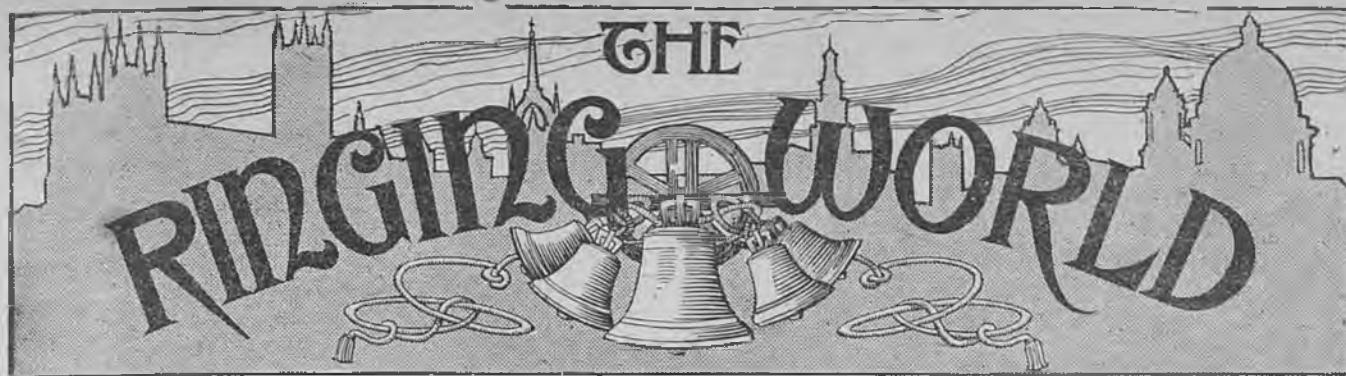




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FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, 1927.

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'MUSIC' IN MAJOR METHODS.

A writer in the recently published 'Surprise Methods' makes the following statement in regard to 'music' in change ringing: 'With the tenor turned in, if we can bring ourselves squarely, honestly and impartially to face the question, it is difficult to see how we can fairly use the epithet "musical" in any true sense of the word. Certainly some rows are less unmusical than others. But this is not saying much. The only salvation of even-bell ringing is an absolutely even beat, with punctilious keeping of leads. Otherwise, all rhythm is gone, and no one can tell where the rows begin or end. No. The writer at least is fain to confess that real "music" is conspicuous by its absence in even-bell ringing.' On the question of striking everyone will agree; on the question of 'music' most ringers, we think, will violently disagree. It is true that ringers who seldom ring even-bell methods often see no beauty in the rhythm of ringing with the tenor-in, but those who are accustomed to even-bell ringing can find a great deal of music in it. The indictment of even-bell ringing from the 'musical' standpoint will not, of course, perturb the Exercise, but those who appreciate Major ringing will rub their eyes to read the opinion that 'a row ending in 8, 2 is no worse than a row ending in 8 followed by any other bell, and in the row before and after it, if we have 2, 8, the tenor is last, the row is a musical one, and it matters not which bell is in 7th's.' This, surely, is diametrically opposed to all present conceptions, for if there is one thing which is aimed at by modern composers and demanded by conductors it is peals without the second with the tenor.

Another point on the subject, mentioned in this new volume, with which modern ideas are not altogether in accord, is that Cambridge Surprise is a 'hopelessly unmusical method.' This was the opinion expressed by the late Sir Arthur Heywood, but the condemnation of Cambridge on this score and on the more serious ground of its irregular construction, has had no effect on the practice of the method. Cambridge has supplanted Superlative in popular esteem, and, we think, for more than one reason; not only is the 'work' more varied, and therefore more interesting, but it is realised that the music is not so abominable after all, in comparison with the sister method. There are very few peals of Superlative in which the 2nd is less with the tenor than in the 5,056 of Cambridge, and we are rather surprised that the old prejudices against Cambridge should have been expressed without modification in a work published at this period.

Although having no connection with the 'music' of a method, there is in the new book considerable condemna-

(Continued on page 162.)

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tion also for a structural feature which is described as 'backhanders,' meaning places made at back and hand, instead of hand and back strokes. To the purist London Surprise may be structurally 'lamentable' by reason of 'backhanders,' but this form of place making does not affect the interest in the ringing; and without it we should have no method like Bristol, which, in the opinion of experts, is capable of producing more 'musical' changes in a peal than any other method in the Surprise class. There is a little difficulty in 'Surprise Methods' in ascertaining whose views one is reading on these subjects, but they are hardly compatible with the opinions held to-day by most of the experienced practical ringers accustomed to even-bell ringing.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt.

ARTHUR J. NEALE Treble	GEORGE A. CARD 7
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	JEFFERY R. GAMMON 8
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	HARRY MANCE 9
FRANCIS E. DAWE 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN., 10
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 5	JAMES GEORGE 11
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 6	EDWARD D. SMITH 12 chor

Composed by T. T. GORTON. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER

* First attempt for a peal on 12 bells.

SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 40 cwt.

*COLIN HARRISON Treble	†SIDNEY F. PALMER 7
†MRS. J. COTTERILL 2	SIDNEY BRIGGS 8
†JAMES COTTERILL 3	§MAURICE WILSON 9
ALBERT H. WARD 4	HAROLD NAYLOR 10
A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS 5	HAYDN THORPE 11
ARTHUR KNIGHTS 6	JOHN THORPE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by COLIN HARRISON.

* First peal of Cinques as conductor and the first attempt. † First peal of Cinques and rung at the first attempt. ‡ 200th peal for the Yorkshire Association. § First peal of Stedman. Rung as a first birthday anniversary compliment to the grandson of the 3rd ringer. First peal of Cinques in which a lady has taken part for the Yorkshire Association. Quickest peal of Cinques on the bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 7, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

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

JAMES PAGETT Treble	MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE 6
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD 2	PRYCE TAYLOR 7
HARRY MORGAN 3	JAMES S. HUTCHBY 8
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER 9
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD 5	*RICHARD GRANT Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. Rung on the anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pryce Taylor, also as a birthday compliment to Mrs. R. Grant, wife of the ringer of the tenor. The band wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. P. Taylor, who, at the conclusion of peal, entertained them to supper. The ringer of the treble hails from Derby, 2nd, 4th, 5th and tenor Leicester, 3rd from Gainsborough, 6th Haslemere, 7th and 8th Loughborough, and 9th from Nottingham.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

ROBERT J. DAWZ Treble	CHARLES W. PLAYER 6
*GEORGE H. SHUKER... .. 2	WILLIAM WENBAN 7
FRANK BENNETT 3	HERBERT MARKWELL 8
KEITH HART 4	ALFRED J. TURNER 9
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 5	JOHN DEARLOVE... .. Tenor

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE. Conducted by FRANK BENNETT

* First peal of Treble Ten.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At the Cathedral,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5004 CHANGES;

Tenor 27½ cwt.

*S. JONES Treble	*A. RIDYARD... .. 6
*H. WILSON 2	W. C. BRIDGFORD 7
B. THORP 3	R. RAVENSCROFT, JUN. ... 8
W. E. SAUNDERS 4	W. W. WOLSTENCROFT ... 9
S. HOLT 5	R. F. WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. RIDYARD.

* First peal of Caters. First peal of Caters on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. The conductor's 50th peal. The tenor man was re-elected a member of the Lanes Association before starting, he being a former member of the Manchester police band at the Town Hall. This was the second attempt for the peal.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E flat.

FRANK E. DARBY... .. Treble	ALFRED J. BOLL 6
FREDERICK G. WOODISS ... 2	DANIEL COOPER... .. 7
ALFRED J. TRAPPIIT 3	*FRANK E. CORKE 8
MISS FREDA E. ORR 4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 9
CHARLES W. ROBERTS 5	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by HENRY HALEY.

Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

* First peal of Royal. Quickest peal of Royal upon the bells.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Giles.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM ROGERS Treble	FRANK ROLLINGS 6
GEORGE BASFORD 2	*HARRY PETTIT 7
FRED HOPPER 3	THOMAS R. HENSHER 8
WALTER SEAR 4	HARRY SEAR 9
CHARLES W. BIRD 5	ALFRED MONK Tenor

Composed by E. P. HAYWARD.

Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. Mr. F. Hopper has twice rung each bell in this tower through a peal, and is the first to do so.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew, Clifton.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HALEY'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13 cwt.

MRS. WILKINS Treble	H. B. BURT 5
*A. E. PARKER 2	J. R. JONES 6
W. H. THOMAS 3	R. CLARK 7
*W. H. PARKER 4	L. TANNER Tenor

Conducted by R. CLARK.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. W. H. Thomas and L. Tanner.

ABERAVON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 7, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*CYRIL MATHERS Treble	ERNEST STITCH 5
CYRIL LAKE 2	FREDERICK E. STONE 6
WALTER NORTON 3	ALBERT J. PITMAN 7
G. WILLIAM HOLLIS... .. 4	GWYN I. LEWIS Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by E. STITCH.

* First peal and first attempt. A birthday peal for the ringer of 4th. Thanks are due to the tenor ringer who volunteered at the last moment.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, March 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints, Wandsworth.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THORSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

HERBERT LANGDON Treble	ERNEST E. BISH 5
LOUIS ATTWATER... .. 2	JOHN L. WATKINS 6
THOMAS J. HOLLOWAY ... 3	WILLIAM S. LANGDON ... 7
HARRY R. PASSMORE 4	WILLIAM G. GRAY Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT LANGDON.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Monday, March 7, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary-within-the-Walls.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY 5
HENRY W. WILDE 2	GEORGE R. JONES 6
JOHN HAYES 3	JAMES MORGAN 7
ALBERT J. HUGHES 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

A. J. Hughes' 150th peal.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

(St. Mary's Society, Beddington.)

On Wednesday, March 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THORSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E flat.

*FRANK JENNINGS Treble	ALFRED J. TRAPPIIT 5
*EDWARD G. TALBOT 2	FRANK E. DARBY... .. 6
ALFRED ARNOLD... .. 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 7
*JOHN F. GALYER 4	JOHN AVERY Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as coming-of-age compliments to two members of the local society, viz., Frank E. Darby and Thos. G. Bannister.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, March 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

*ALBERT HANCOX Treble	EDGAR BENNETT... .. 5
†FRANK R. COOMBS 2	JACK JUDGE 6
CYRIL BENNETT... .. 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
†FRANK TOFFREY 4	WILLIAM H. THORNE... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal. † First of Grandsire Triples. Rung, by the local band, with the bells muffled as a tribute of sincere respect for the late Mr. F. Webb, a ringer at this tower for the last forty years, during the last fifteen of which he was foreman, and who was laid to rest on this date.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—On Wednesday, March 9th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): G. Jordan 1, H. Watts 2, T. Jordan 3, W. Prior 4, W. T. Prior 5, T. Watts 6, F. Bird (conductor) 7, J. Prior 8.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, March 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At the Bell Foundry Campanile.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

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

JAMES PAGETT Treble	THOMAS ATKINS 5
CHARLES R. BELTON 2	JAMES S. HUTCHBY 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 3	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 7
*LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 4	†W. ARTHUR SKINNER ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* 25th peal of Stedman Triples. † First peal in the method and first attempt.

BLACKBURN.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BLACKBURN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, March 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Cathedral.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART. Tenor 15 cwt. (approx.)

*ARNOLD TALBOT Treble	FREDERICK HINDLE 5
WILLIAM BRIGGS 2	ARTHUR TOMLINSON 6
JOHN SANDERSON 3	WILLIAM E. WILSON 7
THOMAS WILSON 4	JOHN LOFTHOUSE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM E. WILSON.

* First peal. Rung to commemorate the enthronement of, and as a welcome to, the Right Rev. Percy Mark Herbert, M.A., D.D., the first Lord Bishop of Blackburn.

CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

*THOMAS DAVISON Treble	WILLIAM C. WEST 5
ERNEST TROMAN 2	WILLIAM BOLWELL 6
SIDNEY WILTSHIRE 3	SIDNEY HILLIER 7
JESSE FRANCIS 4	FRED LAMBETH Tenor

Composed by JOHN W. BARKER. Conducted by FRED LAMBETH.

* First peal of Treble Bob. Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mr. William Hulbert, secretary of the local band, who passed away, after a long illness, on the previous day.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF CILDFOOD SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*GEORGE ELLIS Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 5
*OLIVER SIPPETTS 2	*WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 6
JOHN T. SCOTT 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
JOHN A. COLE 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

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

LONGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ERNEST LANDON Treble	THOMAS HILDITCH 5
ROBERT G. LEWIS 2	ARTHUR W. HALL 6
THOMAS HURD 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY 7
FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY ... 4	CHARLES H. PAGE Tenor

Composed by W. HUD-ON. Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

This peal was first rung at Lane End, Staffs, which is better known now as Longton, and was rung on these bells on May 13th, 1816, conducted by the composer. This is also the first peal of Major rung on the bells since that date, and also the first peal since 1908. It was rung as a farewell and birthday peal for Frank Rose, a ringing member of Stoke-on-Trent tower, who sailed for Bombay on the previous day, also as a birthday peal for the treble ringer.

MARSDEN, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 26 cwt. 2 qr. in D flat.

ERNEST COTSFORTH Treble	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5
WILLIAM BIBBY 2	THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 6
*JOHN E. BIBBY 3	TITUS BARLOW 7
†JOHN WILKINSON 4	*EDWARD JENKINS Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

* 100th peal together. † 100th peal. First peal of Surprise on the bells. It is 23 years since Mr. P. J. Johnson rang a peal of London.

MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints, BOYNE HILL.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*WILLIAM E. TAYLOR Treble	JESSE ELDRIDGE 5
†ARTHUR MARTIN 2	HARRY WINGROVE 6
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 3	GEORGE MARTIN 7
*THOMAS GOODCHILD 4	WILLIAM HENLEY Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by ARTHUR MARTIN.

* First peal of Superlative. † First peal of Superlative as conductor. Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. William Walker (a ringer at the above church for over 30 years) to Miss L. Woodley, which took place at Newbury the same day.

WEST MALLING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK TUCKER Treble	GEORGE POUND 5
J. L. HARRIS 2	WILLIAM SLOMAN 6
FREDERICK LEASON 3	LOUIS HEAD 7
J. A. AMOS 4	WILLIAM J. DAY Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK LEASON.

First peal as conductor and first attempt. First peal by the ringer of the 6th. Rung as a birthday compliment to the daughter of the ringer of the 2nd.

MITCHAM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM H. JOINER Treble	JOHN L. WATKINS 5
PERCY E. JONES 2	ALBERT CALVER 6
JOHN BEAMS 3	WILLIAM S. SMITH 7
EDGAR HANCOX 4	*JAMES H. LUCAS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM S. SMITH.

* First peal of Stedman. This peal was arranged for Messrs. Hancock, Jones and Lucas, of Uxbridge, who were elected members of the above association.

OTLEY, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

HARRY FOSTER Treble	WILLIAM E. ASH 5
JOSEPH BROADLEY 2	ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... 6
THOMAS B. KENDALL 3	FREDERICK W. DIXON ... 7
GEORGE BARRACLOUGH ... 4	ARTHUR TROTTER Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK W. DIXON.

This peal was rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Charles Ralph, for over 60 years a ringer at this church.

HANLEY CASTLE.—At the Church of St. Mary, on Tuesday, February 15th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Halford (first 720) 1, F. Hawkes 2, J. Rowlett 3, F. Lawrence 4, C. Allen 5, J. Lawrence (conductor) 6.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

HARRY F. HOLDING Treble	GEORGE R. JONES 5
HENRY W. WILDE 2	JOHN HAYES 6
ALBERT J. HUGHES 3	ROBERT SPERRING 7
JAMES H. RIDING 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

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

RINGWOOD, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt.

GEORGE WILLIAMS Treble	A. F. MARTIN STEWART 5
HARRY BADGER 2	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 6
FREDERICK A. BURNETT 3	FRANK BLONDELL 7
WILLIAM E. CHEATER 4	ERNEST J. WHITFIELD Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At the Parish Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

*V. SYKES Treble	S. STOTT 5
J. LBS 2	H. BARLOW 6
S. M. BUTTERWORTH 3	R. GREENWOOD 7
F. LAWTON 4	C. H. MARSLAND Tenor

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by R. GREENWOOD.

* First peal in method. Rung as a compliment to the new Vicar, Rev. E. R. Mackintosh, also as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. Lees.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM LAMBERT Treble	CHARLES MASON 5
JOHN HOLMAN 2	*HAROLD KENT 6
THOMAS BETTISON 3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 7
EDWARD ROBBINS 4	JOHN FLINT Tenor

Composed by CHARLES H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN FLINT

* First peal in the method.

NORTHWRAM, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Matthew.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

ARTHUR BAIRSTOW Treble	WILLIAM BARTON 5
WILLIAM AMBLER 2	JOE GREENWOOD 6
VERNEY BAIRSTOW 3	JOHN AMBLER 7
THOMAS SENIOR 4	ALBERT JAGGER Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

Ringers of treble and 3rd hail from Denholme, 2nd and 4th from Queensbury, 5th and 7th from Pudsey, 6th and tenor are members of the local company.

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Phone 203.

SIX BELL PEALS.

FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary.

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

Being 10 six-scores of Grandsire and 32 of St. Dunstan's, each called differently.

ERNEST HAWKINS Treble	GEORGE ORCHARD 4
REUBEN GUY 2	P. SGT. GEORGE HASTINGS 5
LESLIE BARRY 3	RALPH HAZELL Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE BARRY.

NETHERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 240's of A. J. Pitman's arrangement, five 240's of L. C. Morris' arrangement, and 18 original six-scores. Tenor 11½ cwt.

RONALD H. DOVE Treble	JOSEPH SLADE 4
*FRANK BOULSTRIDGE 2	JOSEPH W. COTTON 5
WILLIAM E. CLAYFIELD 3	PERCY GRICE Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH W. COTTON.

* First peal inside. First peal as conductor.

CRANFORD, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(KETTERING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of St. John.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 9 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb.

FRANK LEWIN Treble	†FRED PENN 4
MISS SYLVIA THURSFIELD 2	JOHN LEWIN 5
*C. EDWARD BERRIDGE 3	ROBERT G. BLACK Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First peal on six bells. † First peal and first attempt. All the ringers with the exception of the conductor belong to the local band.

HANDBELL PEAL.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

At 45, ENGLETON ROAD, RADFORD.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	HUBERT G. SUMMERS 7-8
JOHN TAYLOR 9-10	

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* 100th peal. A birthday compliment to F. E. Pervin.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR SPLICED.

5,056 ON A NEW PLAN.

BY A. J. PITMAN.

23456	(1)	M.	(2)	W.	(3)	H.
52643	Kt.	2	2	Ox.	2	
43625		1	2	Kt.	2	
24563	Ox.	2	2	Kt.	2	
32654	Ox.	2	1		2	
54326		1	Kt.	2	Ox.	2
53264	Kt.	2	2		1	
64235		1	2	Ox.	2	
35246		1	2	Kt.	2	
64523		1		Ox.	1	
26345		2	2	Kt.	2	
42536	Ox.	2	2	Kt.	2	
36524		1	2	Ox.	2	
23456	Kt.	2	2	Ox.	2	

This composition contains 2,528 changes of each method, having the method changed 18 times in the peal and at least once in every course. Start Oxford, change to Kent at first lead-end (treble in 1-2). Change back to Oxford lead-end after last bob Wrong, and so on as shown in the calling. In the fifth course the method is changed to Kent at the lead-end after the bob Middle.

RINGERS' RALLY AT CROYDON.

All secretaries of county associations, diocesan guilds, and ringing associations are invited to send me as soon as possible the numbers of those who intend to accept the invitation to Croydon Foundry on Saturday, April 2nd, to inspect the world's largest carillon (53 bells, the largest weighing 10 tons) for the Canadian Houses of Parliament, Ottawa; the carillon of 35 bells for Princetown University, U.S.A.; the recast bells for Coventry Cathedral; sundry ringing peals, etc.

Ringings at Croydon Parish Church and St. Peter's, Croydon, during the afternoon.

Invitation card at 5 o'clock; social at 8 p.m.

CYRIL F. JOHNSTON,
(Gillett and Johnston).
Croydon.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

A monthly meeting was held at South Kirby on Saturday, March 12th, when the following towers were represented: Barnsley, Darton, Darfield, Ardsley, Ackworth, Cawthorne, Crofton, Sandal, Felkirk, Wath, and a good muster of the local company. The bells were ringing with slight intervals from 3 p.m. to 8.40 p.m. in a great variety of Minor methods. Tea was kindly provided at the Rose and Crown Inn in a very welcome manner, and was duly appreciated and enjoyed by the visitors.

The business meeting was held in the belfry, Mr. J. W. Moxon, president, being in the chair. Two new members, Messrs. George Dean and Robert Webster, were elected, and it was decided to join in a combined meeting in June with the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association, Sheffield and District Society, and Barnsley and District Association.

The next monthly meeting is to be held at Penistone.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Rev. F. G. Greenstreet, Vicar, also churchwardens and members of local company.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. DEVIZES BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at Bishop's Lavington on Saturday, March 5th. Unfortunately the weather was very wet and, in consequence, the attendance was small. The usual Guild service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. Sexty. Tea was provided in the Bishop's Lavington Sports Club Hall, to which 19 sat down.

After tea, a short business meeting was held, the chairman of the branch, Mr. C. D. Heginbotham, presiding.

With reference to South Wrayall bells, the Chairman stated he had sent a letter to the local papers, and had heard nothing further about the matter.

The Chairman also brought forward the advisability of having a representative of the Guild on the Bishop's Advisory Committee, in the event of any alterations or repairs being done to the bells in the diocese.—A discussion followed, but no vote was taken on the matter.

Mr. S. J. Hector, Trowbridge, suggested the advisability of arranging for combined practices on the ten bells at Trowbridge.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. S. J. Hector, it was decided for the secretary to write a letter of congratulation to Mr. H. Brownlee West, of Devizes, a former secretary of the branch, and now one of the vice-presidents, on the occasion of his diamond wedding, which was March 2nd.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from the secretary of the All Cannings Bells Restoration Committee thanking the branch for the subscription sent, also one from the Rev. S. M. Davys, Vicar of Urchfont, and Rural Dean, stating he had decided to give a collection once a year for the funds of the branch, and also to hold a service for ringers at Urchfont once during the year.

On the motion of the Chairman, the Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells and for conducting the service, also the organist. The Rev. P. Sexty, in reply, said how pleased he was to welcome the branch to Bishop's Lavington, and also expressed regret that the local ringers were prevented from coming to the meeting in consequence of illness and other causes. He said how much he appreciated the work the bell-ringers did for the church, who, although they were not seen at their work, like the choir who appeared in their robes, yet their services were none the less real. He hoped the branch would soon hold another meeting there.

Ringers present included Mr. J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton (hon. secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association), and members from Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), Southbroom, Potterne, Trowbridge, Bratton, Rowde, Holt, Bishop's Lavington, Market Lavington, Erelstone, Bradford-on-Avon and Bromham.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Minor were rung during the afternoon and evening.

Bishop's Lavington Church is a beautiful and interesting building, and includes work of the late twelfth and the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The Dauntsey Chapel is built on the south aisle, and the Beckett Chapel on the south side of the chancel. The bells are a light ring of six and were cast by James Wells, of Aldbourne, Wilts. in 1810.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association was held at Timberscombe recently, when nearly 70 members were present. The towers represented were: Minehead, Dunster, Carhampton, Old Cleeve, Porlock, Selworthy, Wootton Courtenay, Exford, Withypool, Winsford, Exton, Dulverton, and Timberscombe. The clergy present were the Rev. T. S. Dawson, Carhampton (chairman of the branch), H. H. Bell (Timberscombe), A. P. Lance (Wootton Courtenay), R. A. W. Newman (Withypool), H. P. Boulton (Exton), and J. C. L. Isard (Minehead).

Several of the members on their arrival found their way to the belfry chamber, and touches were rung on the eight bells. Ringing continued until 4.15 p.m., when the customary service was held in the church. It was conducted by Mr. Bell, and the choir were present. Lady Constance Ryder presided at the organ, the Rev. T. S. Dawson read the lesson, and the address was given by the Rev. R. A. W. Newman.

Tea, kindly provided by the Parochial Church Council, was served in the schoolroom, and afterwards the chairman of the branch expressed on behalf of the members their appreciation of the hospitality accorded them, of the excellent tea, and of the kindness of the ladies who had attended upon them, and moved a vote of thanks to this effect, which was seconded and carried with hearty applause.—The Rev. H. H. Bell, responding on behalf of the ladies and Church Council, voiced the pleasure which they at Timberscombe felt that the ringers should have come there for their annual meeting, especially now that they had their full octave of bells, of which they felt very proud. Referring to the address which Mr. Newman had given at the service, Mr. Bell said he had given them a very high ideal of what ringers should be. They could help very much to build up church life in the parish.

Before entering upon the business meeting, the company spent a few pleasant minutes listening to a very capable performance on a peal of handbells by Mr. A. Bryant, a young member of the Old Cleeve band, and, as was evident, a keen enthusiast in this respect. He rang first a course of Bob Triples, which elicited a storm of applause and some warm words of appreciation from Mr. G. Stacey (hon. secretary of the branch) and Mr. Bell. As an encore, he rang a course of Bob Major, and his tapping performance again brought another hearty round of applause.

The first business of the annual meeting, over which Mr. Dawson presided, was to receive the annual report and accounts for 1926. The annual report, which Mr. Stacey read, stated that there had been an average attendance of 50 members at the four meetings held during the year. Thanks were due to the clergy and the Church Councils of the places visited, viz., Dunster, Selworthy, Exford, and Dulverton, for the welcome extended and for providing teas free. The branch had made thirty new performing members and two honorary members, bringing the total membership for the deanery up to 190 (applause). Several members were falling behind with their subscriptions, and unless they paid up there would be a reduction of members for another year. 'We have to congratulate Timberscombe,' continued the report, 'on their having added two new trebles, making an octave of the peal, also Old Cleeve band on their ringing their first peal of Triples with the aid of a conductor only.' The report concluded with a word of regret at the loss, through departure from the district, of the Rev. H. G. McTaggart, Rector of Monksilver.

The statement of accounts showed receipts totalling £7 19s., of which £6 was transmitted to the diocesan secretary.

On the motion of Mr. G. Atkins (Minehead), seconded by Mr. H. Holloway (Dulverton), the report and accounts were passed.

The Rev. T. S. Dawson was re-elected chairman, and Mr. G. Stacey hon. secretary, both being heartily thanked for their services to the branch.

Mr. W. A. Hawkins was reappointed hon. auditor, and Mr. W. Hoyle, who has done excellent work in teaching bands on Exmoor, was elected Ringing Master, Mr. J. Farmer offering to retire in his favour.

Mr. H. Phillips (Timberscombe) was re-elected representative to the Diocesan Committee.

Several new members were proposed and elected, viz., Rev. A. P. Lance (honorary), and Messrs. E. Calloway (Monksilver), H. Perry, T. Powell, W. Sawyer (Exford), Gregory and Crookford (Wootton Courtenay), G. French (Dulverton), W. Bowden and F. Milton (Withypool), J. Summerhayes (Dunster), T. Elford and E. Hooper (Timberscombe), and J. Foster (Porlock) as ordinary members.

Minehead was selected for next meeting. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar of Timberscombe, the Parochial Church Council, organist, and the blower at the service, Mr. Newman for his address, the ladies who helped with the tea, and everyone who had helped to make the meeting so successful.—Hearty applause endorsed the thanks, which Mr. Bell acknowledged. Thanks were also accorded to the chairman and the retiring officers, and afterwards there was further ringing, touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major being brought round.

BEGINNERS IN DEVON.

At Bradninch, Devon, on Friday, March 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: J. Elworthy 1, B. Grater 2, F. W. Glanville 3, E. C. Edwards 4, R. Harris 5, C. Thresher 6. The ringers of 1st and 2nd belong Tiverton, the rest are members of the newly-formed local band, who have only been studying change ringing during the last six months.

ENCOURAGEMENT (?) OF LEARNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I, too, can agree with the remarks of Mr. James H. Hales and Mr. Percy Amos in recent issues of 'The Ringing World.'

In South-West Middlesex there are certain ringers whose sole idea of ringing is to visit periodically certain towers for quarter-peals on Sundays and peals on week-days. All they require on these visitations is apparently a local man to ring the treble and another the tenor, but on practice nights (if a practice is held at all) these ringers are conspicuous by their absence. How, then, I ask, can such ringers be said to be promoting the art?

Progress, in my humble opinion, should be judged by the capabilities of local bands as a whole, but in looking round this corner of Middlesex what do we find performed by the locals for Sunday service? As far as I can ascertain it is more or less as follows: Sunbury, Hampton Keltam, Staines (St. Mary's), Uxbridge, Harmondsworth, Harlington, Norwood Green, Isleworth, Brentford and Chiswick, all ring call changes or have no ringing at all; Twickenham, Grandsire Doubles or call changes; Staines (St. Peter's) and Hounslow, Grandsire Triples; Heston, Stedman; Acton and Ealing (St. Mary's), Kent Treble Bob; Hillingdon, Grandsire Caters.

There is evidently much room for improvement, both in quality and quantity of ringing, and I would suggest to our association that we had much less quarter-peal 'stunting' and a little more interest taken in the practices at the various towers. Even for Sunday service ringing, learners might be helped to struggle with the inside work if the older ringers would only attend the belfries regularly and put their backs into the teaching.

'ROBERT SINGLE.

BARROW-UPON-SOAR CHURCH BELLS REHUNG.

The peal of five bells in the tower of Holy Trinity Church, Barrow-upon-Soar, Leicestershire, has just been rehung by John Taylor and Co., and last Thursday the peal was informally reopened. A few ringers from Loughborough met the local band in the tower, and several well-struck six-scores of Grandsire and Stedman were rung, everyone being delighted with the ease with which the bells go.

The tenor bell is 14 cwt., and the peal is now hung on modern principles, with hall bearings, and the local ringers were amazed at the wonderful difference between the old heavy going and the present smooth-running peal, as the bells can now almost be rung by a silk cord.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of the North Bucks Branch was held at Swanbourne on Saturday, March 5th, but owing to the inclement weather the attendance was very poor and very much below the usual average of the meetings of this branch. The object of visiting Swanbourne was to get the tower into union with the branch. The local ringers met the members and also attended a short service conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. R. C. Forrest, R.D.). Tea had been provided for rather more than those that attended, so a little deficit had to be made up.

After tea was over, the Secretary (Mr. W. Sear) explained the object of visiting Swanbourne, and regretted that owing to the weather so small a number was present, but he hoped that the local ringers would become members of the Oxford Guild, as it was essential that interest should be maintained from the ringers' point of view, and that they should support the ringing organisations.

The Vicar said that he was pleased to welcome the North Bucks Branch to Swanbourne, and promised to assist all he could. He said that he would become an honorary member that day.—The local ringers present agreed to become members, after having a meeting with a view to taking up change ringing. The Secretary promised that he would assist them all he could after their tower had come into union with the branch.

The ringing was not by any means up to the usual standard owing to the shortage of members, but good work was done amongst the local men, and several were put through 120 Grandsire Doubles, which left a favourable impression, and facilitated the object for which the meeting was held. A very welcome, but unexpected, visitor in the person of Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, appeared on the scene, and thereby enabled one or two more touches of Bob Major to be accomplished. The Secretary proposed the usual vote of thanks to the Vicar, ringers and persons responsible for the catering, which brought an interesting meeting to a close.

LONDON SURPRISE BY DEVON GUILD.

On Thursday, February 3rd, 720 London Surprise Minor was rung at Stoke Damerel Church by members of the South West District Branch of the Devon Guild, conducted by W. G. Hiscott (first 720 of London as conductor).—On Thursday, March 10th, 720 London Surprise Minor: E. W. Marsh 1, W. Wonnacott 2, H. Tippet 3, W. Rundle (conductor) 4, W. G. Hiscott 5, T. Myers 6. First 720 of London as conductor by W. Rundle.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Gillett and Johnston are supplying a chime of ten bells (tenor 7 cwt.) for St. James' Church, Selby, to commemorate the diamond jubilee of the church, 1867-1927.

The rededication of the restored ring of ten bells at St. Giles', Camberwell, last week, was marked by extraordinary scenes of enthusiasm on the part of the parishioners. The great church, which seats 1,700 people, was crowded to excess, and hundreds remained outside to hear the bells.

The officials of the London County Association took part in the procession, in which the Mayor and Corporation of Camberwell, and various parochial organisations also took part. The dedication was performed by the Bishop of Southwark.

The bells have been rehung in entirely new fittings by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

It was unfortunate that services at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields prevented the celebration last Monday of the two hundredth anniversary of the first peal on the bells.

On March 22nd, 1734, a peal of 6,876 Grandsire Caters was rung at New College, Oxford. On the same day, in 1802, the Royal Cumberlands rang a peal of 7,104 Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark.

The first peal of Bristol Surprise was rung at Brighton on March 22nd, 1901.

Ninety years ago next Wednesday Elijah Roberts 'tapped' his great length of 19,440 changes of Treble Bob Maximus, beginning at nineteen minutes past four in the morning and finishing at four minutes past five in the afternoon.

The first recorded peal of Reverse Bob Major was rung at Harrietsham, Kent, on March 23rd, 1751, conducted by James Barham.

On the same date in 1783, 5,020 Old Double Caters, 'being the first peal ever rung in that method,' was achieved at Fulham by the College Youths, who on March 24th, 1784, rang 5,160 Double Twelve-in at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Apocryphal a peal rung at Wortley in honour of a certain interesting event, it wasn't dear old Uncle Joe who has got hung in an 'iron frame' and tuned on 'Simpleton's principle.' Oh, no; but he sends hearty congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy life to his namesake. May he complete the 'Sixty Course-ends,' is Uncle's wish for him.

Saturday, March 19th, is the Feast of St. Joseph, and we wonder if it will be so for eight of them at 'Brum.'

In the report of the handbell peal of Bob Major rung by the Cambridge University Guild on Ash Wednesday, and reported last week, for Rev. R. Woolley (Caius) read R. v. d. R. Woolley (Caius).

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT AT HOMERTON.

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday last at St. Paul's, Glyn Road, Homerton, which church has a light peal of six bells, perched high up in a tower built almost entirely of wood, right over the centre of the main building. Although the attendance was not up to the usual average, some good practice was obtained, and several of the local ringers took part in touches of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor.

A short service was held at 5.15, when the Rector (Rev. G. Andrews) gave an interesting address on bells and their origin.

After tea, the usual business meeting, presided over by Mr. F. A. Milne, was held, at which five members were elected, including four of the Homerton band.—The Hon. Secretary (Mr. C. T. Coles), in proposing their election, welcomed them into the association, saying that it was a pleasure to find them renewing their allegiance to the society, of which the Homerton band had once before been an important part. He hoped they would be loyal members, and find that the association would be a great help to them.

The Hon. Secretary announced that the annual general meeting would be held at All Saints', Poplar, on April 23rd, also that he had received a letter from Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, who invited the members to a ringers' rally at the Croydon Foundry on April 2nd to celebrate the completion of the greatest set of bells in the world—the carillon for the Victory Tower of the Canadian Houses of Parliament at Ottawa. Particulars would be sent to all towers, and he hoped that members would advise him as quickly as possible of their acceptance of the invitation.

The tower was again visited, and more good practice was obtained, the ringing during the day including touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

INSTRUCTION BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your leading article in 'The Ringing World' of the 4th inst., re instruction book for beginners, would it be possible for the Central Council to get out a book of this sort, the cost of production being subscribed for by the different Guilds and associations, and then supplied at cost price to those who require them?—Yours faithfully,

B. COOK.

Bratton, Wilts.

"SURPRISE METHODS."**THE COMPLETION OF THE SNOWDON SERIES.**

The publication of 'Surprise Methods,' which we have recently noted in these columns, completes the work begun by Jasper W. Snowden fifty years ago. It has been a long time to wait, and, useful as the book will be to students, we are afraid that it has lost some, at least, of its value by the long delay. The Minor methods, to which the first part of the book is devoted, have been anticipated by the Central Council's collection, which exhausts the field of six-bell ringing, and the Major is limited to the four popular methods, with the addition of Ipswich as an alternative to Cambridge, which, although fully discussed, is condemned root and branch.

The subject throughout is dealt with in an interesting and instructive manner, as one would expect from such able writers as the late Mr. William Snowden and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. The former continued and amplified the earlier writings and notes by his lamented brother, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who did so much in regard to 'Grandsire' and 'Stedman,' has, at the request of Mrs. Snowden, carried the work to a conclusion.

Apart from the instructions for ringing the methods themselves, there are skeleton diagrams of all the methods dealt with, instructive chapters on proof, and interesting facts of history with tabulated lists of the known peals of London and Cambridge rung up to the year 1900 and of Superlative up to the year 1893. After these dates, the peals rung became so numerous that it was impossible to detail them, and, as they are recorded in the columns of the ringing press, there was no need; but we think it rather a pity space was not found to record the progressive lengths in the methods, up to the date of the publication of the book, as was done with other methods in the series. The result is that we have no mention of the eight and nine thousands of Superlative, the fourteen thousand of London, and the thirteen and fifteen thousands of Bristol. Curiously, the 12,896 of Cambridge in 1923 is recorded and the composition is given, so that there can have been no objection to dealing with the other methods in the same way on the ground of the limited scope of the book. If another edition is printed, probably this omission will be remedied.

The compositions which are given are mainly historical, and, in view of the vast choice which is now open to conductors in all the methods except Cambridge, this was perhaps a wise line to take, for a selection of modern peals would have been either unrepresentative or too large for practical use. The new publication will be welcomed by all ringers who desire to study the Surprise methods, for it brings together in one volume instructive and valuable information about a number of methods which have not hitherto been extensively dealt with in this manner.

Published by Mrs. Laura Snowden, Cartmel, Lancashire. Price 2s. 10d. post free.

APPLETON ANNIVERSARY.**THE BELLS REHUNG.**

The 109th anniversary of the completion of a ring of six bells in the Appleton Tower was held this year on Saturday, March 5th. The tower now holds ten bells, as all the world knows, and visitors from various parts enjoyed some good ringing on them during the day.

The firm of White, which was responsible for hanging the bells originally, has recently carried out some skilful work in the tower, with the result that the bells now go better than perhaps they have ever gone. In this connection it is interesting to note that the ninth bell is still on the same bearings on which it has swung for over a hundred years.

Mr. Holfield, the senior member of the band, has also renewed the appearance of the ringing room and of the many and interesting peal record boards.

The company present sat down to a good dinner at the Thatched Tavern (so called because it never was thatched) at 4.30.

In response to the toast of 'The Appleton Society of Change Ringers,' proposed by the Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn), Mr. Holfield mentioned that Appleton owed its first ring of six to the lord of the manor, who by this gift sought to propitiate the angry villagers for having deprived them of much of their common land.

The feature of the evening's entertainment was, as usual, the tune ringing on 'Appleton horn' handbells by the five brothers White, also 'Appleton horn.' Altogether, it was one of the most enjoyable of many such 'March the Fourth days.'

BEGINNERS' QUARTER PEALS.

At Christ Church, Dore, Sheffield, on Sunday, February 27th, for matins, in 48 mins., a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Miss Marjorie Holmes 1, Miss Jessie Davenport 2, Miss Molly Davenport 3, A. S. Robinson 4, W. Bingham 5, N. Short 6, R. E. Johnson 7, J. E. Lewis Cockey (conductor) 8.—For evensong, in 47 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss Marjorie Holmes 1, Miss Jessie Davenport 2, A. S. Robinson 3, Miss Molly Davenport 4, W. Bingham 5, N. Short (conductor) 6, J. E. Lewis Cockey 7, R. E. Johnson 8. First two quarter-peals by Miss Marjorie Holmes (age 15). First two quarter-peals on an inside bell by Miss Jessie Davenport (age 14). First quarter-peal on the tenor by Ronald E. Johnson (age 16).

FORTY YEARS ON.**A REMINISCENCE.**

It may not be known by many of the younger generation of ringers that a great record was set up at the Goose and Gridiron, a then famous establishment in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, on Friday, March 11th, 1887, when Holt's Original was rung non-conducted in 2 hours 39 mins. by the following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths:

John Christopher Mitchell	...	...	1-2
Walter H. L. Buckingham	...	...	3-4
Challis F. Winney	...	...	5-6
George T. McLaughlin	...	...	7-8

Umpires, Messrs. William Baron and George Wild, of the Royal Cumberland Society, Messrs. John W. Rowbotham and Frederick T. Gover of the College Youths.

The footnote says: 'The striking was faultless throughout, and the peal was rung without conducting, no signal being given during the performance and in the presence of competent judges, who pronounced it a masterpiece of intellectual ringing. This is the second non-conducted peal rung in hand.'

The first was Brooks' Variation of Stedman Triples on March 11th, 1854, in 2 hours 41 mins., by the following members of the St. James' Society:

John Cox	...	...	1-2
William Coater	...	...	3-4
Henry W. Haley	...	...	5-6
Matthew A. Wood	...	...	7-8

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Holt's Original, a most enjoyable evening was spent on Friday, March 11th last, when Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, at their Streatham home, right royally entertained Messrs. Buckingham, Winney, Rowbotham, Newton and Cockerill.

After a sumptuous meal, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Stedman Caters were rung on handbells, interspersed with conversation on bygone topics.

As the guests were leaving, hopes were expressed by the worthy host and hostess that a similar gathering may celebrate the jubilee.

RAILWAY CO. PRESENT A PEAL BOARD.**UNVEILING AT SHILDON.**

On Saturday, March 12th, an interesting ceremony took place in the belfry of St. John's Church, Shildon, Durham, the occasion being the unveiling of a peal board, which had been erected in the belfry to commemorate a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung for the centenary of the railway, on July 4th, 1925, the ringers being all in the service of the L.N.E.R.

There was a good number of ringers present from Darlington, Stockton, Bishop Auckland, and members of the local band, and a number of ladies who take an interest in church work (including the belfry) were also present. The Vicar (the Rev. H. B. Watts), in an interesting address, referred to the use of bells; firstly, the miniature bells worn on the garments of priests in the ancient times; secondly, the handbells; and, thirdly, the large bells hung in the tower, showing that the bell for ages has been used as a call to service.

Mr. W. Kirkup, an official of the L.N.E.R., then unveiled the peal board, and the dedication of the board and new furnishings to the belfry was performed by the Vicar. During the afternoon and evening, touches of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Bob Major were rung.

The new furnishings include linoleum and centre carpet, both of beautiful design, which gives the spacious and previously well-kept belfry a vastly superior appearance. The cost has been defrayed by a lady church worker. The peal board was given by the L.N.E.R. Company.

ST. SIDWELL'S SOCIETY, EXETER.

St. Sidwell's (Exeter) Society were entertained to supper at the Church Institute by the Rector (Rev. H. Lanyon Owen), on Shrove Tuesday. The company included the Rev. L. G. Rees (curate), Messrs. Helier and Yeo, churchwardens, E. Shepherd and C. Panter, ex-churchwardens, and Mr. Laxton, chairman of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Guild.

After an excellent repast and 'The King' honoured, the Rector expressed his great pleasure in being with his ringers again, and hoped as long as he was Rector to continue this annual social evening and to join them on their summer outing.—Returning thanks, Mr. E. Shepherd said the ringers were very loyal to their church, and by their diligence had become one of the leading bands in the city and county.

Songs were rendered by the Rector, Messrs. Helier and Hunt, a course on the handbells by Messrs. How, Richardson, Drake and Shepherd, and a humorous reading by Mr. Yeo.

The Rector presented to the Society a curious old handbell, inscribed 'Manor of St. Sidwell, 1824,' and hoped they would keep it in the belfry, which Mr. Richardson acknowledged and promised to keep as an interesting relic.—Mr. Shepherd considered this bell was used when the fairs were held in Sidwell Street over a century ago.

A toast to 'The Visitors,' to which Mr. Laxton replied, and the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' concluded a delightful and harmonious evening.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

PROSPEROUS CONDITION.

The annual meeting of Dudley and District Guild on March 5th drew a large assembly of ringers to St. Thomas' Church. A short service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Canon A. H. Phelps). He based an excellent address on the words 'And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers.' These strange words, he said, referred to one of those towers which used to be built when the vine was cultivated, so that a man could go up and see what was going on in the vineyard, and detect any trespassing or stealing. This lodge or tower was a picture of many of the towers in which the bells were rung. How many lonely towers there were in the area of their own association! Neltherton Church tower was lonely and isolated. The church was lodged on the top of a hill, and it could be seen from miles around standing up above everything else. Sedgley, King's Norton, and other towers in the area might be described as being lonely—like 'lodges in gardens of cucumbers.' The towers themselves were often very lonely and shut up from the rest of the church. The tower of Worcester Cathedral appeared almost like a separate church, and towers like St. Thomas' had to be approached from the outside. In one sense, the life of the ringers must be a lonely one while in their towers, because they were cut off from the rest of the building. There must be times when they felt that they were a part by themselves. They, however, must remember that they were parts of one large whole ministering to the whole body of the church, and serving God and their fellow-creatures. Their life in the tower was part of the spiritual life which they were living in their own way, each of them working for the glory of God, yet with a unity which could not fail to have gratifying results. Very heartily he welcomed them that afternoon in the old mother church, and hoped they would go away with new aspiration for their future efforts.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting was held in one of St. Thomas' schoolrooms. The president of the Guild (Canon A. H. Phelps) occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Harry Mason and Mr. Hugh Watson (vice-presidents) and the officials of the Guild.

After a substantial tea, provided by funds subscribed by members of St. Thomas' congregation, and admirably served by a contingent of ladies, the hon. secretary (Mr. Herbert Sheppard) presented a report of last year's activities. He said the membership had increased, and financially the Guild was still in a prosperous condition, the balance on hand in February last being £10 4s. 3½d., compared with £7 16s. 5½d. in the corresponding month last year.

Mr. Mason congratulated the officials and the members on the very favourable report and balance sheet, and these were afterwards unanimously adopted.

Canon Phelps was again appointed president.

The vice-presidents were re-elected, and the Vicar of Rowley added to the existing number.

At this point Canon Phelps had to vacate the chair to keep another appointment, and was succeeded by Mr. Mason, who proposed that Canon Phelps be accorded a vote of thanks. He (Mr. Mason) for many years had been coming to meetings at Dudley, and could assure them the members of the Guild always had a very hearty reception from Canon Phelps, whose smiling face it was always a pleasure to see. Canon Phelps had not only conducted services in the church, but did everything he could to make their meetings a success.—The proposition was unanimously carried, and Canon Phelps appropriately acknowledged it.

Mr. J. Goodman, jun., was re-elected Ringing Master, Messrs. F. Evans (Sedgley) and T. Justice (Bilston) hon. auditors, and Mr. S. J. Hughes hon. treasurer and Central Council representative. Mr. H. Sheppard was re-elected hon. secretary.

Mr. Sheppard expressed appreciation of the continued confidence of the members, and the business ended with a vote of thanks to all who had in any way contributed to the success and enjoyability of the proceedings.

OVER SIXTY YEARS A RINGER.

Death has recently claimed one who for 62 years gave of his best in the cause of ringing. The passing of Mr. Frederick Hancock, of Eckington, Derbyshire, leaves a gap which will be hard to fill. Learning to ring at the age of 17, he acquired a reputation for being always at his post, and early, thus setting an example worthy of all men, particularly ringers, who depend so much on each other.

Though his ringing capabilities were chiefly confined to the treble, he was a safe man in that position. The records he leaves behind show that he spared neither time nor pains in following the art. It was not until two years ago, when his wife died, that it became noticeable that he was breaking up, and his bereavement certainly left its mark upon him. It was not, however, until October, 1926, that he failed to appear at his post in the belfry, for while he could just hobble and walk, with one hand on the wall, he continued to make his appearance. His nerve and sight then failed him; the old hero was compelled at last to hand over his charge to others, in the hope that they would keep the old bells ringing.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.—On Thursday, March 10th, 720 London Surprise: V. Turrell 1, F. Turrell 2, G. Warnett 3, V. Goacher (first 720 in the method) 4, G. Steele 5, W. Denman (conductor) 6.

INSTRUCTION OF BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. J. P. Armstrong's letter in your issue of the 11th inst., following your editorial, is also 'good as far as it goes,' but it does not go far enough.

There is only one place to learn the practical side of ringing, and that is in the tower, and instructors, as a rule, are fairly good, practically. Given ropesight, there is no more (to a ringing aspirant) in learning elementary change ringing than in a child learning his 'ten-times table'—parrotwise; he does what he is told to do.

To continue Mr. Armstrong's analogy, it is not sufficient to teach the child to know 'twice ten are twenty.' Show him that, given two piles of ten, when counted straight through make twenty, and his application of common sense will help him to discover what three piles of ten are equal to. Interest him in the reason why, and if he keeps he will go on. Granted, he must be taught how to count onwards first, and here is your 'practice.'

Generally speaking, instructors are not good, theoretically. As an instance, the recent articles published on 'splicing,' where it was assumed that a man is ignorant of the method of tracing the path of a bell through the course, from the figures of the first lead, a detailed explanation being given, immediately to be followed with the lead-ends of a 720, without a word of explanation as to how these were arrived at. Either the former was unnecessary, or the latter a sad omission.

Mr. Armstrong's strictures on 'The Ringing World,' again are good 'as far as they go,' but how far? The editorial comment is pertinent, but (please forgive me) beside the point; instruction of the amateur is required, and not the practical gardener, which, rightly, he contends is hardly the work of a newspaper.

We must not lose sight of the Editor's point of view. He must cater for everybody—the more for the majority of his subscribers, the less for the minority (space for number). If more peal-space sends up his circulation, then he is justified in increasing it. He is unable to please everybody, and, naturally, the majority win.

Having attained the maximum for the majority, he turns to the minority, and here is our opportunity. Divided into two classes, who is more likely to buy 'The Ringing World' to learn? The round ringer in his desire to ring Doubles, or the change ringer in his desire to know why? Of the two, unquestionably the latter; but the Editor must have some grounds for supposing that this class of subscriber will be pleased with his innovation. Convince him of this, and he will do it quickly enough. It is up to you—you thousands of ringers who cannot prick out a touch by the lead-ends—to write to the Editor and tell him so. Give him a chance to know what you want, and what you will support, and he will get it all right. Tell him that you want something simpler than the books—that you cannot fully understand them, and he will give it to you. I happen to know that he likes the suggestion, but naturally he must be sure of his ground, because popular space has got to give way.

Believe me, this epistle is no effort at 'whitewash' on the part of a friend of the Editor, and if published will emphasise his candour in publishing Mr. Armstrong's letter; it is penned by a bitter opponent of 'bigger circulation, better results,' for I am a firm believer in 'better results bring bigger circulation'; but justice is justice. Give the Editor a lead, tell him what you want (it will only cost 1½d.), and if the demand warrants it you will get it; but you must all demand.

The Editor has already reviewed some articles by the writer on the above lines, and, rightly, has judged them to be unsuitable; it is difficult to make the written word simple enough. Proof positive that he is interested in the beginner. It may be that one day more will be submitted and published, and this is the sole reason for the anonymous signature, the criticisms being written in the honest endeavour for betterment.

It is the 'learners' job to prove that such articles would be welcomed, and the ventilation of the views of the gentlemen who have recently discussed these matters in conference would encourage the learners to 'demand' such articles by letter and then to buy the paper to support such an innovation.

Space used in such a discussion is no waste, Mr. Editor, and I offer no apology.

MINORMANIA.

LOST SENSE OF PROPORTION.

Dear Sir,—While quite agreeing with your correspondent, J. P. Armstrong, that some standardised system of instruction is necessary, I must say that he seems to lose all sense of proportion or fairness when blaming 'The Ringing World' for the lack of this, and the last paragraph of his letter amounts almost to an insult, as you have always gone out of your way (to a certain extent) to forward the interests of the Exercise.—Yours faithfully,

W. RUMSEY.

Debenham.

TENBY.—On Thursday, March 3rd, to mark the occasion of the enthronement of the Bishop of St. David's, the ringers of St. Mary's rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: Rev. F. A. Oswell (first attempt in Triples) 1, T. Yeomans (first attempt on inside bell) 2, Geo. Jenkins 3, Wm. Jenkins 4, J. John 5, H. Jenkins 6, T. W. Griffiths (conductor) 7, J. Williams 8. All are usual Sunday ringers.

DEATH OF VETERAN YORK RINGER. FIFTY YEARS AT THE MINSTER.

As briefly recorded in our last issue, the death has taken place of Mr. Thomas Henry Haigh, who for 53 years was a bellringer and for more than half a century was connected with York Minster. Mr. Haigh, who was 74 years of age, obtained a grounding in the art at Clifton Church, and joined the Minster Company in 1875. Here he came under the influence of the late Mr. W. B. Howard, who did so much during his long life to help youthful ringers.

There were many good ringers at the Minster in those days, and Mr. Haigh rapidly made progress. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1885, and retained his membership for the remainder of his life. On March 2nd, 1875, he became a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and rang with them in London. He was also for many years a member of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, and had a lot of friends among the ringers of North Yorkshire.

His record of peals as shown in the 1924-25 report of the Yorkshire Association is 45, and of some of these he was the conductor. These included peals at York, Selby, Beverley, Hull, Knaresborough, Darlington, Newcastle and Scarborough.

Mr. Haigh took part in the last peal rung at St. Martin's, Coney Street, on October 9th, 1888. He was one of the band that rang the last peal at Selby Abbey (September 8th, 1906) before the bells were destroyed in the great fire in the following October; he took part in the first peal on the new ring at Eserick, on April 24th, 1926; and he conducted the last peal rung at York Minster (Grandsire Caters, 5,129 changes) on November 9th, 1892.

In his earlier days at York Minster Mr. Haigh used to ring at the heavy end, but latterly most of his ringing had been done on the treble, but wherever his position, his work was always good. No one was more pleased than he when it became known that the Minster bells were to be re-hung and tuned, and it was surely an unkind trick of fate that the only time he should be able to ring on them after their restoration was on the dedication day, August 28th, 1926 (he rang the treble at the opening), as he was taken ill a few days later, and had never been able to visit the tower since.

The Exercise is the poorer for his passing, and the sympathy of ringers up and down the country will be extended to his relatives.

The funeral took place on Saturday, March 5th, the first part of the service being held in the Minster Choir and being largely attended, for Mr. Haigh was well known throughout the city.

The clergy who took part were the Very Rev. the Dean of York (Dr. Lionel Ford), Canon C. C. Bell and the Rev. H. Spence (chamberlain). Mr. Spence read the committal sentences at York Cemetery. The coffin was met at the south door by the clergy, who were preceded by the cross-bearer.

The chief mourners were Mrs. T. Haigh (widow), Mr. and Mrs. H. Haigh (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. T. Haigh (son), Mr. and Mrs. A. Haigh, Mr. J. Haigh, Miss Minnie Haigh (niece), Mr. W. Haigh, Mr. and Mrs. R. Haigh, Messrs. C. and T. Haigh (nephews), Mr. and Mrs. Leadley, Mrs. Baker (niece), and Miss Snaith.

The York Minster Society were represented by Mr. G. Horner (secretary), Mr. A. Horner, Mr. W. Fountain, and Mr. H. N. Imeson, and the following members acted as bearers:—Mr. T. Hodgson, Mr. S. Steele, Mr. A. C. Fearnley, Mrs. T. F. Earnshaw, Mr. E. Rickitt and Mr. G. Worth. Representing the Yorkshire Association were Mr. Percy Johnson (Leeds), secretary, and Mr. L. Woodcock (Morton). The York Cricket and Bowling Club, the Burton Lane Club and Institute, of which Mr. Haigh was a life member, were also represented, and there was a large attendance of sympathetic friends.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by: E. Rickitt 1-2, A. C. Fearnley 3-4, T. F. Earnshaw 5-6, and H. N. Imeson 7-8.

MUFFLED BELLS.

On Monday, March 7th, at St. Alkmund's Church, Derby, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung in 50 mins. with the bells half-muffled as a tribute to a tribute of respect to the late Mr. E. Coates, a highly esteemed member of the church, whose funeral took place earlier in the day: H. K. Waterfield 1, A. Mould 2, R. Boulton 3, G. Freebrey (conductor) 4, J. Bailey 5, G. H. Robinson, sen., 6, P. H. Tate 7, G. Robinson, jun., 8.

At Wingham, Kent, on Sunday, March 6th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor with 7-8 covering: H. Chandler 1, H. Bates 2, H. Smith 3, L. Honess 4, J. Sharp 5, F. Fairbairn (conductor) 6, L. Levey 7, A. Scarff 8. First 720 by treble (aged 14 years) and 2nd ringers. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Rev. J. M. Fox, a former Vicar of the parish, who was interred in the churchyard the previous day.

At Fulbourn, Cambs, on Thursday, February 24th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob (1,440 changes), with 7th bell covering: E. Webb 1, Charles Hall 2, John Giddens 3, Joseph Page 4, Arthur Page 5, B. D. Buttress (conductor) 6, J. Stanley 7. Rung on the occasion of the funeral of George David Bridge, who had been a ringer for over 25 years with the Fulbourn band, with the bells fully muffled.

At Southwell Cathedral, on Friday, January 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. H. Clulow 1, G. E. Padgett 2, G. E. Foster 3, F. Pickard 4, H. F. Clulow 5, E. Foster 6, A. J. Chamberlain (conductor) 7, W. D. Shortrose 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late Rev. S. Gould, senior curate at the Minster, who was interred that day.

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The pre-Lent meeting was held at Lanchester in beautiful weather. The committee meeting was held at the King's Head Hotel, presided over by the president (Mr. C. L. Routledge).

Messrs. Routledge, Payne, and Ferry were elected to act as committee to revise the rules and submit them at the annual meeting. It was proposed that the date of the annual meeting be altered to bring it to more genial weather. This will also be brought up at the annual meeting.

Tea was afterwards held at the same place, the president presiding, supported by the Vicar (the Rev. L. Heatherington), the hon. secretary, hon. treasurer, the vice-president for the Western District and others, 21 sitting down.

There was no business to transact, but after the toast to 'The King,' a vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for helping in the arrangements for tea, to which the Vicar responded. Touches of Bob Major, Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung on the handbells.

The tower was then visited again. The ringing on the tower bells varied from Bob Doubles (with some locals taking part) to London Surprise Minor, and was kept going from about 3 to 8 p.m.

The following towers were represented: Durham Cathedral and St. Oswald's, St. Ignatius', Sunderland, Newcastle Cathedral and St. George's, Gosforth, Tanfield, Winklaton, St. John's, Newcastle, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring and Gateshead. Some 32 or 33 ringers (including the locals) took part in the ringing.

The hon. secretary has received a very kind invitation from Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, for any members of the association to visit Graydon for a ringers' rally on Saturday, April 2nd, to hear and inspect the carillon for the Victory Tower at Ottawa. The carillon consists of 53 bells, total weight 53 tons, weight of tenor (or bass bell) 10 tons. Mr. Ferry will be pleased to furnish full particulars to any of the members of the association who are able to accept the invitation if they will communicate with him at 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.

A PILGRIMAGE AND AN 'APPRECIATION.'

An excursion was arranged by the Supporters' Club of the Plymouth team early in the year for the match between Plymouth Argyle and Coventry City at Coventry. The date was February 19th, 1927. The 'Henry Johnson' Commemoration Dinner to be held before Lent, and generally in February. Would the fates be kind, and the dinner and football match coincide? The notice of the dinner in 'The Ringing World' was eagerly awaited, and you can imagine the joy when February 19th was the date selected.

On Friday night, February 18th, four eager ringers left Plymouth at 11.40 p.m. Coventry was reached at 7.10 a.m. on the 19th. After a vain and fruitless search to get some breakfast (the excursionists had filled every available cafe which happened to be open), we left for Birmingham. On account of a fog, this trip of 18 miles took 1 hour 20 minutes. We soon found the Cobden Cafe and some breakfast. Outside the cafe at 11.30 we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Walker and Mr. James George, who had arranged for several ringers to meet us Plymouthians.

St. Chad's was the first tower, and Stedman and Double Norwich were rung, the latter a treat for the visitors, as we get very few opportunities to ring this musical method. The pleasure of ringing a fairly long touch was therefore much appreciated. Then came Bishop Ryder's, with Stedman and Kent Treble Bob. Mr. J. George is Ringing Master here, and it is easy to see that he is very proud of being in charge of such a nice peal and such a well-kept ringing chamber. After lunch, St. John's, Deritend, was visited—more Double Norwich. By this time it was nearly 3 p.m., and one of the chief events of the day was due. As St. John's and St. Martin's are close together, you may be sure we were waiting on the top line at St. Martin's for the opening of that tower. Here we had the pleasure of ringing our first touch of Stedman Cinques, and we sincerely thank those ringers who gave us the opportunity to do so. We then rushed off to St. Phillip's and managed to get a ring on the ten at that tower, back again to St. Martin's in time for the very interesting discussion, 'How to keep beginners interested in ringing.' Some very able suggestions were brought forward, and it is to be hoped that this subject will be brought to the front wherever ringers meet. It was now 'dinner time,' and 'The Ringing World' has told its readers how well the whole affair was managed. Everything went as clockwork, and reflects great credit upon Mr. Walker and his helpers. It is a very good plan when bells require attention to get the Vicar and his wardens to attend such a function as this, as I am sure the appealing speeches of Alderman J. S. Pritchett and Mr. A. Walker will eventually secure for St. Martin's the attention that peal requires. It would be a splendid thing, too, if Mrs. A. Hughes could broadcast some handbell selections, not that broadcasting could do her justice, but her playing was certainly a revelation of the beautiful music which can be got from handbells. At 11 p.m. we took train back to Coventry, and at 12.40 a.m. we left for Plymouth, arriving at 7.30 a.m. Sunday morning—four very tired but happy ringers, two nights out of bed, had travelled roughly 500 miles, but it was worth it all. We appreciate very much the kindness of the ringers who made our trip such a success. The day will stand out as a 'red letter' one for us.

'PLYMOUTH HOF.'

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

BARNES.—On Sunday, March 13th, for evening service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples in 42 mins.: H. Folkard 1, H. Belcher 2, W. C. Stacey 3, H. Cook 4, C. Hunt 5, F. Skerington (conductor) 6, R. Thompson (first quarter in the method) 7, P. Stratton 8.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, March 13th, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss E. E. Hardcastle 1, C. W. Roberts 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, E. E. Bish 4, L. Attwater 5, J. W. Chapman 6, J. L. Watkins (conductor) 7, W. E. G. Hewson 8.

NEWBURY, BERKS.—On Sunday, March 13th, for evensong at St. Nicholas Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 47 mins. with 4-6-8 covering: W. H. Adkins, jun., 1, C. Poole 2, E. W. Smith 3, T. Thorn 4, E. Crocker 5, C. Osgood 6, H. W. Curtis 7, J. Pemberton 8. Conducted first half by E. W. Smith, and second half by H. W. Curtis. First quarter-peal for J. Pemberton. Also rung as a farewell to T. Thorn and J. Pemberton, who are leaving the town, the former for Canada, and the latter for Wales.

KENSINGTON, LONDON.—At the Church of St. Mary Abbots, for evensong on Sunday, March 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 50 mins.: W. E. Judd (conductor) 1, F. V. Sinkins 2, R. E. Sadler 3, C. F. Winney 4, G. W. Frayne 5, H. Waklam 6, G. C. Rice 7, E. G. Garrard 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, March 13th, for evensong, at the Church of St. Thomas & Becket, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 52 mins.: F. A. Burnett 1, J. H. Cassidy (first quarter) 2, Mrs. F. A. Burnett 3, P. Giles 4, L. P. Cook 5, F. W. Burnett (first quarter as conductor) 6, H. L. Aitken 7, C. S. Shepherd 8.

WALTHAM ST. LAWRENCE.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, March 6th, for morning service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. Cooper, sen., 1, J. Cooper, jun., 2, G. Tilley 3, W. Mortimore 4, G. Martin 5, R. Darvill (conductor) 6. First 720 Cambridge Minor by the local band.

BOSTON.—For morning service, on Sunday, March 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Lewis 1, H. G. Lewis (first quarter-peal) 2, C. S. Bird 3, W. Lewis 4, C. I. Edwards 5, E. R. Gladman 6, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 7, W. Godfrey 8.

LONDON.—On Sunday, March 6th, for evening service at St. Andrew's, Holborn, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 48 mins.: E. Brett 1, C. Choquet 2, John Lee 3, R. Green 4, L. Gray 5, A. C. Darnell 6, J. S. Hawkins (conductor) 7, E. R. Garrard 8.

DONCASTER, YORKS.—On Sunday, February 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 47 mins.: G. Halksworth 1, H. Fairham (Selby) 2, J. Holmes 3, C. Clarke 4, F. Newsome 5, W. Lloyd 6, H. Walker (conductor) 7, H. Boldwin 8.

HILLINGDON.—At St. John's Church, on Sunday, February 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 46 mins.: F. W. Goodfellow 1, W. H. Joiner 2, M. Stacey 3, P. E. Jones 4, A. Fulwell 5, E. Hancox (conductor) 6, J. J. Pratt 7, W. Honor 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Sunday, February 6th, for morning service, 1,344 of Cambridge Surprise Major in 44 mins.: E. Bowley (first quarter-peal of Major) 1, H. Hodgetts 2, S. Hoare 3, A. W. Dix 4, F. W. Elliott 5, C. Leman 6, W. Hodgetts 7, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—For morning service, on February 6th, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,344 changes) in 44 mins.: *E. Bowley 1, H. Hodgetts 2, S. Hoare 3, A. W. Dix 4, F. W. Elliott 5, C. Leman 6, W. Hodgetts 7, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 8. —For morning service, Sunday, February 13th, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1,544 changes) in 44 mins.: *P. Bishop 1, H. Hodgetts 2, S. Hoare 3, A. W. Dix 4, F. W. Elliott 5, C. Leman 6, W. Hodgetts 7, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 8. * First quarter-peal of Major. —For morning service, Sunday, March 6th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 39½ mins.: E. Bowley 1, W. Hodgetts 2, P. Bishop 3, H. Hodgetts 4, T. Norris 5, C. Leman 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7, A. W. Dix 8.

KIMBOLTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, January 23rd, for morning service at the Church of St. James, 720 Grandsire Doubles, being three 240's of Mr. L. W. C. Morris' arrangement: L. H. Powell 1, C. Jaine 2, J. Green 3, F. A. Jaine (conductor) 4, W. H. Jaine 5, W. E. Brookes 5. —For evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Minor (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: J. Green 1, W. H. Jaine 2, C. Jaine 3, J. Fox 4, A. Owens 5, F. A. Jaine (first quarter-peal as conductor) 6. First quarter-peal of Minor on the bells, and by all except conductor.

LONDON.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evening service at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, London Bridge, 1,239 Stedman Caters: F. W. Chorley 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, S. C. Moye 3, J. Waugh (first quarter-peal on ten bells) 4, C. F. Winney 5, W. Berry 6, J. Milner 7, W. Rogers 8, J. R. Gammon 9, L. Bayliss 10. —On Sunday, January 23rd, after evening service at St. Clement Danes', Strand, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. W. Chorley 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, J. Milner 3, S. C. Moye 4, C. F. Winney 5, L. Hills 6, J. R. Gammon 7, H. Taylor 8. —On Sunday, January 30th, for evening service at St. Andrew's, Wells Street Marylebone, 1,260 Kent Treble Bob Major: C. F. Winney 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, H. Dyas 3, J. Waugh 4, J. Bennett 5, J. Milner 6, W. Rogers 7, J. R. Gammon 8.

LYE, STOURBRIDGE.—On Sunday, January 16th, at Christ Church for evening service, 1,260 Bob Minor in 41 mins.: W. Smith 1, G. Smith 2, H. Smith 3, C. W. Cooper 4, V. Beasley 5, B. Chance 6, A. Boxley (conductor) 7, S. J. Pearson 8. First touch by ringer of treble and first as conductor. All are members of the local band and regular Sunday service ringers, with the exception of Mr. C. W. Cooper, who kindly filled the gap at the last moment.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE.

AN EXPLANATION.

Sir,—My attention has been called to the fact that in my recent article I misstated the number of false course ends to Superlative. I ought, of course, to have said: 'The two false course ends together with rounds form a group of three, and are probably so on account of the three steps of the cycle or the three reciprocal cycles.' I regret the error, and am annoyed that I made it.

There may be many who do not understand the full meaning of my article, so I would like to add the following: Each method, especially Treble Bob, has two sorts of shunt. First, those which move the position of the treble only in C.O., and consequently determine the lead head. Secondly, those which alter the positions of bells other than the treble, and having, in the aggregate, no effect on the lead head. The latter may be called additional shunts and are necessary in Treble Bob to prevent repetition of rows. It is essential that the additional shunts should be neutralised in the lead or occur in Q sets, otherwise Plain Bob lead heads could not possibly occur. It, therefore, follows that the additional shunts must have groups of related places or shunts. Each method has its characteristic grouping.

To extend any method, one of the fundamental laws is that the characteristic grouping of the additional shunts of the original must be repeated. As a rule this is either impossible altogether or easy to accomplish, once it has been found. Very occasionally the characteristic grouping has several forms of expression. An outstanding example of this is the Stedman blocks of Bristol Surprise. No amount of argument can prove which of the many forms is correct.

The real difficulty of extension occurs when we have internal shunts with the Treble fixing the lead head. In this case also no amount of argument can decide how many must be used in the extension or, in the event of having only the same number as the original, the positions they should occupy. This is the reason why extensions of methods like Double Norwich and Bristol differ with each, shall I say, 'expert.' The reason why Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise and Yorkshire Surprise cause no argument is due to the absence of internal shunts with the treble and the more or less fortunate hitting on the correct grouping of the additional shunts where such exist. Superlative, now that I have shown the characteristic grouping of the additional shunts, will be allowed in the near future to have the correct Maximus, as Mr. Geo. Baker gave it a few weeks ago.—Yours truly,

W. TAYLOR.

7,104 TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

BY GEORGE LEWIS, OF ECCLESFIELD.

23456	M	B	W	H
53342	1		2	2
53482			1	2
64352			2	2
32546	1		1	2
23645	2			2
46325			2	2
35264	2	—	2	2
32654			1	2
54263	2	—		2
65432	—			2
52436	1			2
54326	1	—	2	2
45623	2			2
46253	1	—	2	2
53624	2	—		2
56234	1	—	2	2
64235	2	—	1	2
32465			2	2
65243	2	—		2
23456	1		1	2

By using the alternative calling in the 7th course (1M 1W 2H) the peal is reduced to 7,040. Contains the 60 course ends. Reeves' five-part peal of 6,880 has been the greatest length on this plan until this peal was composed.

Rung at Ecclesfield, Yorks, on February 19th, 1927, conducted by A. Knights.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Tuesday, February 15th, for men's service, 832 Cambridge Surprise Major: J. W. Harrison 1, Miss Moss (conductor) 2, C. C. Mayne 3, F. Corke 4, J. Blackmore 5, J. Batling 6, H. Wingrove 7, R. Buckland 8. Longest length in the method as conductor. —On Saturday, February 5th, at 10, Burkes Parade, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells: H. Wingrove 1-2, Miss Moss 3-4, C. Mayne (conductor) 5-6, F. Corke 7-8. Longest length on hand by all.

NORBURY, HAZEL GROVE.—On Thursday, March 3rd, for practice, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,280 changes) in 46 mins., taken from J. S. Wilde's 5,280: L. Clough 1, J. Fernley, jun., 2, J. Fernley, sen., 3, H. Langley 4, W. Fernley 5, W. W. Walstencroft 6, T. Wilde (conductor) 7, J. W. Hartley 8. First quarter-peal in the method on the bells and by all the band.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

FAMOUS COMPOSITION BY OXFORD RINGER.

Years before the visit of Annable and his men, there were good ringers and good ringing at Oxford, but the first peal in the city had yet to be rung. The attempts and the failure of the Londoners were a spur to local ambition, and three days after Annable was gone the tenor at Christ Church was rehung and a peal of Grand-sire Caters started for. But success was not for the Oxford men at that time. 'They were soon out,' Hearne tells us, 'and made poor of it in comparison with the others.' Failure did not dishearten them; they picked out their best men and began to practise in earnest. All of them were townsmen, but it is evidence of the interest taken in ringing by University men that their coach was Mr. Stone, a fellow of Wadham College.

Mr. Stone shares the distinction of being the first ringing parson of whom we have any account with Dr. Mason, who at this same time was ringing at Cambridge. We knew nothing about him except that he was a good ringer, as he would have to be to coach a ten-bell band. The conductor was John Vicars or Vickers, second butler at New College.

In later years this man and his doings were completely forgotten by the Exercise, and yet he fairly earned a definite and honourable place in the history of our art. He was a good ringer, a good conductor, though, as we shall see, he had one lamentable lapse, and a composer of more than usual ability. Hearne, who was a keen critic of ringing matters and by no means prone to distribute praise promiscuously, said of him that 'he is very ingenious in the art of ringing, and is excellent in calling the bobs and managing the music of ringing. I think he is one of the very best in England.'

The peal they attempted and the ones they afterwards rang would be pretty certain to be his composition. What they were like, whether in the tittums, which Annable had recently introduced, or on the older plan of hunts, we do not know—the figures are all lost. But we have evidence from quite another source that Vicars was really a man to be ranked with the early leading composers; for he has the great distinction of being the first man, or at any rate probably the first man, to produce a peal of Grand-sire Triples with ordinary bobs and singles.

At this time, as I have just said, Dr. Mason was ringing at Cambridge. He was a man who was not only interested in practical ringing, but who also collected compositions. Some of his manuscripts still remain in the library of Downing College, and among them are preserved the figures of Garthon's peal and also Vicars' peal. Readers of Jasper Snowdon's history of Grand-sire Triples will remember the description he gives of Mason's MSS. and these two peals. I will quote a short paragraph relating to Vicars' peal. 'This peal is of the greatest interest, and is really a remarkable one; where it came from and who Vicars, the composer, was, unfortunately, there are no means of ascertaining from these volumes, but it is such a wonderful improvement on Garthon's peal and so much better than the one by the unknown author which first appeared in the "Clavis" that it is strange, since it is a true peal, that it should so easily have been forgotten. In Vicars' peal we have what I think there is every reason to believe is the earliest or one of the earliest peals produced by ordinary bobs and singles only.'

And we may add that, not only is it the earliest, but it is the best of all the three-lead-course peals, only Taylor's composition equalling it in the symmetry of the arrangement of the singles.

If there were an earlier peal it would be Annable's, which London tradition erroneously stated was the first in the method. That peal is supposed to have been composed between 1737 and 1739, and it seems likely that Vicars' was earlier. There is no trace of its having been rung in early days, and apart from Dr. Mason's MSS. no reference to it anywhere.

As Mr. Snowdon says, there is nothing in the MSS. to say who Vicars was, and there is no direct evidence that he was the Oxford man. But there can hardly be any reasonable doubt about it. It is not likely that there would be two distinguished composers of the same rather uncommon name living in the early eighteenth century, one of whom left absolutely no trace of his doings.

There was a James Vickers, a member of the Union Scholars, who rang the fifth to the first performance of Holt's Original at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1751; but, apart from the fact that he was rather later, he is not at all likely to be the composer. There is no evidence that he was more than a practical ringer. If he had produced the peal the London men would have known of it, and probably it would have been included in the 'Clavis.'

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NOTICES.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on March 29th, St. Magnus' on the 31st, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A district meeting will be held at Fulbourn on Saturday, March 19th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Short service at 5 o'clock.—A. E. Austin, 4, Hills View, Great Shelford, Cambs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, March 19th. Bells (8) available from 1 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea will be served in the Mission Room at 5 p.m. at a charge of 1s. 9d. per head. Business meeting afterwards. Subscriptions for current year are now due.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, on Saturday, March 19th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. All ringers and friends invited.—J. A. Hales, Hon. Sec., 20, Aspland Grove, Hackney, E.8.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Handsworth, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 19th. Bells (8) available from 2 to 9 p.m. Service at 4.30. Preacher, the Lord Bishop of Sheffield. Tea and meeting after service. Subscriptions for 1927 now due. Further particulars have been sent by circular to local secretaries.—F. Clark, 18, Royston Avenue, Doncaster.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Slinfold on Saturday, March 19th. Bells available from 2.30. Tea at the King's Head at 5 o'clock.—A. W. Groves, Amherst, Ham Road, Worthing.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Chippenham on Saturday, March 19th. Bells available at 3 p.m.—S. Hopper, 79, Edinburgh Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Ware on March 19th. The bells will be open during the afternoon and evening. A short service will be conducted by the Vicar at 5 o'clock. Tea and business meeting, opposite the church, at 5.30. All friends will be welcomed. Kindly note subscriptions are now due.—W. H. Lawrence Dis. Sec., Little Mundon, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Ansdell R.C. Church (8 bells) on Saturday, March 19th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 10, Warbreck Road N.S., Blackpool.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be at Kirkby Mallory and Peckleton on Saturday, March 26th. Bells available at Kirkby from 3.30 to 5 p.m., and at Peckleton from 5 to 7 p.m. Tea provided at Kirkby Mallory at 5 p.m. Business meeting at Peckleton at 7 p.m. A good attendance is requested, all ringers being welcome.—W. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next ringing practice has been arranged at Hitcham (6 bells) on Saturday, March 26th. Bells available from 6 to 9 p.m. Branch annual meeting, Saturday, April 30th. Please note date.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec., 'Cambridge,' Wexham, Slough.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Bingley on Saturday, March 26th. Bells available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1/6 per head to all those who send in their names to Mr. A. J. Hopewell, 14, Percy Street, Bingley, not later than first post Thursday, March 24th.—F. Hutchinson, District Secretary.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A committee meeting will be held Saturday, March 26th, at Witham's Cafe, 5 p.m.—C. D. Potter, Secretary, 16, Gawber Road, Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Lenton on Saturday, March 26th. Tower open at 4 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec. (pro tem.), 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. A monthly meeting will be held at North Bradley on Saturday, March 26th. Bells (6) ready 2.30. Service, 4.40. Tea 5. Short business meeting follows tea.—F. Green, Branch Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Eaton Socon on Saturday, March 26th. Bells (6) available at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. Subscriptions are now due.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Trent on Saturday, March 25th. Tea provided for those who notify Mr. Burkitt, 68, Laural Terrace, Skellow, before the 24th. A committee meeting will be held to arrange the Cup Competition, to which all towers in the district are asked to send a representative.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Quorn on Saturday, March 26th. Bells (8) open from 3 o'clock onwards. Tea at 5 o'clock followed by business meeting. All ringers and friends invited.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The second monthly meeting will be held at Wirksworth on Saturday, March 26th. Bells (8) available at 3 o'clock. All ringers will be welcome.—Charles Draper, Local Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Wisbech Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at March on Saturday, March 26th. Short service at 4.30. Tea, for those who notify me, in the Church Room at 5 p.m., followed by usual business meeting.—H. W. Giddings, Dis. Sec., 101, Elwyn Road, March.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Eastbourne on Saturday, March 26th. Bells: 'All Saints' (8) available 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Service at the Parish Church (St. Mary's) at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. The bells at St. Saviour's will be available from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's (City), Bristol, on Saturday, March 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those intending to be present kindly notify by 23rd inst.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 10, Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford Branch.—A meeting will be held at Sharnbrook on Saturday, March 26th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Meeting to follow.—W. Stapleton, New Fenlake, Bedford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Saffron Walden on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells (12) from 2.30 p.m. Short service at 4.45 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea please advise me.—C. Beeston, King Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—The meeting arranged for Acton on the 12th inst., and postponed owing to illness, will take place on Saturday, April 2nd (Boat Race day). Arrangements as usual. Tower open at 3 p.m.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Secretary, 29, Duke Road, W.4.

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WRITTLE.—At All Saints' Church, on March 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): Percy Green (first quarter) 1, R. Russell (first quarter) 2, W. Lincoln 3, H. Edwards 4, Dr. Spencer Phillips 5, A. Head 6, George Green (conductor) 7, C. M. Elliot 8, P. and G. Green hail from Great Baddow, R. Russell from Chelmsford, the rest are local men.

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