	5
STEDMAN H. SYMONDS	2	WILLIAM DENT	6
LEONARD ALLINGTON	3	FREDERICK A. POULSON	7
FREDERICK F. MORTLOCK	4	WILLIAM R. J. POULSON	Tenor

Composed by J. COX. Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

Messrs. Dent and Chalk hail from Colchester, and Allington from Sudbury. First peal by L. Allington. 100th peal by W. R. J. Poulson. Rung as a birthday compliment to the 2nd, 4th and 6th ringers.

WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 19 cwt.

JOSEPH T. DYKE	Treble	*HERBERT BABER	5
*GEORGE A. WEBBER	2	*REGINALD MIDDLE	6
*LEONARD PULLIN	3	STANLEY CARTER	7
*SIDNEY T. WITHEY	4	HARRY PROUT	Tenor

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

* First peal.

FRESSINGFIELD, SUFFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

WILLIAM RICHES	Treble	EDWARD ETHERIDGE	5
AUSTIN HEAD	2	JAMES RICHES	6
ROBERT RICHES	3	WALTER RICHES	7
ROBERT RAYNER	4	ALBERT RICHES	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by ALBERT RICHES.

Author's peal No. 97.

TERRINGTON ST. CLEMENT, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, April 25, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5026 CHANGES;

Tenor 11¾ cwt.

TONY PRICE	Treble	ROBERT E. GREENACRE	5
CLAUDE COUSINS	2	JAMES H. RAPER	6
WALTER J. CURSTON	3	WILLIAM I. ELDRED	7
TOM GREENACRE	4	WALTER N. ASHBY	Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by TONY PRICE.

First peal on eight bells as conductor.

THURCASTON, Near LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, April 27, 1926, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 7 lb.

JOHN H. DREWERY	Treble	ERNEST MORRIS	5
WILLIAM WILLSON, JUN.	2	HAROLD G. JENNEY	6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	3	WILLIAM WILLSON, SEN.	7
REDVERS F. ELKINGTON	4	HAROLD J. POOLE	Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

GEORGE W. STEERE	Treble	*RAYMOND PHILPOTT	5
OLIVER SIPPETTS	2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE	6
JOHN T. SCOTT	3	WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN.	7
JOHN A. COLE	4	ALFRED H. PULLING	Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING

This peal was rung in honour of H.M. Queen Mary's visit to the town to present new colours to the 5th Batt. Queen's Royal Regiment. * First peal in the method away from the treble.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

ERNEST MORRIS (Leicester)	Treble
ERNEST J. JELLEY (South Wigston)	2
ERNEST BARTRAM (Melton Mowbray)	3
ERNEST W. BEADSMORE (Ashby-de-la Zouch)	4
ERNEST STONE (Nuneaton)	5
ERNEST W. TIPLER (Lutterworth)	6
ERNEST F. PAYNE (Syston)	7
ERNEST H. CLARKE (Derby)	Tenor

Composed by ERNEST G. HIBBINS (Cambridge).
Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.
Witnessed by ERNEST BAGWORTH (Leicester).

The first 'Ernest' peal yet rung. The band travelled an aggregate total of 280 miles.

LONG STANTON, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 6024 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

CHRISTOPHER WOOLLEY	Treble	T. REGINALD DENNIS	5
MISS CATHERINE FIELDS	2	ALBERT E. AUSTIN	6
*REV. H. B. WOOLLEY	3	ERNEST G. HIBBINS	7
MISS KITTY WILLERS	4	A. GEORGE RIVERS	Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS. Conducted by E. G. HIBBINS.

* First peal in the method on a bob bell. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the Vicar's niece, Mrs. G. H. M. Wilson, and his wife's mother, Mrs. L. D. M. Clutterbuck, who entered into rest the previous week. R.I.P.

BANSTEAD, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 21¼ cwt. in E flat.

ALBERT HARMAN	...Treble	ALFRED H. WINCH	5
JOHN BEAMS	2	ALFRED J. BULL	6
GEORGE MARRINER	3	JOHN HOYLE	7
FREDERICK G. WOODISS	4	ARTHUR DEAN	...Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by A. DEAN.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

MRS. WILLIAM EDWARDS	...Treble	JOSEPH T. DYKE	5
*MISS ALICE STOKES	2	ALFRED E. REEVES	6
FREDERICK G. LEAKER	3	WILLIAM A. CAVE	7
RICHARD CLARK	4	JAMES NISBET	...Tenor

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

* First peal in the method.

WARMINSTER, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
ERNEST MORRIS' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.
Tenor 28 cwt.

*ERNEST KILL	...Treble	FRANK ASHWORTH	5
‡TREVOR HOLLOWAY	2	‡FREDK. PRECEY	6
E. F. WHITE	3	WILLIAM E. FLETCHER	7
J. FRANCIS	4	ED. MARLOW	...Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM E. FLETCHER.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples. ‡ First peal in the method. First peal as conductor. Rung after the induction of the new Vicar, and as a peal of welcome to him.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH BISHOPSGATE,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5068 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 20 cwt.

GEORGE R. PYE	...Treble	REUBEN CHARGE	5
MISS ELSIE E. CHAPMAN	2	HAROLD W. CLARK	6
JAMES E. DAVIS	3	WILLIAM PYE	7
JOHN T. KENTISH	4	REUBEN SANDERS	...Tenor

Conducted by W. PYE.

NANTWICH, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

RICHARD D. LANGFORD	...Treble	RICHARD T. HOLDING	5
HARRY F. HOLDING	2	WILLIAM EDGE	6
HARRY OVERTON	3	JAMES H. RIDING	7
HAROLD EDWARDS	4	*FRANK BARNARD	...Tenor

Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

* First peal. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

MINIATURE BELLS

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SMETHWICK, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE OLD CHURCH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 10 cwt.

HECTOR G. BIRD	...Treble	WILLIAM GREEN	5
SAMUEL J. HUGHES	2	ABRAHAM GREENFIELD	6
FRANK KLETTE	3	WILLIAM BROWN	7
‡PERCY HACKETT	4	*WILLIAM MASON	...Tenor

Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.

* First peal, and proposed a member in the belfry. † First peal in the method. Rung half-muffled as a tribute to the memory of the late Canon Astbury, Knottsall Lodge, Langley, who for over 40 years was Vicar of the Old Church, Smethwick, and whose body was interred in the above churchyard on the previous Monday.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

LEVERINGTON, CAMBS.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.
On Wednesday, April 21, 1926, in Three Hours.
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. LEONARD AND JOHN.
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of Double Court, St. Clement's, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob.
Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 0 lb. in F.

WALTER J. CURSTON	...Treble	JAMES H. RAPER	4
TONY PRICE	2	WALTER N. ASHBY	5
ARTHUR WIGMORE	3	JOSEPH E. SYKES	...Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

HULL.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, April 22, 1926, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being three 720's of Kent Treble Bob and four of Plain Bob.

ARTHUR W. HOODLESS	...Treble	JOHN CHAMBERLAIN	4
GEORGE F. WILLIAMS	2	HERBERT HOWELL	5
A. BERNARD COOK	3	JOHN H. HOWELL	...Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. WILLIAMS.

Rung on the front six.

BATCOMBE, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours & Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 42 six-scores with ten different callings. Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM OSMENT	...Treble	*REV. E. S. C. LOCK	4
*BERTRAM DUNKERTON	2	FRANKLIN D. RICKARDS	5
ERNEST A. H. LANE	3	*WILLIAM PHELPS	...Tenor

Conducted by F. D. RICKARDS.

First peal on the bells. * First peal. The band wish to thank the Vicar (the Rev. Morant) for granting the use of the bells, and for his kindness in providing a capital tea afterwards.

COWLINGE, NEWMARKET.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5760 CHANGES;
Twenty-four callings. A. J. PITMAN'S ARRANGEMENT.
Tenor 10 cwt.

SYDNEY COOTE	...Treble	G. H. SAVAGE	3
STANLEY PLEDGER	2	HARRY STUBBINGS	4
		CHARLES GOOCH	Tenor

Conducted by G. H. SAVAGE.

First peal by all the ringers; also first known to have been rung on the bells.

UPWELL, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court, College Single Reverse, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, and two 720's of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in F.

RALPH NARBOROUGH ...	...*Treble*	WALTER N. ASHBY	4
JAMES H. RAPER	2	TONY PRICE	5
ARTHUR WIGMORE	3	JOSEPH E. SYKES	...*Tenor*

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

First peal on the bells.

CHIGWELL, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 29, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Beverley, Ipswich, Cambridge, London, Wells, Durham and York.

ERNEST J. BUTLER ...	...*Treble*	WILLIAM MILLER	4
ALFRED PRIOR	2	EDWARD D. SMITH	5
GEORGE DAWSON	3	WILLIAM THEOBALD ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by A. PRIOR.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Thursday, April 29, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Woodbine, two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, 720 of Double Court and Plain Bob. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*WILLIAM C. BUNN ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE LEE	4
ALBERT J. L. NAUNTON ...	2	JOHN SPENCER	5
EDGAR BAILEY	3	FRANCIS W. NAUNTON	...*Tenor*

Conducted by FRANCIS W. NAUNTON.

* First peal and first attempt, aged 15.

GEDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 8 six-scores each of St. Simon's, Old Doubles, and Plain Bob, and 18 six-scores of Grandsire. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb.

*REGINALD BUTCHER ...	...*Treble*	FREDERICK J. TITE	3
MISS KITTY MOORE	2	HARRY BAXTER	4
ROBERT G. BLACK ...	...*Tenor*		

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First peal and first attempt.

BUCKNALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Violet, Duke of York, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford. Tenor 11 cwt. in A.

CHARLES S. RYLES ...	...*Treble*	HENRY CARNWELL	4
*JOSEPH BERRISFORD	2	*HENRY BERRISFORD	5
JOHN E. WHEELDON	3	JAMES WALLEY	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN E. WHEELDON.

* First peal in seven methods. Ringers of 2nd, 4th and 5th hail from Kingsley, the others from Norton. The band tender thanks to Mr. H. Billings for having everything in readiness, and his kind courtesy.

'THE MUSIC OF THE BELLS.'

Under this heading the 'Birmingham Mail,' one of the most influential daily papers in the Midlands, had the following leading article recently:—

'There is no hardier annual among newspaper correspondences than that relating to what complainants term "the church bell nuisance." It crops up in our own columns from time to time, as it did a few weeks ago, and as it does, no doubt, in most of the other newspapers which their readers are accustomed to regard as the medium for ventilating their grievances. The bell ringers of Worcestershire discussed the matter at the annual meeting of their change ringing association, and were rather perturbed by a threat on someone's part to bring forward a Bill in Parliament to suppress or restrict church bell ringing. We do not think they need have any serious fears that the practice of the very fascinating and intricate science of campanology will come under the ban of Parliament. Nor need they, we believe, assume that the objectors represent more than a minute fraction of the community. The music of the bells is linked up too intimately with our national life and history to be dispensed with at the behest of a few people who, with or without real cause, protest against it as an unnecessary or disturbing survival. There may be cases in which it is a real trouble, where people reside in very close proximity to the church, where they are nervy or poor sleepers, where cheap bells with irritating notes are installed, or where they are rung unreasonably and too insistently. But with most of us, whether we be churchgoers or not, the silencing of the church bells would be a distinct loss. To hear them at their best, one needs to be in a pleasant countryside, when their sound is borne across the open fields, and blends harmoniously with the music of the birds, the hum of the insects, and the peaceful atmosphere of rural surroundings. Even in town, most of us find them inspiring and cheering, and would miss them sadly if they were stilled. Modern life in crowded cities has given us too many noises of its own, not all of them pleasing, and some distinctly nerve-wracking—the hooting of motors and the roar of street traffic, the often raucous strains of neighbours' gramophones or loud speakers, and, as aerial traffic develops, the drone of the aeroplane engine may add another disturbance to everyday life.

'Bells, when they are musical in their tones—we would gladly support a Bill prohibiting the erection of any bell whose note would not pass a committee of musicians—have an appeal which goes down to the fibres of our being. They have a spiritual and a traditional significance which we could ill afford to banish in this too matter-of-fact, materialistic age. For well-nigh countless centuries they have touched human life at the most intimate points, have been associated with occasions of joy or mourning, have roused the worker from his slumbers or marked the close of his day of toil, have celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth, have heralded the approach of danger from fire or from the enemy without the gates, have turned our thoughts to God and to worship. The "passing bell" is a symbol of the equality of man in the presence of "death, the leveller," tolled as it is for king or peasant, for the infant who has been snatched from life on its very threshold and for the traveller gathered to his rest at a ripe old age. They have marked the triumph of tyranny, as in the case of the "curfew" carrying in its note the order that all lights and fires must be extinguished and no person must walk abroad, and the passing of tyranny, for peals on the church bells have always been an accompaniment of public rejoicing. They have guided and still guide the fog-bound mariner along a rocky coast, and the lost traveller on the lonely moorlands in dark of night. Even now, we believe, in certain remote parts, the evening bell is rung for this purpose, thanks to the bequest of some grateful soul in generations past who found guidance and safety through the ringing of a church bell. And even now in villages here and there, where the march of human progress is little felt, the morning bell—a much pleasanter institution than the raucous steam whistle or "buzzer" of the urban factory—rouses the horsekeeper, stockman, and agricultural worker to a realisation that the time for slumber is gone and a new day has awakened. In many villages, too, a merry peal yet returns thanks for the safe garnering of the harvest, and the "gleaning bell," which gave the freedom of the cornfields to the country folk, is still rung. No, we certainly cannot afford to lose the music of the church bells, even if, as must happen with most of the accompaniments and conveniences of communal life, they may occasionally be disturbing to the individual whose temperament or whose occupation do not fit him easily into the general scheme of things.'

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

THE NAMING OF METHODS—COMMENTS ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In the issue of 'The Ringing World' of April 30th I traced the history of method nomenclature up to the appointment of the committee at the meeting of the Council in London in 1924.

In due season, the Nomenclature Committee prepared its report, and this was presented to the Council at the Chester meeting. It was soon clear that it would meet with opposition, and opposition for two distinct reasons. First, the Chester Guild had made itself champion of the floral names, and intended to fight to the end against their alteration. They took the step of ringing the methods, and they claimed that now they had been rung with the floral names the matter was settled. Secondly, the proposals of the report respecting names of methods generally were disputed. The Council ordered the report to be published, and the consideration of it to be deferred till next year. This is the question on which the Council will vote at Ipswich.

You will notice that really there are two questions distinct from each other. The lesser, but much more immediate, is the question of floral names. The other is the series of proposals relating to the naming of methods generally. Presently I will explain what they are. I think it will generally be agreed that, however desirable it may be to overhaul and reform the naming of methods generally, there is no need for any hurry in the matter. The Exercise has got on tolerably well with the present system for a good long time. But the six-bell method names do require settling at once. For this reason, among others—the book is already sold out, and a new edition will have to be prepared and issued. In the ordinary course this task will fall to the Methods Committee. As a body, that committee has no views for or against the floral names. It is prepared to accept either the Analysis Committee's list or the Nomenclature Committee's list but it does want the Council to give definite instructions as to which is to be used. And on that point there is no question that the Council is entitled to give orders.

You may, if you please, argue that the Council should not interfere with the names which have been given to methods, but you cannot dispute that it can print what it pleases in its own publications. I think it would be for the general convenience (it certainly would be for the Methods Committee's convenience) if matters are so ordered that these two questions are voted on separately. I commend to the Nomenclature Committee's consideration the suggestion that they should first submit to the Council the clauses of their report dealing with the six-bell names, and, when they have been voted on, the clauses dealing with more general matters. Quite likely such a course might turn out to be good tactics.

And now turn to the report itself. It opens with a preamble or general statement, giving a general justification of what is to follow, 'without any system to guide the selection of fresh names,' so we are told, 'and with a multitude of new methods produced of late years a state of almost indescribable confusion has arisen, especially as regards Minor, and, more recently, Major nomenclature. Every would-be method author has been a law to himself, there having been no authority to decide as to the names to be adopted.' On whether you agree with this statement or not will largely depend what you think of the proposals of reform which follow. If you agree that method names are actually in a state of almost indescribable confusion you will welcome sympathetically any attempt to put matters right. Even if you do not agree with the details of the suggested reforms you will still welcome them, hoping that they may be modified to meet your objections. Your criticism will be constructive. But on the other hand, if you think that the system of naming methods which the Exercise has used for three hundred years has, on the whole, worked remarkably well, and that the names in use are almost invariably good and suitable ones you will be disposed to reject any suggestion of change entirely. You will not bother much about the details of the proposed reforms, you will meet the whole with a flat and single negative.

But assuming that you think reform necessary you will turn to the recommendations offered. First of all, the committee suggest 'that method classification should be simplified, and should in future fall into three main divisions: 1, Plain; 2, Treble Bob; 3, Surprise.' Here I think the Nomenclature Committee are going beyond their terms of reference, and are dealing with matters on which, apparently, they have no technical knowledge. Simplify method classification by all means if you can, but these gentlemen do not realise that all this has been thoroughly thrashed out already, and is the subject of a report adopted by the Council. They must give us a definition of what a Treble Bob method is, and what a Surprise. They must show us how all methods can be put into the three classes. They will find there is more in the matter and greater difficulties than they suppose. At any rate, I do not think they ought to suggest a repeal of the report on classification before they have made themselves acquainted with what it contains.

The second recommendation is one for which a lot can be said. It is that the same name should not be used for two methods; that if, for instance, you have a Brighton Surprise you should not also have a Brighton Court. This is a point which may well be remembered in naming future methods; but not every one will agree to make it apply to old and established methods. When we remember that the titles, Oxford Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, are equally historical, we shall not be very willing to alter either. We shall ask ourselves whether, as a matter of fact, there is any inconvenience and confusion in having the word Oxford applied to two distinct methods.

Thirdly, all what are called non-essential words, such as 'Pleasure,' 'Delight,' 'Court' and 'Bob,' are to be dropped. 'Bob' applied to methods is a meaningless appendage. We should like to have the committee's reasons for saying that these words are non-essential and meaningless. They are neither one nor the other to anyone who knows something of the history and value the continuity of ringing. Once more this committee is referred to the report on classification.

Fourthly, only selected topographical names are to be employed in the future. The growing custom of the Exercise is to call methods only by the names of towns, villages or counties, and it is the safest plan to adopt. If you do so you are not very likely to get a bad name, but we may ask why this should be a rigid rule. Why, if a man hits on another name equal to Superlative or Grandsire, he may not use it?

Then follows a long list of names which it is proposed to substitute for old ones. You can go through the list and see if you think the new ones are sufficient improvement to justify the trouble and inconvenience of change: whether Grimsby, for instance is any better than Duke of Norfolk; Lambeth than London Scholars' Pleasure; or Norton than Morning Star. Perhaps you may think that the men of long ago who rang and named these methods are deserving of some consideration, and you will not lightly break these links with the past.

Future methods are to be dealt with as follows: A selected list of names is to be published, and none outside it is to be used unless a committee of the Council gives permission; concerning which two comments seem suitable to be made. It is easy enough to say to ringers you may call methods only by such names as a committee thinks fit. But who is to make them obey? If they say we shall call our method what we please, as we have always done, what answer can you make? And, secondly, what guarantee have you that any committee would select any better names than leading ringers and composers do at present?

DEATH OF ANOTHER SHEFFIELD RINGER

The hand of death has fallen heavily amongst Sheffield ringers this year. First Mr. William Lomas, of the Cathedral band, passed away in February, followed by Mr. Jack Smithson, of All Saints', in March. Now we regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas G. Sarel, of St. Marie's, who died on April 27th.

Mr. Sarel came from the southern counties some 45 years ago, and his associations with the St. Marie's Company covered about 40 years. He was a member of the company up to his death, but, bronchitis having taken a firm hold of him, he had not been able to attend Sunday service ringing for the last two months.

A 'mender of soles' by trade, the perseverance and thoroughness with which he carried on his work was exemplified in the belfry; to make a mistake was a very rare occurrence with him, and he was recognised as being one of the safest of ringers.

He had rung about 35 peals, all in the standard methods, the last one being when, in his 72nd year, he rang the 3rd bell to Holt's Original with not a word of correction, striking admirably throughout the peal with a delight which would have done credit to a much younger man.

Handbells he had a special liking for, though his abilities in change ringing never passed beyond taking the trebles for Grandsire, but he was far from being a novice with 'four in hand' for tune ringing.

Although Mr. Sarel had passed 'the allotted span,' being in his 74th year, he will be sadly missed by Sheffield ringers, and it was with feelings of regret that four members of the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield District Society paid the last tribute to his memory at Abbey Lane Cemetery, when a course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside at the close of the funeral service by: J. Evinson 1-2, C. Harrison 3-4, G. Lewis 5-6 and A. Craven 7-8.

For evening service, on May 2nd, at Norton, Derbyshire, with bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mr. Sarel, 1,260 Grandsire Triples was rung by: *N. Harrison 1, H. Beardshaw 2, J. Berridge 3, C. Bates 4, G. Smith 5, T. E. Lee 6, W. Biggin (conductor) 7, *L. Coupe 8. *First quarter peal.

ALTON BELLS RECAST.

A FINE RING FROM CROYDON FOUNDRY.

The recast ring of eight bells at St. Lawrence's Church, Alton, Hants, were reopened by members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild on Saturday, May 1st. Members present included Mr. G. Williams (Master) and Mr. G. Pullinger (general sec.), and about 30 ringers from Aldershot, Bishopstoke, Bishop's Sutton, Farnham, Guildford, North Stoneham, Seale, Wickham, Winchester and the local band. A very welcome visitor was Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, complete with notebook and rule.

All the bells have been recast and hung in a new iron H. frame, on ball bearings, with new and modern fittings. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in their customary excellent manner, and gave every satisfaction. The weight of the tenor is 18 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs. in E., and the total weight of the peal is 74 cwt. 15 lbs. The general opinion was that Alton now possesses an exceptionally fine ring of bells.

The reopening service was conducted by the Rev. C. E. Matthews, R.D. (vice-president) and the Guild form of service used. He gave a most interesting address on the origin and meaning of the use of bells, and the history of change ringing down to the present time. There was a large congregation present.

The ringers sat down to a sumptuous meat tea, provided by the generosity of Mr. H. P. Birrell (churchwarden). The Rev. F. R. Dawson (Vicar) presided, and was supported by Mr. H. P. Birrell, Mr. Bond, Dr. Leslie (churchwardens), Rev. C. E. Matthews and Mr. Cyril Johnston. Following tea speeches were made by the gentlemen mentioned, and Mr. G. Williams, in reply, voiced the thanks and appreciation of the ringers.

Afterwards a move was made to the tower, and ringing enjoyed up to 8 p.m., the methods rung being Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

It is interesting to note that change ringing has been practised in Alton from an early date, and two peal boards record that peals of Grandsire Triples were rung on the bells on March 7th, 1777, and on February 15th, 1785. It is believed that the former was the first peal rung in the county. William Dyer, who was a subscriber to 'The Clavis,' took part in both these peals, and his descendants, who still reside in Alton, subscribed towards the work just completed.

As the opening clashed with the quarterly meeting of the Winchester District, at Fawley, the latter was postponed to June 5th. Due notice of this will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

For evening service on Sunday, May 2nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 48 mins.: H. Perry 1, G. Pullinger 2, V. Lowton 3, G. Noakes 4, E. Ham 5, A. Evans 6, A. Hardiman (conductor) 7, H. Sulton 8.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly meeting of the Rochester District was held at Cliffe-at-Hoo on Saturday, April 24th, and, for once, fewer members put in appearance than had notified, which is something unusual these days, as in this district generally about twenty more than are catered for turn up at the meetings. If, therefore, this should catch the eye of those who did not put in an appearance, they might like to send on the price of their tea to the secretary of the district to balance matters.

The tower was open for ringing at 3 p.m., and at 5 o'clock the Association service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. T. Wallis, who gave a very interesting address on the history of the church.

Tea was partaken of at the Six Bells, and was followed by the business meeting, at which Mr. W. Harper, of Swanscombe, was elected chairman, in the absence of the Rector. Five new members were elected, and the election of one non-resident member was confirmed, he having been proposed previous to a peal.

Northfleet and Borden were proposed as the place of the next meeting on the last Saturday in July, the former place being decided on by the majority of one vote.

Votes of thanks were passed to all concerned, and the tower was again visited and ringing continued until 8.45, Standard methods up to Superlative being rung. In spite of the small attendance, the meeting was thoroughly representative of the district.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at Hendon on Saturday, May 1st, and was attended by some 24 members from Finchley, Southgate, Hornsey, Stamford Hill, Willesden, Walthamstow, Leytonstone and other parts.

At the special service the Vicar (Rev. S. E. Chettoe) gave a very interesting address on the history and uses of bells, which was much appreciated.

After tea in the Church House, the usual business meeting was held. Stanmore was chosen for the next meeting on June 19th, which it is hoped will be held jointly with Hertfordshire friends.

It was much regretted that the president of the association, Mr. F. A. Milne, J.P., was unable to be present owing to a chill, and his speedy recovery was hoped for.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar, also to Mr. C. H. Martin and the local ringers for their very warm welcome.

Much use was made of the pretty peal of six bells, touches in several methods from Bob Minor to Cambridge Surprise being rung.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Secretaries are reminded that notices of meetings should reach us by TUESDAY, in order to be included in the same week's issue. Notices which arrive on Wednesday are often too late for insertion, and inconvenience is thus caused.

We understand that Dr. J. B. Williamson, a late Master of the Cambridge University Guild, has now returned to Ventnor permanently, and is practising there in partnership with one of the local doctors.

A red covered memo book with addresses and touches, also a black leather letter case, with a course of Bristol Surprise inside, were picked up at Fulham, where the annual general Middlesex Association meeting was held. These can be had on application to Robert Holloway, 10, Summerlands Avenue, Acton, W.3.

A very 'Ernest' band met at the Loughborough Foundry campanile on May 1st, when they rang the first Ernest name peal. It is said they were deadly earnest about getting it, and we congratulate them on their success, as ringers with this name are not quite so easily found as those with a common or garden name like John, or Thomas.

Mr. William Reyner, for two years president, and now vice-president of the Barnsley and District Association, who has completed fifty years as bell ringer and chorister at Sandal Parish Church, and Mr. John Glover, another chorister of fifty years' service, have been honoured by the choir, who entertained them to supper, and presented each with a silver-mounted walking stick, suitably inscribed. Mr. Reyner's family have been connected with the church since 1700.

The Hereford Diocesan Guild was founded in March, 1886, and it is expected to have a record festival at Whitsuntide to celebrate the 40th anniversary. We understand the Bishop hopes to be present.

The Coalbrookdale 'Cater Band' hope to ring a touch of Shropshire at the Guild Festival.

Edmonton bells were opened by the Royal Cumberland Youths on May 8th, 1788, with a peal of 5,280 'Oxford Treble Bobs,' composed and conducted by John Reeves.

A peal of 10,200 Treble Bob Royal was rung at Shoreditch on May 10th, 1777, and on the same day, in 1779, 12,240 Bob Major was rung at Braughing.

May 11th was the anniversary of the record peal of London Surprise, 14,112, rung at King's Norton, in 1903.

We are glad to state that Mr. F. S. Wilson, of Haddon Lodge, Diss, who two months ago, in a nursing home in Norwich, had to undergo a serious internal operation for gastric ulcers and removal of the appendix, is now making satisfactory progress. Mr. Wilson wishes, through the medium of 'The Ringing World,' to specially thank Mr. C. E. Borrett and Mr. G. P. Burton, ringers of St. Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich, for their great kindness to him while in the nursing home.

Over £5 was raised the other day in aid of Cound Church Bell Restoration Fund by a dance at the Guildhall.

METHOD NOMENCLATURE.

As I have opposed Mr. Trollope so often on this matter, it seems only right that I should say that so far as his article under 'Notes by the Way,' with the above title, goes, I agree with him entirely. The only word I could object to is the last, and here a mere verbal alteration would probably find us agreed. Instead of reading that there was no great wish for any alteration of names 'in general,' I would suggest that it read 'for a general alteration of names.'

I have never concealed the fact that I quite agree with Mr. Pritchett's argument, as quoted by Mr. Trollope, that some names of flowers are suitable names for methods. In my experience, I find that nearly all ringers (and outsiders too) object very strongly to certain names of flowers. I would mention dahlia, lobelia, geranium. These may be called 'botanical,' rather than 'floral' names. The introduction of these 'botanical' names has, however, set many ringers against 'floral' names altogether. What we want to find out is, whether the Exercise generally wants to dispense with the 'floral' names, or with the 'botanical' ones only.

Naturally, the condemnation of some names led to the criticism of names in general, and it is this that the Nomenclature Committee seem to have been appointed for. I do not mean a general change of names; but that in each class a few need consideration.

It is here that most, if not all, of our critics fall foul of our report. Both in your columns, and by word of mouth, we have frequently been told that such 'drastic' alterations are not required. When we have been able to find out to what reference was being made, in every case it appeared that it was supposed that all the old favourite names were to be discarded. When it was pointed out that not a single well-known and popular name has been scheduled for alteration in our report criticism has at once ceased.

Probably it will be decided to keep some floral names. The question is, which?

HERBERT DRAKE

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.

A FINE RING OF TEN.

The consummation of the scheme for the restoration and augmentation of Coalbrookdale bells was reached on Saturday, April 17th, when the new trebles were dedicated by the Bishop of Hereford. The original peal was an octave (tenor 19½ cwt.), cast by C. and G. Mears in 1852. Of this ring the 3rd and 5th have been recast, and the peal harmonically tuned, the tenor being now 18 cwt. 3 qrs. 27 lbs. in the key of D. The two trebles have been added as a memorial to Lieut. Maurice A. A. Darby, son of the late Mr. A. E. W. Darby, patron of the living, who was killed in the war.

The first bell has the following inscription cast on it: 'These two treble bells were erected by public subscription in grateful remembrance of Lieut. Maurice A. A. Darby, who gave his life for King and Country in the Great War, 1914-1918.'

DEDICATION SERVICE.

The dedication service was attended by a large congregation of people from the surrounding district, including Mrs. A. E. W. Darby and Mrs. Cope Darby. The service was conducted by Preb. Crowe, and other clergy present, in addition to the Bishop of Hereford, were the Revs. R. A. Giles (Sheriffhales), A. C. Howell (Little Wenlock), E. Roberts (Iron Bridge), T. R. J. Fawkes (Dawley), H. Scott (Clun), and H. S. T. Richardson (Hopesay). The service opened with the hymn, 'We love the place, O God,' and following prayers, a psalm, and the lesson, the Bishop formally dedicated the two new bells, 'from all profane and unhallowed uses, to the glory of God, and the service of His holy Church.' After the hymn, 'Now thank we all our God,' the ten bells rang out for the first time, the set changes being Queen's, Whittington's, and Tittums, and the ringers W. Saunders (conductor) 1, L. Hewitt 2, W. Wase 3, R. Evans 4, J. Henley 5, A. S. Bayley 6, R. Jones 7, W. Lago 8, J. Garbett 9, J. H. Rixon 10.

A collection taken during the service realised £14 5s.



COALBROOKDALE CHURCH.

The inscription on the second bell, which was chosen by Lieut. Darby's mother and sister, is:—

Who stands if Freedom fall?
Who dies if England win?

The ten bells are hung on one level, in a heavy cast iron frame, mounted on a double tier foundation of steel girders, spanning the tower north and south and east and west, thus tying the four walls together. The bells are fitted with the latest type of ball bearings and cast iron headstocks, everything in connection with the work being of the most modern type.

To Mr. William Saunders, for thirty years the conductor at this tower, is due the carrying out of this enterprise to a successful issue. He has laboured strenuously and unobtrusively for the accomplishment of the scheme, and his part in it has been wholehearted and unselfish.

The completion of the work has been marked by the following inscription on a tablet in the tower: 'To the glory of God. The peal of eight bells in this tower was restored in 1925. The fifth bell bears the following inscription: "Recast by Mears and Stainbank 1925. Alfred E. W. Darby, Esq., J.P., D.L., Patron; Preb. C. B. Crowe, M.A., R.D., Vicar; Herbert Hughes, Frederick Johnson, Churchwardens." Also two treble bells were added in grateful remembrance of Lieut. Maurice A. A. Darby, Grenadier Guards, who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918, son of Alfred E. W. Darby, and Frederica, his wife, of Adcote and Sunnyside, in this county, grandson of Alfred Darby, donor of the eight bells. The cost, £650, was raised by public subscription. Dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford, April 17th, 1926.'

In his address, the Bishop said that it was not untrue to say that Christianity had taken up and developed the use of bells as no other faith had done. In China and Japan, too, bells were used in connection with worship, but the idea of them in those countries was to attract the attention of the god. When Christianity was freed from persecution and became the religion of the Empire, bells were introduced to gather together the faithful, and from that time until now that was the main purpose of bells in Christian worship. So intimately associated were bells with Christianity that when Islam poured across Eastern Christianity Mahomet determined to dissociate himself entirely from that symbol, and he forbade the use of the bells. Different Christian nations had developed bell ringing according to their natural characteristics and idiosyncracies. In the south of Europe, on Easter eve, the bells suddenly jangled out after their Lenten silence, but in no sense of order or harmony; in Belgium there was the carillon ringing, and our English sense of order had produced the peal and chime, and change ringing, which expressed in some subtle way our national characteristic, with its love of orderliness and rhythm. His Lordship said that he wished to remind them that the ringing of bells had played a great part in our national life. In days gone by there was the market bell, the gleaning bell, the fire bell, and how often along the border countryside must the tocsin bell have rung out—the alarm bell of some raid across the Welsh border calling able-bodied men to arms to repel the invader? Then there was the vestry bell and the curfew bell, which was still rung. In a study of church

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The following are arrangements by the Reception Committee:—

Hotels: 'Great White Horse,' bed and breakfast, 9s. 6d. (Saturday dinner to Wednesday breakfast, inclusive terms, £2). 'Crown and Anchor' (headquarters), bed and breakfast, 9s. 'Grand,' bed and breakfast, 7s. 6d. 'Queen's,' ditto, 7s. 6d. 'Victoria' Temperance, ditto, 5s. 6d. A room will be reserved for the use of members on Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings, at the 'Crown and Anchor.' The manager of the 'Great White Horse' is reserving a separate dining-room for members, if they will ask for it (without extra charge). This is the hotel immortalised by Dickens. Mr. Pickwick's room is still shown to visitors, and also that of the Lady in Curlpapers.

Peals are being arranged on the Saturday afternoon, and later. Will any who would like to be included please send word as soon as possible to Mr. C. J. Sedgeley, 14, Suffolk Road, Ipswich, mentioning day and methods preferred?

It is suggested that members may like to visit Felixstowe or Norwich on the Sunday. If a party for Norwich is desired it can be arranged, if sufficient notice is given. The steamers to Felixstowe (no bells) are very pleasant, and an extension to Harwich (eight bells) can be made.

An excursion has been arranged for Monday, leaving at 10 a.m., for Stowmarket, Bury St. Edmunds (lunch can be had at the 'Angel'), Lavenham, Sudbury and Hadleigh. The bells will be available at each of these places. The motor coach will hold 30, and it will be open, as long as seats are available in it, to all members who send their names to Mr. G. E. Symonds, 28, Chevalier Street, Ipswich, to whom other inquiries should be addressed.

The Suffolk Guild invite the members of the Council to meet them at tea at the Co-operative Hall at 5 p.m., after the Council meeting; and, after tea, Mr. Chas. J. Sedgeley will conduct members round some of the interesting antiquities of Ipswich.

At 8 p.m. there will be a social meeting for members of the Council, and of the Suffolk Guild, in the large room at the 'Crown and Anchor.'

Visitors from the South by road are advised to explore Gainsborough country just over the county boundary at Flatford and Dedham; they will beware of the dangerous Dedham Gun Hill, leading to the bridge by which one leaves Essex. On the other journey, they may like to go through Polstead and Stoke-by-Nayland, with their beautiful country and fine churches.

Those from the North, by a half-mile detour from the Yarmouth Road, may see Ufford Church, with its unique font-cover, and the Vale of Ufford. Sudbury is supposed to be 'Eatanswill'; though some say Ipswich and others Bury.

Members are also recommended to visit 'Christchurch Mansion' (admission free) in the park adjoining St. Margaret's Church. The bells of St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8) and St. Clement's (6) will be available on Monday.

There will be a service of the Holy Communion at St. Mary-le-Tower Church on Tuesday at 8 a.m.

(Continued from previous page.)

accounts in ancient parishes one might almost write the history of the country from the way in which the bells were rung on every possible occasion: all through the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries every great event was signalised by the ringing of bells. But while bells had been used for secular and sacred purposes, and to express sorrow or rejoicing, the main purpose for which they were hung in our church towers was for the calling together of Christian people to worship God. The proverb which said that 'bell ringers call others to church, but will not enter themselves,' was false, because he was pleased to say that in that diocese those who took part in bell ringing, for the most part, joined in the worship to which they had called others. It was little less than hypocrisy for men to join in calling others to worship and then absent themselves.

Visiting ringers were present from London, Birmingham, Bradford, Derby, Wolverhampton, Bridgnorth, Southampton, and many towers in Salop and neighbouring counties, and the ringing included touches in a variety of methods, including four well-struck courses of Stedman Caters immediately after the service by P. O. Laflin 1, E. T. Allaway 2, G. Williams 3, W. Short 4, T. Salter 5, R. Matthews 6, A. A. Hughes 7, A. Paddon Smith 8, J. E. Groves (conductor) 9, W. Farley 10.

The bells are a very fine ring, and everyone was delighted with both tone and 'go.' The work of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank has been splendidly done and Coalbrookdale now possesses a peal of bells of which it may be justly proud. Many of the visitors stayed over Sunday, and good ringing was enjoyed prior to the services.

DEATH OF A SUSSEX RINGER.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM MARKWELL'S MANY ACTIVITIES.

As already briefly reported, the Sussex County Association, and the Central Division in particular, has lost an old and valued member by the death of Mr. William Markwell. Henfield Church, and many organisations in connection with the life of this little Sussex town, will sadly feel his demise, for in many spheres he was an active and enthusiastic worker. In addition to being a ringer for many years, he had been verger and sacristan for about eleven years. He was a member of the Communicants' Guild and of the C.E.M.S., which he had represented at various conferences. A visit to Bradford in this capacity had always been to him an interesting one, as he was able to take part in the ringing arranged for the delegates' special service. He was chairman of the Eardley Hall Memorial Institute, Lecture Master of the local lodge of the M.U. Oddfellows, and in various other ways he gave his help in the social affairs of Henfield. Early in January his health began to fail, and, despite all that could be done, he passed away on April 22nd at the age of 63 years.

He was the eldest son of Mr. James Markwell, of Wilburton, Cambs, who was the captain of the Wilburton ringers for over 40 years. During that period the bells were rung by the family of Markwells, to commemorate which a tablet is being placed in Wilburton Church. In 1893 he came to Henfield to take up service with the late Canon Lowe, and it was not very long before he began to prove his worth in all matters ecclesiastical and social, and his passing will be a serious loss to the whole district.

On Sunday, April 25th, the bells at Henfield were rung muffled for the morning and evening services. For the evening service a touch of 1,008 of Stedman Triples was rung by C. Tyler 1, F. Parsons 2, E. Morey 3, F. Cruttenden 4, A. E. Baker 5, W. J. Alliss 6, G. Payne (conductor) 7, A. Hodges 8.

The funeral took place on Monday, April 26th, the service at St. Peter's Church being attended by a large congregation. The officiating clergy were the Vicar (Rev. R. J. Len) and the Rev. B. J. Boodle, M.A. The hymns chosen were 'Jesus lives' and 'Father of all.' With the singing of the Nunc Dimittis the procession, headed by the cross bearer, choir and clergy, wended its way to the cemetery, where again there was a large gathering of sympathisers. After the committal a course of Stedman Triples (the deceased's favourite method) was rung on the handbells over the grave by C. Tyler, G. Payne, L. Payne and A. E. Baker.

The County Association was represented by Mr. John T. Rickman (Master), Mr. Keith Hart and Mr. Richard Stredwick.

The local band was represented by Messrs. W. J. Alliss, S. Burt, A. Hodges, F. Parsons, E. and W. Morey, C. A. Barnes, E. Court, E. Lish and A. Trevatt.

Immediately after the funeral the visiting ringers, with Mr. Herbert Markwell (Tunbridge Wells), brother of deceased, joined the local ringers and assisted to ring muffled touches of Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

A VISIT TO SHEFFIELD.

On Easter Monday members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford paid a visit to Sheffield to attempt to ring a peal of Stedman Cinques on the Cathedral bells. On arrival at the city station, the visitors were met by several of the Cathedral company, including Messrs. S. F. Palmer, J. Thorpe, F. Willey, A. Craven, P. A. Knights, and others. A delightful tram ride through the city to Norton Church, Derbyshire, was the first move, where a handy and musical ring of eight were soon turning over to the tune of Stedman Triples. Time did not permit of a long stay, and steps were turned towards the Angel Hotel, where a hot lunch was provided, through the kindness of the Rev. D. T. Sykes, M.A. (a former curate at St. Giles' Church, Willenhall). Mr. S. F. Palmer presided, and, in the name of the reverend gentleman (who was unavoidably absent) and the Cathedral company, gave the visitors a hearty welcome. At 2.30 the Cathedral bells—a noble ring of twelve—were set going to Stedman Cinques. Some good tapping was obtained up to the turning course, which alas! did not finish as it should have done. The band stood thus: S. Elton 1, W. Biggin 2, H. Knight (conductor) 3, J. Perry 4, C. Wallater 5, A. J. Hughes 6, A. Craven 7, T. J. Elton 8, E. F. Mitchell 9, S. F. Palmer 10, P. A. Knights 11, J. Thorpe 12. A course of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung on the back eight as a wind-up for the day's tower bell ringing. Tea, at the Angel Hotel, was the next item, after which a pleasant evening was spent at the Museum Hotel, where handbells were brought into use.

Sincere thanks are tendered to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the bells, to the Rev. D. T. Sykes for his hospitality, and the Cathedral company (especially Mr. S. F. Palmer, who made all necessary arrangements) for their entertainment.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

PROGRESS OF THE CATHEDRAL BELLS FUND.

The annual meeting was held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 24th. Favoured by fine weather, quite a goodly number of members put in an appearance, although ringing facilities in the city were again confined (as last year) to the two six-bell towers of St. Peter-at-Gowt's and St. Botolph's. Through the kind offices of the Dean, who also gave the address, a special service was held in the Ringers' Chapel at the cathedral. This small chapel, on the walls of which are records, carefully restored, of the companies of ringers attached to the cathedral during the 17th century, was filled to overflowing with present-day ringers, who listened with the deepest interest to a short account of the history of this ancient portion of the cathedral, given by the Dean as the subject of his address.—A collection was made for the Cathedral Bells Memorial Fund.

After service, a move was made to the Co-operative Hall, Silver Street, where about a hundred members and friends sat down to tea, including both the Bishop and the Dean of Lincoln, patron and president of the Guild respectively.

The Bishop of Lincoln presided at the business meeting, supported on the platform by the Very Rev. the Dean, the Rev. H. Law James (Master) and Mr. F. F. Linley (vice-president and treasurer). All the officers were re-elected, as follows:—President, the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln; Master, the Rev. H. Law James; hon. secretary, Mr. F. W. Stokes; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. F. Linley.

In proposing the re-election of the Dean as president, Mr. F. F. Linley offered to him the hearty congratulations of the Guild on his (the Dean's) 80th birthday a week earlier.—In replying, the Dean thanked the ringers for their good wishes, and especially those of them who had taken part in the peal of Stedman Triples rung at Washingborough on the previous Saturday in honour of the event.

Mr. C. W. P. Clifton, speaking on the Cathedral Memorial Bells Fund, said that, although he had been very pleased to see so many at the service, yet many more were present at tea than had been able to get up to the cathedral. He proposed that a collection be made in the room to enable those who had not been present at the service to contribute to the fund.—This was unanimously agreed to, and resulted in the welcome addition of £3 2s. 8d.—The Treasurer (Mr. Linley) stated that the collection at the service amounted to £3 10s. 7d., including a contribution sent by a member who was not able to be present, and thus a total of £6 13s. 3d. had been added during the day, leaving a balance of about £84 still required. He urged the Guild to make still further efforts during the year to complete this amount, so that the order for the new bells could be put in hand, and the full peal of twelve ready by the time the restoration of the cathedral was finished.

In closing the meeting, the Bishop of Lincoln said he was very sorry that the two eight-bell towers in the city were still closed for ringing. The position as to St. Peter-at-Archies' was very uncertain, as it was quite possible the church would be demolished in the near future, to make way for street improvements.—To this the Dean added that the reopening of the cathedral tower depended solely on the amount of work required to be done to complete the restoration of this tower. This could not be ascertained until the scaffolding was erected, but that would be commenced very shortly.

A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Bishop for presiding, to the Dean for arranging the service, and for his address, and to the incumbents of St. Peter-at-Gowt's, St. Botolph's and St. John's, Washingborough, for kindly placing their bells at the disposal of the Guild during the afternoon and evening.

DEVON GUILD'S PROGRESS.

In the annual report of the Devon Guild it is stated that 1925 was again a period of steady advance by the Guild, not so much in extension of its influence as in making good on existing ground. A total of 61 certificates were issued to performing members who had qualified. This showed that the system of organised instruction is having good results, and the branch reports fully bear this out. Four new bands joined during the year, making a total of 56, and there was evidence of great activity towards a higher and more conscientious standard. The peals rung comprised two of Grandsire Caters, seven of Grandsire Triples, three of Stedman Triples, and one of Kent Treble Bob Major, this latter being the first by a local band for sixteen years.

WEDDING BELLS.

On Thursday, April 22nd, the bells of Conisborough Parish Church Church were rung on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Ruth E. Strawbridge (elder daughter of the Rev. W. A. Strawbridge, Vicar of Conisborough, and of Mrs. Strawbridge), and Mr. D. F. St. Ledger Gordon, of Sticklepath, Devon. In the evening, the bells were again rung, and a half-peal of Minor was brought round in 1 hr. and 27 minutes. It consisted of 720 Bob Minor and 1,800 Kent Treble Bob Minor: R. Sarsby 1, M. C. Fowler 2, O. Greathead 3, A. W. Gledstone 4, P. Gledstone 5, H. Walker (conductor) 6.

SIMPSON-TUNING.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN IDEAL RING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the letters in your columns on the 'Five-tone Principle' of tuning bells, and am sorry that I shall miss the discussion of that question at the Central Council's meeting this year, which promises to be thoroughly engrossing. For my own part, I agree that the new system fairly well ensures a musical peal, but I do not think that the last word in this matter has by any means been said. Probably most of the founders will admit that further progress may yet be made towards perfection.

One criticism frequently made on bells so tuned always surprises me. Ringers are often heard to say that in 'Simpson-tuned' bells they hear too much of the overtones. My complaint is that they are heard too little. To my ear the triplicated octave so dominates the other harmonics that the third is not heard clearly enough. It has always seemed to me, from my earliest boyhood, that a strong, true third is the very making of bell music. The ideal bell will need to have this defect remedied.

Then again in actual practice the result of five-tone tuning appears to me much more satisfactory in large than in small bells. I have heard some magnificent heavy bells tuned on this principle, also some very musical middle-weight peals, but, of the light bells that I have heard, those tuned on old-fashioned lines sound decidedly the most pleasing. And for some reason, doubtless well known to the bell founders, five-tone tuning appears to produce disproportionately light trebles.

Moreover, the whole question of correct harmonics may yet call for much further exploration. The system at present in favour is to produce three octaves with a Minor third and a Major fifth. Now, in the case of the great carillon for New York it was observed that tunes in a Minor key could be played with more satisfactory effect than those in the Major. The reason appears obvious. When a bell automatically sounds the Minor third of its keynotes, that overtone will clash with the Major third of the same note. Thus, if the carillionneur strike the chord of C major, with E natural as its third, the bell in C sounding the tonic of the chord inevitably sounds also E flat, which jars against the E natural.

But we as ringers are more concerned with the effect of harmonics in the case of bells rung in peal, where only one bell sounds at a time; yet the tones necessarily blend. The question may well be raised, whether even in the overtones any note should be introduced, which is foreign to the key, in which the bells are cast. Thus it may be that the ideal ring of bells in the natural key would not produce any sharps or flats. In an octave tuned on such a system, the treble, tenor, 4th and 5th would be tuned to the Major 3rd and 5th, the 3rd, 6th and 7th to the Minor third and Major fifth, the second alone to the Minor 3rd and Minor 5th. This suggestion may at least afford material for thought and discussion.

Let me conclude with all good wishes to your editorial self and all ringing friends in the British Isles.—Yours truly,

Cyprus, 21st April, 1926. F. Ll. EDWARDS.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

PRESENTATION TO LATE CHAIRMAN OF READING BRANCH.

The first quarterly meeting of the Reading branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Mortimer on Saturday, April 24th. The bells of both towers, St. Mary's and St. John's, were kept merrily going during the afternoon, and the service at St. John's was well attended, the preacher being the Vicar (the Rev. Beckwith), who gave a very appropriate address on St. Mary's bells, and mentioned records dating back to 1700.

Tea was served to a company of 48 at St. John's Hall: when all were seated, Mr. E. J. Foster, on behalf of the Reading branch, presented Mr. W. Pole Routh (late chairman of the branch) with a handsome pair of silver candlesticks, in recognition of the 15 years' service he had given as chairman of the branch.—Mr. W. Pole Routh was rather unprepared for this pleasing incident, and in acknowledging the gift said it was a great pleasure to have been chairman of the branch. He mentioned that it was the first occasion on which he had ever had a presentation made to him.

Full justice was done to the excellent tea, which was provided by much hard work on the part of Mr. H. Punter, who had collected the eatables from various residents at Mortimer.

Mr. A. D. Cullum proposed, and Mr. H. Goodyer seconded, a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the beautiful service and for the use of the bells, and this was carried with acclamation.

Good touches of Stedman, etc., were then rung at both towers, until about 9 p.m. everyone agreeing it had been a very successful meeting

WARMINSTER WILTS.—On Saturday, April 17th, at the Minster Church of St. Denys, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 53 minutes: Reg. Webb (first quarter-peal) 1, E. F. White 2, Jas. Gard 3, F. Precey 4, F. Ashworth 5, T. Holloway 6, W. E. Fletcher (conductor) 7, Ed. Marlow 8.

DEATH OF A COLESHILL RINGER.

THE LATE MR. FREDERICK CLAYTON'S WORK.

A gloom was cast over the Coleshill district on Saturday, April 24th, by the sudden death of Mr. Frederick Clayton at the age of 54 years. A native of Worlingworth, Suffolk, he came to King's Norton, Birmingham, about the year 1896, at which place he became a prominent member of the local band, ringing in numerous peals for St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham. He went to reside at Coleshill about 20 years ago, and there held the position of honorary instructor to the local band on a peal of six bells. He formed several bands of ringers from absolutely raw material, as nothing but call changes had been attempted previous to his coming. His keenness in ringing matters was unbounded. He was one of those rare ringers, who was never known to arrive late at the tower. He was a stickler for men under his charge becoming members of the Warwickshire Guild and regular readers of 'The Ringing World.' His agitations for two trebles to make up a peal of eight were unceasing, and, through the generosity of the churchwarden (Mr. A. Fifield), his desire was gratified on January 1st, 1924, when the trebles were installed. He set about the task of forming an eight-bell band with his usual vigour, from men who had never rung on a peal of eight. He now leaves a company capable of ringing Bob, Grandsire, St. Dunstan, Canterbury and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

Besides being connected with the ringing, Mr. Clayton took a large part in founding and developing the Coleshill Town Brass Band.

The funeral took place at Coleshill Parish Church on April 26th. The Archdeacon of Aston (Vicar of Coleshill) officiated. The Coleshill Town Band played Chopin's Funeral March on the way to the church. The bearers were six of the local ringers. The service in church was most impressive. The hymn 'On the Resurrection Morning' was rung, and the coffin was carried from the church to its last resting-place to the strains of 'The Dead March' in Saul, feelingly rendered by the organist (Mr. Sinclair Davey).

At the graveside the hymn 'Peace, Perfect Peace' was sung, accompanied by the Coleshill Town Band.

Among the ringers present was Mr. B. W. Witchell, district secretary of the Warwickshire Guild, who was a friend of the late ringer for over 30 years. During the evening muffled touches were rung on Coleshill bells.

NEW PEAL AT PENSNETT.

A new peal of eight bells was opened on Saturday, April 24th, at St. Mark's, Pensnett, the bells having been erected to the memory of Mr. Fred E. Griffiths, J.P., C.C., a well-known and very philanthropic gentleman who resided in the above village.

The bells have been made by the well-known founders, Messrs. Charles Carr, Ltd., Woodland Works, Grove Lane, Smethwick. It is very satisfactory to note that under new management the company maintained their reputation in executing the work, which has been carried out under the supervision of the new managing director, Mr. D. Meese. The architects were Messrs. Webb and Gray, Dudley.

The dedication was performed by the Archdeacon of Stafford, assisted by the Rev. Norman Edwards, M.A., Vicar of Pensnett, in the presence of a large and distinguished congregation. Amongst the ringers who opened the bells was Mr. T. Miller, of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.

The company have a further contract for rehanging the peal of bells at Wordsley Church, which were rehung by them in 1892.

A COMING-OF-AGE TOUCH.

At Acton, Middlesex, on Wednesday, April 7th, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,280 changes): Robt. Fardon 1, Miss R. G. Hawksworth (first in the method) 2, G. M. Kilby 3, H. Kilby 4, F. W. Goodfellow 5, C. V. Ebberson 6, F. Skevington 7, A. W. Coles (conductor) 8. Rung in honour of the 'coming-of-age' of Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, to whom the best wishes of the band were extended. The touch was accomplished subsequent to the unfortunate failure of a peal.

A YOUTHFUL BAND.

At St. Mary and All Saints' Church, Whalley, Lancashire, a band, including five youths of less than 19 years of age, rang their first six-bell extent on April 21st, a 720 Bob Minor being brought round by H. Hargreaves 1, B. Potts 2, T. Jackson (Exton) 3, H. J. Hoyle (conductor) 5, W. Proctor 6.

EYNESBURY HUNTS. — On Monday, April 19th, at the Parish Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise: S. W. Hawksford 1, Miss C. Fields 2, S. J. Coleman 3, F. S. Bayley 4, G. D. Coleman (conductor) 5, H Fields 6.

SIMPSON-TUNING.

A STAFFORD EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Keeble's letter is getting nearer the real source of trouble than any other. The experience we had at Stafford might be of interest to your readers. Owing to a few of the loud-speaking gentry objecting to new ideas, we had to be content with our bells tuned on the old principle and rehung. When the bells were taken out, the double floor with air-space between was removed, and a 2½-inch plank used in its place; the result was that calls could not be heard across the belfry in an ordinary voice, and there were general complaints about the howl of the bells inside and out. I mentioned this to the founder, and he suggested cutting off the clapper buffer, which was the cause. However, it was decided to put in a second floor, which entirely did away with the howl, and the clapper buffers are in use to-day.

Personally, I have always been convinced that, provided bells are properly founded, the chief trouble is in the tower. In the early days of 'The Ringing World' I suggested that all louvres should work on the principle of the Venetian blind, so that during ringing they should point upwards, as I believe these to be the real conductors of sound. Ringers who have not yet done so should attend a lantern lecture on sound. They would be well repaid by doing so, and I am sure they would come away convinced that sound could be properly conducted.—Yours truly,

J. J. TAYLOR.

DUNMOW BELLS RESTORED.

TWO TREBLES SHORTLY TO BE ADDED.

The restored ring of six bells in Dunmow Parish Church, Essex, were dedicated and reopened in the presence of a large congregation at a special service on Sunday, April 18th. The work, which has been carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, included recasting three of the bells, the retuning of the rest, and the rehanging of the whole on ball bearings in a new steel frame. The cost of the work exceeded £700, all of which has been raised, and a sum of £50 is in hand towards adding two more bells at a cost of about £150 to complete the octave. A very generous response had been made to an appeal for subscriptions to the bell fund, some of the neighbouring villages contributing, for the sound of Dunmow bells had long been a welcome feature of the countryside, and a house-to-house collection in Dunmow yielded £68.

In the large congregation at the dedication were over 70 ringers from all parts of Essex, and some from beyond the county. The Rev. W. J. House, D.D., Vicar, who had taken a great interest in the restoration of the bells, officiated. The Rev. G. A. Campbell, Witham, gave the address (in the absence of the Bishop of Colchester owing to ill-health), and the Rev. J. Evans, Colchester, a former vicar of Dunmow, dedicated the bells in the ringing chamber. A few rounds were then rung on the bells by the Dunmow band, conducted by Mr. H. Smith. Immediately after the service the first touch was rung, being 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor, conducted by Mr. C. H. Howard, Master of the Essex Association. Subsequently the visiting ringers took part in ringing the bells. Col. T. Gibbons, D.S.O., J.P., was hon. treasurer to the bell fund. The work was carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., Loughborough, the bells are hung with ball bearings, and the tone and 'go' were the admiration of all who rang and heard them. The visiting ringers who took part included Mr. C. H. Howard, Master, and Mr. F. J. Pitstow, secretary Essex Association; Mr. C. T. Coles, secretary, Middlesex County Association; Mr. W. J. Nevard, Master, North-Eastern Division, Essex; Mr. E. J. Butler, secretary, South-Western Division; Mr. F. Claydon, Master, Northern Division; Messrs. W. and G. R. Pye, Romford; W. Keeble, FeCering; W. Elliott, Kelvedon; and H. E. Hammond and L. W. Wiffen, Braintree.

The collection for the Bells Fund, including a contribution of £2 1s. 2d. from the ringers, amounted to £17. Among the contributors were the local band, who gave £10, and put in a new floor, thus saving the Parish Church Council over £30. It is hoped the two trebles will be added before the end of the year. During the afternoon and evening, touches of Cambridge Surprise, Treble Bob, and various other methods, were rung. The work of restoration of the bells reflects great credit on the famous Loughborough firm.

When the octave is completed, Dunmow bells, with a tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. in E natural, will rank among the most melodious in the Eastern Counties.

A DATE TOUCH.

On Tuesday, April 13th, at Kendal Parish Church, Cumberland, a date touch of Minor (1,928 changes), consisting of 496 and 720 Plain Bob and 720 Canterbury Pleasure, was rung in 1 hour 10 minutes: I. R. Todd 1, W. Aikinson 2, W. Pielhall 3, T. Haslam 4, T. J. Clement 5, E. Jennings (conductor) 6. This is the longest touch of Minor yet rung on the bells, which are 110 years old.

ST. WERBURGH'S 'GEESE.'

St. Werburgh's day again arrives;
Her Geese to Ipswich Town she drives.

Autolycus.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I know I am quite safe from being 'extincted,' though I may suffer from redundancy, as they don't use the battleaxe in Ipswich. In Rotherham they use the 'Cross Daggers,' in Blackburn they use the 'Cross Axes,' but in Ipswich they use the Halberd: an antient and honourable, though clumsy weapon; but, as used in Ipswich, a very delightful one, and I have passed some pleasant hours in the use of it. So the Halberd for mine, sir, every time; such a fine old English tone about it, peopled as it is by ye shades of Motts and Prentice and Catchpole, not forgetting dear old Harry Bowell, who said so little and thought so much and rang so well. To sit and commune with shades like theirs is a treat which amply repays any good ringer for his trouble in journeying to Ipswich Town. That's the place to get a five-toned 'thurst' adjusted. An' you but give Simon the Cellarer of the Halberd the job, by the time your five tones are in harmony, corrected with all the world, you won't have a grumble left for the flat seventh, nor e'en a care, 'at peace with all the world' will be your slogan. So just call in there on your way to the meeting, my merry disciples of Saint Werburgh and St. Maturin; 't will save you much breath. Ah, yes—I know what it means now: Ye Antient Halberd, Ipswich Town, a Council Meeting—what a combination! Could Gray but have known how apt an illustration of 'far from the madding crowd,' this year to sit in ye Halberd in sweet commune, what time ye Council sits elsewhere in solemn conclave. Yes, take them away, good Saint Werburgh, Shepherd them to their seats, to split hairs (and infinitives) over their paltry 'names for methods,' and, good Saint Werburgh, please ask your flock to tell me, is it the names we ring, or only the methods? I begin to have my doubts as to whether or not my ringing has been properly learnt, but there, ye shade of good Harry Bowell consoles me with the information that those who are clever enough to tell us whether or not a method is correctly named will surely put my mind at rest on so small a matter.

But, what say you, good sir? let's form a committee to decide the matter, and sit, perforce, in Ye Halberd. And, by the way, perhaps good Oliver Cromwell (who represents Brum) will point out to those interested that 'The Press' never have ridiculed our names for methods. What the press has done—nay, is still doing—is to expose its own ignorance and bumptious conceit. 'The Press' thinks, that, being ringers, we must perforce be illiterate, and that, when we publish 5040 of Grandsire Triples or Bob Major, we have omitted, through our lack of education, to make the matter plural. So they, of their benevolence, thinking to do us a kindness, supply the s. I recently had the pleasure of pointing out to a pressman that Major and Grandsire, like press and sheep, were both singular and plural, and that, though I knew the difference between Major and Grandsire (as defined by the Central Council), I had not as yet discovered the difference between press and sheep. I should like good Oliver to demand a Roland —— let our committee give us a real example of 'press ridicule' of our method names, and when he gets it, he can tell them to 'Take that Bauble away.' The press but emphasise the fact that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, making themselves look very silly in the eyes of all good ringers, for, after all, 't is us who get the best laugh when we read their paltry piffle. Though, of course, if one must be thin skinned enough to take every shaft to heart you can see a bogey behind every tree, and it always is the man of least import who fancies that the world has little else to do but gibe at his vain carcase.

Yes, good Dame Werburgh, marshal them to their nests, don't spare your switch, parade the dear old Simpson-cum-Carillon bogey for their delectation; won't they just straighten their necks and preen their feathers over such a momentous question.

But really, sir, there is no need for the dear things to moult a single feather, as Simpson-tuning sings its own requiem. After about three decades the champion of all the 'so-called' Simpson Howlers will have howled his last despairing howl, and be relegated to the category of things 'as used ter be'—the limbo of all good dye pans. So why let your flock be turned into disgruntled dyspeptics over such piffling fads, such theorist's whims? They'll fatten far better on 'register of compositions grass,' some good, some green and some luscious.

And as to carillons — well, a light ring of six is the best that the majority of country parishes can afford: a carillon, such as that at Loughborough, is only within the reach of very few towns, and the pitiful struggles of the gravedigger, who tried to delight the rustics with his version of 'The Tales of Hoffman,' would soon put the average parishioner off his church going for a spell. And could one imagine a 'Bristol Surprise Ringer' trying airily with St. Botolph's carillon and broadcasting 'The Pilgrim's Song' down Bishopsgate the morning after—well, 'the night before.' I know him, sir, and I think not. No, we Brits, so beastly insular, of such phlegmatic temperaments, like a bit of vim behind our call to worship (and some require dynamite, I regret to say). Not, as one writer put it, 'the plaintive strains of the carillon stealing at twilight o'er the meads of the low countries.' That wouldn't suit a rugged land (of 'ruggeder' ringers) like ours.

But the most powerful nail in the carillon coffin is the fact that real change ringing makes work for the founders, at any rate in this country, and they know full well that there is good money made out of recasting and rehanging rings of bells that have been well handled by good change ringers; they know that as soon as they fill our towers with carillons the plums of their trade are all pulled. Who ever heard of carillons wanting rehanging even once in a century? So put your flock to sleep, good Saint Werburgh, tuck them warmly into their basket, to invent in their dreams a few fresh bogies for next year's seance, and tell them:—

We've shooed away that Simpson howl;
The Carillon Spectre's dropped his cowl,
We've shelved that nomenclature mess;
So kiss them all 'Good-night: God bless'—

for

SAMIWELL.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

A quarterly meeting was held at Stafford on April 17th, attended by a fairly good muster of members. A short service was conducted by the Rev. I. O. Johnson, who also gave an address. He apologised for the absence of the Rector (the Rev. Lionel Lambert), but in his name he welcomed his hearers to the county town.

Tea was provided at the Gresham Restaurant, after which the question was raised with regard to a memorial to the late William Rock Small. It was explained that the window which is to be put in St. Martin's Church, Tipton, and unveiled on Saturday, May 22nd, is to be done by the family of the late veteran. A suggestion was made that a brass tablet might be erected by subscription from the members of the society, and it was eventually decided to leave the question open till the annual meeting, which is provisionally arranged to take place at Lichfield on June 19th.

The bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal, etc., were brought home. A course of Cambridge Surprise Major unfortunately came to grief when nearly home, through indisposition of one of the band.

MR. JOHN CARTER'S 72ND BIRTHDAY.

On Friday, April 30th, Mr. John Carter, the well-known ringer and composer, reached his 72nd birthday, and in honour of the event, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes, composed by Mr. Carter) was rung at St. Clement Danes', Church, Strand, by F. G. Newman 1, Miss F. E. Orr 2, Miss E. E. Hardcastle 3, Mis E. E. Chapman 4, C.S.M. J. Bennett 5, J. C. Doel 6, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 7, E. A. Young 8.

Mr. Young very kindly conveyed the best wishes of the band to Mr. Carter, who is lying seriously ill at his house at Honor Oak Park. The band desire to thank Messrs. F. W. H. Sergison, F. G. Symonds and E. F. Pike, who came to avoid meeting short, but did not ring.

Mr. Carter received callers and letters, including one from the College Youths.

MR. WALTER PRIME'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

One of the best known and most respected of London ringers, Mr. Walter Prime has just celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. Prime has had a long association with the College Youths (of which he is one of the trustees) and St. Paul's Cathedral, where he has rung the tenor to a peal single-handed.

In celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Prime's wedding jubilee a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, for evening service on Sunday, April 25th: J. Bullock (conductor) 1, C. Chooet 2, W. J. Norton 3, R. Green 4, A. E. Darvell 5, E. C. Russell 6, E. Brett 7, J. S. Hawkins 8.

RAILWAYMEN'S PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in 'The Ringing World' of April 30th, a peal of Double Norwich Major rung at Chippenham, Wilts, and published, 'believed to be the first peal of Double Norwich by a band of railwaymen.' I would point out that eight members of the Chester Diocesan Guild, all of whom were railwaymen employed by the old L. and N.W. Railway, rang a peal of Double Norwich at Tarporley, Cheshire, on June 11th, 1921.—Yours truly, J. H. RIDING.

THE IPSWICH GATHERING.

In the event of the railway service returning to normal by Monday next, the arrangements for the Central Council meeting at Ipswich on Whitsun Tuesday will stand.

MANCHESTER RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred, on Monday, April 5th, at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, of Mr. William Hy. Cooper, after only a very brief illness. Deceased, who was 54 years of age, had been a member of the choir for many years, and a regular ringer for 25 years or more at St. John's Church, Dean's Gate. He was always considered a safe man and a good striker. He had rung in some 33 peals, including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal.

The interment took place at the Southern Cemetery on Thursday, April 8th, when the mortal remains were borne to the grave by members of the R.A.O.B., of which he was a member.

Among those present at the graveside were ringers and their wives, representing the following towers: St. John's, Town Hall, St. Thomas', Pendleton; the Sacred Trinity, Salford; and Christ Church, West Didsbury.

INFORMATION WANTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am giving a lecture on June 19th on 'Bells and Bell Ringers,' and would be pleased to receive any interesting information from any ringer or association secretary as to notable peals, historical or curious events, ladies' guilds and branches, and the number of members, humorous events, curious inscriptions or epitaphs, etc.—Yours truly, WM. REYNER.

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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.

FULHAM.—At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, May 2nd, for evening service, 1,299 Stedman Caters: W. H. Hollier 1, W. H. Wood 2, J. Driver 3, H. Belcher 4, A. Culmore 5, D. Stevens (first quarter-peal of Stedman Caters on tower bells) 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, H. Folkard 8, A. Harden 9, P. Norton 10.

NEWPORT, MON.—At All Saints' Church, for evening service, on Sunday, May 2nd, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): H. Ridout 1, F. Millard (first quarter-peal) 2, T. Ford 3, A. E. Morgan (conductor) 4, H. Morgan 5, G. Day 6, J. Hammond 7, J. W. Jones 8.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, April 19th, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major: Robt. Holloway 1, Miss E. E. Chapman 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, Miss R. Hawksworth 4, Robt. Fardon (conductor) 5, C. Ebberson 6, R. Thompson 7, A. Harding 8.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.—On Sunday, April 18th, a quarter-peal of Minor (1,260 changes): B. Gillatt 1, A. Thornton 2, Miss N. Grassby 3, J. Coles 4, G. Hobbins 5, J. Bray (conductor) 6. Rung in honour of the 80th birthday of the Dean of Lincoln.

ROTHWELL, YORKS.—On Sunday, April 18th, at Holy Trinity Church, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor, in 28 mins.: A. Wood 1, P. Massam 2, H. Ward 3, H. Jones 4, G. Copley 5, T. W. Strangeway (conductor) 6. First 720 by ringers of 1, 2, 3 and 4, and first 720 as conductor.—Also, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor, in 27 mins.: T. Ward 1, E. Ward 2, P. Massam 3, A. Wormald 4, G. Copley 5, T. W. Strangeways (conductor) 6. First 720 by ringers of 1, 2 and 4.

DERBY. — On Sunday, April 11th, for evening service, at the Church of St. Alkmund, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: H. Waterfield 1, P. Tate 2, G. Freebrey (conductor) 3, C. Draper 4, W. Slater 5, G. H. Robinson, jun., 6, G. H. Robinson, sen., 7, J. Garner 8. Rung on the occasion of the appointment of Mr. G. H. Robinson, sen., to the office of Vicar's warden, he being a much-respected member of the local company.

ST. NEOTS, HUNTS. — On Sunday, April 18th, at the Parish Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 47 mins.: Miss F. Hawksford 1, Miss C. Fields 2, L. J. Flint 3, F. S. Bayley (conductor) 4, G. D. Coleman 5, S. J. Coleman 6, H. Fields 7, C. L. Jones 8.

SHENFIELD, ESSEX. — For a men's special service, on Sunday, April 18th, 1,440 of Bob Minor, in 45 mins.: W. H. Poole 1, J. Furlong 2, C. J. Brackley 3, J. Leggett 4, H. Turner (conductor) 5, W. Leggett 6. Longest length of Minor by the ringers of 2, 3 and 4.

NORTH SHIELDS, NORTHUMBERLAND. — On Sunday, April 18th, for evening service, at Christ Church, 1,260 changes Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: J. Gray 1, J. Robertson 2, A. Tully 3, J. E. Scott 4, E. A. Hern (conductor) 5, G. Dix 6, E. Gosden 7, A. Scaife 8. First quarter-peal in method by ringers of 1, 2, 7 and 8.

BRENCHLEY, KENT.—On Sunday morning, April 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: C. H. Sone (Linton) 1, Mrs. H. Baker (Frittenden) 2, S. Driver (Blacklands, Hastings), 3, J. Downing (Blacklands, Hastings), 4, H. Baker (Frittenden) 5, T. E. Sone (Paddock Wood) 6, J. Wheadon (Brenchley) 7, F. M. Mitchell (Milton-next-Gravesend) 8. Composed and conducted by T. E. Sone.

ROLVENDEN, KENT.—On Sunday afternoon, April 11th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: W. H. Lambert 1, F. Burden 2, W. Wenban 3, Mrs. Baker 4, S. Driver 5, J. Downing (conductor) 6, H. Baker 7, A. Blackman 8.

BENENDEN, KENT. — On Sunday, April 11th, at St. George's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: H. Thirkell 1, W. H. Lambert 2, Mrs. H. Baker 3, H. Baker 4, S. Driver 5, J. Downing (conductor) 6, W. Wenban 7, B. Goldsmith 8. Messrs. Downing and Driver are from Hastings.

RUARDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday April 11th, at evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mr. James Roberts, late choirmaster of St. John's Church, Ruardean: L. Nelmes 1, J. Harper, sen., 2, J. Harper, jun., 3, G. Wilks 4, H. Reid 5, J. Bishop 6, W. Bishop (conductor) 7, H. Meek 8.

NORTHAW, HERTS.—On Easter Day, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes), at St. Thomas's Church, in 46 mins.: N. Clark (first quarter-peal) 1, J. North 2, I. Bryant 3, J. Roberts 4, R. Stiles 5, B. McKie (conductor) 6. All ringers belong to local band.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Established 1637.—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus', Lower Thames Street, on the 27th; St. Paul's Cathedral on the 18th; Southwark Cathedral on the 25th; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 47th annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit-Monday, May 24th 1926. 11.30 a.m., service at the Cathedral with address by the Bishop or Colchester. 12.15 p.m., meeting in Cathedral Hall. 1.30 p.m., Lunch at Hicks' Restaurant, High Street, members 2/- each. It is most important that notice of intention to be present should be sent to the Hon. Sec. not later than first post previous Tuesday, May 18th. — F. J. Pitstow, 45, High Street, Saffron Walden, Gen. Sec. and Treasurer.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit-Monday, May 24th. Committee meeting in All Saints' Vestry at 11 a.m., service at All Saints' Church at 12 noon. Luncheon and business meeting at the Plough Hotel, Bridge Street, at 1 p.m. Application for lunch tickets, with remittance (2/6) must be made to Mr. T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton, on or before Monday, May 17th. Towers available: Kingsthorpe (6) from 10 to 11.30 a.m., St. Peter's (8) from 10 to 11.45 a.m., All Saints' (8), St. Giles' (10) and St. Edmund's (8) throughout the day.—R. G. Black, Gen. Sec. (pro tem.) Geddington, near Kettering.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The Whit-Monday meeting will be held at Hartlepool. The bells of St. Oswald's (10) St. Aidan's (8) and Stranton (8) are available. Committee meeting at 12 noon and dinner at 1, Raglan Hotel, Tower Street, West Hartlepool. Dinner 2/6 to members, 3/6 to non-members. Those intending to be present at dinner please notify the Hon. Sec., E. Ferry, 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle, by first post on Wednesday, May 19th.

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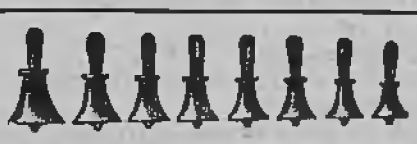
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