

THE RINGING WORLD

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A 'CENSUS' WANTED.

One of the things to which the Central Council might turn its attention is, we think, a 'census' of ringers. By this we do not mean merely a counting of heads. That is already done through official church channels and the result can be found each year in the Church Year Book. The figures which appear in these statistics, however, are misleading in the sense that the Exercise understands the term 'bellringers,' because they include everyone who pulls or chimes a church bell, whether the bells in a church number one or a dozen. What would be useful is an annual record of the number of actual bell ringers in this country—that is to say, men and women who can 'ring' a bell in the technical sense of the term. At present, no one can say how many there are, at any rate within a few thousands. Indeed, we do not believe it can be said with certainty, how many towers there are with bells actually hung for ringing, but this information could easily be gleaned in conjunction with the counting up of the ringers.

The information would be of use in a number of ways. It would strengthen the hands of the Council in any negotiations it undertook on behalf of the Exercise, as, for instance, in dealing with the railway companies in the endeavour to obtain cheaper travelling facilities. It would benefit the various associations throughout the country to know not only how many ringers they have within the fold, but, if only by the process of deduction, how many remain outside. One association has recently taken this action within its own area and the information thus obtained will prove invaluable in conducting its 'missionary' work. The task of collecting the details would not be a very formidable one if the associations and guilds would give their aid, and in compiling the statistics they would be serving themselves as well. The time has gone by when ringing organisations should be content with the knowledge of how many members they have got; it is equally important that they should be aware of how many potential members they have not got. To be of real use, however, the information must be complete and therefore the work would need doing with care.

We imagine that all the associations would be glad to co-operate with the Council in a scheme which would provide such useful and interesting information and give the Exercise at long last reliable statistics about its own strength—and weakness. It is sad to hear from some parts of the country serious laments of the lack of ringers, such as was spoken of at the dinner at Gloucester the other day. A 'census' will not fill the gaps, but, properly organised, would reveal at once the deficiencies and enable the associations to concentrate on the weakest spots. The initial information would be, perhaps, the most difficult to obtain, but afterwards an annual revision would be a simpler affair.

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TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY, FULHAM.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

J. WILLIAM DRIVER Treble	WILLIAM E. JODD 6
WILLIAM H. WOOD 2	WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 7
WILLIAM H. HEWETT 3	WILLIAM HENLEY 8
WILLIAM H. HOLLIER 4	WILLIAM R. MADGWICK 9
WILLIAM WELLING 5	WILLIAM BOTTRILL Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by WILLIAM HEWETT

Arranged by W. H. Hollier to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the peal of treble ten rung at this church by 'Williams.' Unfortunately, one of the original Williams failed to appear, and after an hour's wait Mr. Driver kindly obliged, and the company were grateful to him.

MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On St. George's Day, April 23, 1932, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5045 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

MISS KATHLEEN JACKSON Treble	FREDERICK H. DEXTER 6
R. HENRY BARTRAM 2	ERNEST MORRIS 7
C. HENRY WEBB 3	ALAN W. RANDES 8
ERNEST BARTRAM 4	SIDNEY PROCTOR 9
WILLIAM G. THORPE 5	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.
Rung as a 'farewell peal' to Miss Kathleen Jackson, who is shortly leaving this country in 'double harness.' Rung on the 31st anniversary of the first peal on the bells by a local band, called by R. H. Bartram, who by this peal completes the 'circle' of the tower.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 13, 1932, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

GEORGE W. SLACK Treble	WILLIAM O. TALBOT 5
MRS. JAMES COTTERELL 2	JOHN AMBLER 6
JAMES COTTERELL 3	GEORGE ROBINSON 7
WILLIAM BARTON 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD, Bt. Conducted by P. J. JOHNSON
Rung in honour of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lindsay, of Headingley. Mr. Lindsay has been a Sunday service ringer at the above church for 35 years, and the band tender to Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay their best wishes for many years to come.

BIRSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in E flat.

WILLIAM WOODHEAD Treble	*JOSEPH BROADLEY 5
JOHN HOLMAN 2	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 6
CHARLES E. LAWSON 3	*FRED HODGSON 7
FREDERICK SEAGER 4	EDWARD JENKINS Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by EDWARD JENKINS.
* First peal in the method. First peal of Surprise on the bells. Arranged and rung in honour of the 50th anniversary of the wedding day of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lindsay, of Burley, Leeds.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

*ARTHUR E. HOLMES, JUN. ... Treble	*GEORGE W. MILLS ... 5
ARTHUR I. HOLMES, SEN. ... 2	HARRY NICHOLS ... 6
WILLIAM HOLLINGWORTH ... 3	ARTHUR J. FARR ... 7
*WILLIAM A. HOLMES ... 4	JOHN G. AMES ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal in the method. A birthday compliment to Arthur J. Farr.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM SHORT ... Treble	FREDERICK J. JOHNSON ... 5
ROBERT G. KNOWLES ... 2	JOHN BARBER ... 6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3	ROBERT MATTHEWS ... 7
WILLIAM RANFORD ... 4	JAMES GEORGE ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

Rung as the annual peal and on the 50th anniversary of the first peal rung by the association, which was rung on these bells in the same method. The above band is representative of the three branches and the life members.

RADCLIFFE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SUPERLATIVE AND CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 15 cwt. 6 lb. in F.

WILFRED HALLIWELL ... Treble	HERBERT DAVENPORT ... 5
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 2	WILLIAM HORAN ... 6
THOMAS WALLWORK ... 3	TITUS BARLOW ... 7
ROBERT WALLWORK ... 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN (No. 1). Conducted by J. C. E. SIMPSON.
First peal of spliced Surprise by all the band, in the county, and for the association. This composition, consisting of 3,200 Superlative and 1,856 Cambridge, has two leads of Cambridge in each course, and contains 340 78's.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

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

HARRY HOVERD ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... 5
EDWARD J. BEER ... 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 6
*GEORGE J. BUTCHER ... 3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... 7
JOHN BURLES ... 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

* First Surprise peal and first attempt. The ringers wish to thank the Rector of Northfleet for granting permission at a minute's notice, as they were stopped at Gravesend, after raising the bells, by a very serious illness.

CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

SIDNEY J. WILSHIRE ... Treble	*WILLIAM SWIFT ... 5
*VINCENT SWIFT ... 2	†HERBERT MARSH ... 6
ERNEST TRUMAN ... 3	FRED LAMBETH ... 7
THOMAS DAVIDSON ... 4	JAMES H. SHEPHERD ... Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by FRED LAMBETH.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Major. Rung as a birthday compliment to Frank (only son of Mr. J. Trout, captain of St. Paul's) on his 21st birthday.

BOLTON.—At Holy Trinity Church, on April 20th, for Confirmation service, 1,050 Grandsire Triples: R. Fishwick 1, J. W. Kay 2, Miss G. Annie Crook (conductor) 3, A. Sandiford 4, E. Iddon 5, P. Crook, jun., 6, P. Crook 7, O. Olive 8.

WITHYHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 15 cwt.

FREDK. J. LAMBERT, SEN. ... Treble	FRANK BENNETT ... 5
HERBERT MARKWELL ... 2	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... 6
ALEC RICHARDSON ... 3	FREDERICK WHITE ... 7
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 4	STAFFORD H. GREEN ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

First peal in the method by all except the conductor.

LONGWOOD, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 14½ cwt.

ALBERT TOWNEND ... Treble	†RALPH WILLIAMS ... 5
MATTHEW DENNIS ... 2	†HUBERT ARMITAGE ... 6
*ANDREW BLACKBURN ... 3	HENRY H. SMITH ... 7
†JOE C. MELLOR ... 4	ARNOLD ROTHERY ... Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by H. H. SMITH.

* First peal of Major. † First in the method. ‡ First peal. First in the method as conductor.

RAUNDS, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 22 cwt. 8 lb.

HENRY W. GAYTON ... Treble	AMOS SMART ... 5
HERBERT L. HARLOW ... 2	SIDNEY FOSKETT ... 6
ERNEST WHITMORE ... 3	PEARL INSKIP ... 7
CHARLES MORTIMER ... 4	HENRY STAPLETON ... Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by HENRY W. GAYTON.

First peal of Treble Bob Major by ringers of 3rd and 6th.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 16 cwt.

FRANK DEWEY ... Treble	HORACE M. DAY ... 5
JOHN W. LAKE ... 2	ARTHUR H. PALMER ... 6
JAMES OSBORN ... 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE ... 7
MRS. RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 4	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. LAKE.

BARNET, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

WILLIAM SERLEY ... Treble	ALFRED B. PECK ... 5
EDWARD ASHEY ... 2	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 6
STEPHEN H. HOARE ... 3	HERBERT LANDGON ... 7
HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt.

EDWARD A. G. ALLEN ... Treble	STANLEY J. T. SHELLOCK ... 5
*MRS. H. HARPER ... 2	WALTER BEAUMONT ... 6
GEORGE KENWARD ... 3	WILLIAM J. WALKER ... 7
HAROLD HARPER ... 4	FRANK BELSEY ... Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT.

Conducted by FRANK BELSEY.

* First peal of Major. Birthday peal for E. A. G. Allen and W. Beaumont.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt.

ARTHUR PANTHER Treble	WILLIAM GREEN 5
MRS. T. COLIN RYDER 2	ARTHUR GILL 6
* HAROLD CHANT 3	ALBERT NASH 7
CHARLES PODLTENEY 4	T. COLIN RYDER Tenor

Composed by Rev. H. EARLE BULWER. Conducted by A. NASH.
* First peal in the method. Rung to welcome the new Rector, Rev. J. Redrobe, who was inducted a few days earlier.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

* JOSEPH MARKS Treble	ERNEST BRETT 5
HARRY HOSKINS 2	JOHN T. KENTISH 6
EDWIN F. PIKE 3	JAMES E. DAVIS 7
FREDERICK DIGBY 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.
* First peal of Major.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

MISS L. NOEL CAWTHORNE Treble	JAMES HAYWOOD 5
MISS LUCY M. KELLY 2	LESLIE HAYWOOD 6
JAMES KNOWLES 3	ARTHUR PASHLEY 7
JOHN J. L. GILBERT 4	FRED WATKINSON Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by F. WATKINSON.

GREASLEY, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DUFFIELD MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ALBERT H. WARD Treble	* J. FREDERICK MILNER 5
* ALBERT COPPOCK 2	EDWARD C. GOBEY 6
JOSEPH BAILEY 3	* FREDERICK S. PRICE 7
CHARLES DRAPER 4	* PERCY PRICE Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT H. WARD.
* First peal in the method. F. S. Price's 100th peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Albert Coppock.

BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

THOMAS BALDWIN Treble	JOHN CLARK 5
SIDNEY E. ROMANS 2	GEORGE POPPELL 6
JOHN AUSTIN 3	EX-SGT. J. WILLIAMS 7
JOHN W. JONES 4	GEORGE CONDICK Tenor

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.
A birthday compliment to G. Poppell.

HORLEY, SURREY.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 17, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Bartholomew,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb.

KENNETH SNELLING Treble	C. ERNEST SMITH 5
NELSON ELLIOTT 2	ROBERT SWIFT 6
GEORGE ELLIS 3	ALFRED J. BULL 7
GEORGE OLLIVER 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by Rev. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by OLIVER SIPPETTS.
First peal in the method on the bells.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb.

* JOHN CHARNOCK Treble	JOHN BOOTH 5
* ARTHUR TOMLINSON 2	BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS 6
HARRY FRANCE 3	E. ROGER MARTIN 7
JAMES W. GROUNDS 4	WILLIAM SHARPLES Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM SHARPLES.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major as conductor. First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on the bells. Rung on the 20th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. France.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

REGINALD C. KERSEY Treble	* EDWIN R. GOATE 5
ALFRED KEEBLE 2	ERNEST S. BAILEY 6
FREDERICK J. SMITH 3	JAMES G. RUMSEY 7
CHARLES F. BAILEY 4	JAMES M. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by CHAS. F. BAILEY.

* First peal in the method and first attempt. A birthday compliment to F. W. Bailey, now of Birmingham; also a compliment to the conductor and Mrs. Bailey on the anniversary of their wedding.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD:

(STOCKPORT & BOWDON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

DAVID GOSLING Treble	* JAMES MILNER 5
WILLIAM FERNLEY 2	LIONEL CLOUGH 6
JAMES FERNLEY, JUN. 3	JAMES FERNLEY, SEN. 7
HARRY LANGLEY 4	TOM WILDE Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by TOM WILDE.

* First peal of Surprise. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble.

ASHTED, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 18, 1932, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 14 cwt. 8 lb. in F.

GEORGE A. COOK Treble	ARTHUR H. SMITH 5
JOHN BEAMS 2	JOHN HOYLE 6
* WILLIAM J. WHITING 3	ALAN R. PINK 7
GEORGE MARRINER 4	ALBERT HARMAN Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

* First peal of Cambridge Major 'inside.'

WATFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 18, 1932, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

HERBERT G. MILTON Treble	RONALD W. PICTON 5
STEPHEN H. HOARE 2	FRANK H. CROOK 6
ARTHUR W. DIX 3	GEORGE E. HOWCHIN 7
CHARLES N. LEMAN 4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW Tenor

Composed by N. J. PISTOW.

Conducted by S. H. HOARE.

First peal as conductor. First of Surprise on the bells. Mr. Howchin was re-elected a member of the association before starting. Rung in honour of the wedding of Lord Hyde and the Hon. Marion Glynn, which took place the same day at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of the King and Queen.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 19, 1932, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Consisting of 1,334 London, 1,280 Cambridge, 896 Rutland, 480 Norfolk, 448 New Gloucester, 320 Bristol and 320 Yorkshire. Tenor 10 cwt.

CHARLES T. COLES Treble	JAMES BENNETT 5
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 2	ALBERT W. COLES 6
GEORGE M. KILBY 3	HARRY KILBY 7
GEORGE R. PYE 4	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.
First peal rung in seven Surprise Major methods. It was rung at the first attempt.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(St. John-the-Baptist Society.)

On Wednesday, April 20, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Containing 2,944 London, 608 Bristol, and 756 each of Cambridge and Superlative, the two latter methods being rung in alternate courses. Tenor 13½ cwt.

*REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... Treble	NELSON ELLIOTT 5
GEORGE OLLIVER 2	CECIL NICE 6
WILFRED WILLIAMS 3	ROBERT SWIFT 7
KENNETH SNELLING 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by OLIVER SIPPETTS.
*100th peal. First peal of spliced Surprise Major ever rung with a local band. First peal of spliced Surprise in four methods by all the band except the conductor.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 20, 1932, in One Hour and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

JOHN READ Treble	HARRY KEMP 5
*JESSE BRAGLEY 2	FRANK KEMP 6
GEORGE UPSHALL 3	RICHARD HASTED 7
CHARLES WELLS 4	THOMAS UPSHALL Tenor

Composed by J. CANTER. Conducted by RICHARD HASTED.

* First peal of Major in the method. First peal of Bob Major on the bells, by an entirely local band, for 22 years. Rung as a compliment, and with the congratulations and best wishes of all the band, to Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Upshall, on the occasion of their silver wedding.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 21, 1932, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*CHARLES E. UDELL ... Treble	LIONEL J. CULLUM 5
FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... 2	FREDERICK A. COLEY 6
JOHN S. MORTON 3	BERTIE W. ALDRIDGE 7
ALFRED G. HILL 4	WILLIAM C. DARKE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN S. MORTON.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung in honour of the birthday of Princess Elizabeth, also on the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. E. Charles Patten.

BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 21, 1932, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb.

*CLIFFORD PAGE ... Treble	GEORGE W. HELEY 3
CHARLES W. CLARKE ... 2	*WILLIAM STAPLETON 6
MISS EVELYN STEEL ... 3	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 7
*STANLEY H. WALLIS ... 4	*JOHN TAYLOR Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER (No. 31).

Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN.

* First peal of Stedman. First peal of Stedman on the bells. Ringers of 1, 4 and 8 are local men, and it is their first peal on eight bells.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Friday, April 22, 1932, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Paulinus,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 5
*EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	†HARRY HOVERD 6
MRS. EDITH K. FLETCHER ... 3	JAMES PARKER 7
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by MRS. E. K. FLETCHER.
* First peal in the method and first attempt. † First peal in the method away from the treble.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

WICK ST. LAWRENCE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 13, 1932, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 20 six-scores of Plain Bob, and 22 of Grandsire. Tenor 17 cwt.

RICHMOND ROBERTS ... Treble	ERNEST TOSSELL 3
JEFFREY TOSSELL 2	EDWARD J. AVERY 4
HAROLD E. BLACKER Tenor	

Conducted by H. E. BLACKER.

The first peal on the bells, and first peal on five by all except the conductor.

NEW BUCKENHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Martin,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

*WILFRED G. SAUNDERS ... Treble	GEORGE MAYERS 4
WILLIAM E. BASON 2	*ERIC G. BENNETT 5
*ARTHUR G. BASON 3	NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Cambridge Minor. First peal of Cambridge on the bells.

ARDINGLY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Single, two 720's of Canterbury Pleasure, and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

H. S. WOOD Treble	*A. E. LAKER 4
*E. T. EXETER 2	C. HOLMAN 5
A. C. GASSON 3	R. V. JOHNSON Tenor

Conducted by A. C. GASSON.

* First peal in three methods.

LEIGH, KENT.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's, called differently. Tenor 8½ cwt.

EDWARD E. TIDY ... Treble	H. F. HYLTON TIDY 4
JAMES W. KNIGHT 2	JOHN O. WELLER 5
CHARLES W. CLINCH 3	LEONARD A. TIDY Tenor

Conducted by LEONARD A. TIDY.

First Surprise peal on the bells.

BREDENBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 20, 1932, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

ALBERT G. PASSEY ... Treble	PERCY L. TOMKINS 4
ALFRED T. TOMKINS 2	ERNEST J. TOMKINS 5
JOHN H. THOMAS 3	ALFRED S. TOMKINS Tenor

Conducted by E. J. TOMKINS.

First peal for all except the tenor man. Rung in honour of the silver wedding of the Rev. R. A. and Mrs. Lyne.

CLEWER, WINDSOR, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 21, 1932, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford Bob, Woodbine Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Cambridge Surprise, Single Oxford Bob, Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. in F.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ... Treble	LEONARD STILWELL ... 4
WILLIAM WELLING ... 2	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 5
WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

First peal in eight methods on the bells and by ringers of 2nd and 3rd. Rung as a welcome to the Rector (Rev. G. G. Payne Cook).

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1932, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

At 'TRENTWOOD.'

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor size 11½ in F sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY ... 1-2	JACK BRAY ... 5-6
FRANK LORD ... 3-4	BERNARD GILLATT, JUN. ... 7-8

Composed by W. HUDSON.

Conducted by J. BRAY.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.
THE ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

On Monday, April 18, 1932, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

At 86, OTAGO STREET.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 13 in E.

ROBERT M. PRESTON ... 1-2	HENRY F. SARGENT ... 5-6
STEPHEN H. WOOD ... 3-4	ALBERT F. SARGENT ... 7-8

Conducted by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

First peal in the method by all except the conductor.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 21, 1932, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTAN'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor size 18 in G.

RAYMOND PHILPOTT ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3-4	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Umpire: W. J. ROBINSON

The conductor's 100th peal of Stedman Triples 'in hand.' Rung as a 60th birthday compliment to W. R. Melville (April 20th). First peal of Stedman Triples 'in hand' for the Guild.

Other peal reports are unavoidably held over.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEMORABLE MEETING OF DORCHESTER BRANCH.

The quarterly meeting of the Dorchester Branch was held at Puddletown on April 16th, and was attended by members from all over the county of Dorset, from Bournemouth in the east to Bridport in the west, and from Kingdon Magna in the north to Wyke Regis in the south, the gathering representing 19 towers. The Vicar (Canon A. L. Helps), a keen student of archaeology, took the members over his grand old church, and related the history in a most interesting manner, and this was much appreciated. The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, and the singing led by the organist and choir. Instead of the usual lesson he read an extract from Longfellow's 'Golden Legend,' and instead of the usual address on bells, etc., in a short homely talk he extended to the ringers a very warm welcome, and quoted Emerson's, 'Although you speak as thunder, I cannot hear what you say.' The Vicar was listened to with rare attention. Following the service, the members adjourned to the Village Hall, where a bountiful tea was awaiting them, and which some 76 members and friends enjoyed. They were waited on by a willing band of ladies under Mrs. Helps.

A business meeting followed, presided over by the chairman (Rev. E. S. Tarrant). Among those present were the Rev. R. H. Gundry (Master of the Guild), Canon A. L. Helps, Ven. Archdeacon W. S. Moule, Revs. A. Godley, A. S. Bryant, J. Wynn Wernick and C. A. Phillips (hon. secretary, Wimborne Branch), Mrs. H. B. Middleton, Miss L. R. Clapcott, Messrs. J. Ralph (assistant secretary) and W. Shute (Ringing Master), North Dorset Branch, Mr. C. H. Lathey (hon. secretary), West Dorset Branch, Mr. A. E. Trotman, Oxford University Guild, Messrs. J. I. and P. Davis, A. G. Rose (Poole), D. Bishop (Evershot), and W. Trevett (Hazelbury Bryant).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. N. Dawes (vice-president), Rev. F. L. Edwards (general sec.), Messrs. E. Hutchings (Abbotsbury) and J. W. Smith (Dorchester). The hon. secretary read a letter from Mrs. N. L. Acland, thanking the members for the lovely flowers sent for the funeral of her husband (the late Capt. J. E. Acland, a former Master of the Guild).

Messrs. E. Gardiner and F. White (Abbotsbury) and F. Virgin (Upwey) were elected ringing members. The hon. secretary called attention to the coming jubilee festival of the Guild, and expressed the hope that the members would attend. He also stated the next quarterly meeting had been arranged to be held at Abbotsbury on Thursday, June 30th.

The members were unanimously in favour of holding by-meetings during the summer, and it was left in the hands of the secretary to arrange. Mr. Jennings promised he would do his best to fix up Maiden Newton and Cattistock, the latter with the carillon of 35 bells, including a ringing peal of eight. He gave an interesting report of the 'All-England' ringers' gathering at Croydon, for which he was thanked.

The Chairman proposed the usual vote of thanks, which was seconded by the Master, who especially referred to Canon Helps' hospitality in providing such a bountiful tea.—Responding, Canon Helps said it was a pleasure to have the ringers at Puddletown again. A hearty welcome was given to all the visitors.

The meeting over, the large gathering were met by Mr. J. W. Brymer (High Sheriff of Dorset), and were personally conducted around Ilington Park and gardens, a treat which was much appreciated. The ringers afterwards put in some good practice on the fine-tuned peal, and some had their first touch of Minor and Doubles. The practice continued until 9 p.m., when a memorable meeting terminated.

WORCESTERSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. William Niblett, of Malvern Link, Worcestershire, who died at Malvern Hospital on March 29th, after a brief illness. Mr. Niblett was 57 years of age, and a native of Hereford. After coming to Malvern he was employed first at Mr. W. Clare's coach building works and later at the Morgan Motor Works. He joined the Army Service Corps during the war and served in France.

Of a genial and unassuming disposition, 'Johnny,' as he was popularly known, was a safe ringer, and he will be greatly missed in the Western Branch of the Worcestershire Association, especially at Malvern Link. A complete list of his peals is not available, but they number about 140, ranging from Doubles to Royal, and include several Surprise Major methods.

The funeral took place at St. Matthias' Church on Saturday, April 2nd. The Rev. A. Day, Vicar of Malvern Link, officiated at the service both in the church and at the grave. Deceased was borne to his last resting place by six of his fellow-ringers. All the local band were present, and many other ringers came from Worcester, Upton-on-Severn, Crowle, Madrestfield, Suckley, and Welland. A course of Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung at the graveside. After the service was over, the tower bells were rung half-muffled to touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. A half-muffled peal of Minor was rung to Mr. Niblett's memory at St. Gabriel's, Hanley Castle, on Wednesday, April 6th.

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RINGERS' DINNER AT GLOUCESTER.**AN APPEAL TO THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY.**

A company of 75 was present at the fourth annual dinner of the Gloucester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Gloucester. Mr. W. R. Eggleton presided, and was supported by the Rural Dean (Canon H. M. Braithwaite), Rev. E. D. S. Camus (Rector of St. Mary de Crypt), Rev. E. Bankes James, Mrs. Eggleton, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Romans, Mr. W. H. Harris (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J. Austin, Mr. T. Baldwin, etc.

After the loyal toast had been honoured, the Rev. E. D. S. Camus proposed 'The Church and State,' to which Canon Braithwaite replied. He first expressed the pleasure of those present at seeing with them again an old friend and ringer in the Rev. E. Bankes James, with whom he expressed sympathy in his recent bereavement. Continuing, he referred to the many notable occasions in English history on which the bells of St. Michael's had been rung. They could truly say, he thought, that at all times bellringers were loyal to the State. In these days it was immensely important for them, as churchpeople, to have two great causes to which to be loyal. One was the country and Empire, and it was his opinion that a man who said he was a great patriot, and neglected his home at the same time, was no patriot at all. Patriotism must begin at home, and it was that spirit he would like to see in Gloucester. At the present time churchpeople needed to be more than interested in the Church. It was passing through a very critical period, and it seemed to him to behove everyone who was really loyal to Christ, and who really desired the extension of His kingdom, to do whatever he or she could to increase the attendances at church and to support it in every way possible. The Church, in the education and instruction which it gave, laid the foundation of sacrifice which was absolutely essential for men who were to give their interest to the country, and without which the country would come to nothing (applause).

CHURCHES WITH BELLS BUT NO RINGERS.

Mr. J. Austin, proposing the 'Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association,' said even in these days people could go into the country and not hear any bells at all. There were many churches with bells, but no ringers to ring them, and their association had as its aim the task of making ringers for the diocese. Frequently ringers had to go to three different churches every Sunday or else the bells remained silent. That had to be stopped, and each church should have its own ringers. Therefore he sent out an urgent appeal to the youth of the country to make themselves interested in bellringing.

They were very badly needed because the older men had no one to take their places. There were many counter attractions, to which Sunday cinemas seemed likely to be added, and unless the Church brought itself to the front quickly it was going to be left far behind. The Gloucester and Bristol Association was one of the leading associations of its kind in the country, and it was up to everybody to back it up (applause).

In response, Mr. E. Guise (hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Association) said remarkable progress had been made in recent years, and they had a membership of about 120 in Gloucester. In Bristol, in order to encourage the young people, they were starting practice nights in the various churches at which all persons interested could attend. Their association was founded 54 years ago, and for its success they had to thank its founders, who had set such a wonderful example to the whole country. It was because of this that a national memorial to the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, of Kemerton, was to be erected at Tewkesbury, and efforts were being made to raise the necessary £250. That was a lot of money to them, but it was a national memorial, and the people of the whole country would help. They wanted to put two extra bells in Tewkesbury Abbey as a part of the memorial (hear, hear).

Capt. C. Lodge proposed 'Our Visitors,' to which the Rev. E. Bankes James responded, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, branch secretary and artistes (Messrs. Wolmer, Austin, Davis, Baldwin, Williams and J. Clarke) was proposed by Mr. G. Jackson.

The towers represented at the dinner were Barnwood, Newent, Norton, Upton St. Leonards, Witcombe, St. Mary de Lode and St. Mary de Crypt (Gloucester). There were also visitors from Bristol, Ross and Newport.

A collection, made on behalf of the Rev. C. P. D. Davies Memorial Fund, realised the sum of £1 12s. 6d.

A peal of Bob Major, specially arranged for the visitors by the branch secretary at Barnwood, was successfully brought round under the conductorship of Mr. J. Austin.

WEDDING BELLS.

On Sunday, April 24th, for the wedding of Miss Lilian May Walker (daughter of Mr. W. Walker, a member of the local band) to Mr. Thomas Henry Jones, of Llandudno, the local company rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Cinques (1,287 changes) at Walsall Parish Church: J. C. Adams 1, J. S. Eastwood 2, A. Adams 3, E. T. Smith 4, G. W. Hughes 5, H. T. Higgins 6, T. Hall 7, A. T. Dutton 8, W. R. Hughes 9, G. Harding 10, T. J. Elton (conductor) 11, H. E. Green 12.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in four methods, rung by an entirely local company, has been accomplished at Crawley. The peal performances of this young band, under Mr. Oliver Sippetts, have proved a wonderful series of successes, particularly in the last two or three years, and remind one of that other 'peak' period at Crawley, when Mr. James Parker was in command something like forty years ago, when Surprise peal ringing was, in a sense, in its infancy.

Mr. Parker still takes an active part in ringing at Edmonton, but is happy to leave the mantle of his enthusiasm on the shoulders of his daughter—Mrs. E. K. Fletcher. A pipe and a game of bowls is now almost as satisfying to him as a peal, and acknowledged experts tell us that he is as much an artist with the 'woods' as he was in piloting a band of ringers through a peal of Superlative in the old days.

For the wedding of Lord Hyde, son and heir of Earl Clarendon, and the Hon. Marion Glynn, which took place in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of their Majesties, the King and Queen, on Monday week, a peal was rung at Watford. Watford Parish Church bells were rung on the occasion of Lord Hyde's christening, and by special request they were again rung on his wedding day.

An illustrated handbook, 'Plymouth,' of special interest to members of the Central Council who intend to be present at this year's meeting, can be obtained on application to Mr. E. W. Marsh, 13, Edith Avenue, Lipson, Plymouth.

Will correspondents who desire to send news for publication under a halfpenny stamp please note that such communications must be addressed to 'The Editor, "The Ringing World," Woking, Surrey,' and contain nothing whatever in the nature of a letter. Unless these conditions are complied with, the letters are liable to surcharge, and many such have reached us lately. The name of the sender should be enclosed in all cases.

A young band, five of whom had not before scored more than a quarter-peal, rang a peal of Minor at Bredebury last Saturday. The treble ringer is 15, and two others are only 19.

Edwin Barnett III., of Crayford, has given further evidence of his ability, for while still only 14 he has added a peal of London Surprise Major to his achievements. Grandad was in the peal, but father, unfortunately, was unable to take part owing to an attack of lumbago.

There was an interesting touch of Grandire rung the other day, when three generations of Barnetts and three generations of Groombridges took part—the first time that three generations of two families have rung together. We are looking forward to a peal soon.

The Herts County Association's meeting, arranged for Rushy on Saturday, is cancelled.

Four members of the Oxford City Council are enthusiastic ringers. They are the Mayor (Alderman Bennett), Alderman Brown, Councillor Skipper and Councillor Ludlow.

BY-PATHS OF RINGING HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your earlier and excellent report of the Bow bells decision gives, I feel, but a bare outline, even with the later paragraphs, of a piece of 'ringing history' of more than passing interest. Especially is this so of the final happenings.

There is the vexed question of bell tones. Many of your readers will find it of interest to know that the costlier proposal, the one backed by the donor, Mr. G. Selfridge, meant spending £890 for 'Simpsonising' the present ring of 12 bells, i.e., that in addition to the two cracked bells five additional bells were to be recast, 'and as many of the others as may be found necessary.' A few years ago (as at Coventry) this proposal would have swept the board. But in this case the Chancellor definitely ruled the implied suggestion out, and ordered that only the cracked two bells should be recast, and then only on the present 'old style' lines, that all cannons should be retained and no other bells recast without further reference to himself.

There was, too, that interesting piece of history provided by the splendid 'gesture' by the firm who cast the bells and had worthily maintained them for two hundred years. This was the offer to do the whole of the work without cost to the committee, rather than that both they and the city should lose such a link with the past. (Do not the old Bow bell strickles still hang on the Foundry walls? One can imagine their beckoning fingers.)

I will say little of the fact that the city has echoed of late years with the slogan, 'Save Bow bells.' A plaintive appeal, and sadly ineffective but for the Chancellor. I am reminded of a talk I had on 'Simpson' tuning with Lord Marshall, when he was Lord Mayor some twelve years ago. I well remember his concluding remarks, 'You may rest assured that the city will never countenance the loss or impairment of their Bow bells, and that in the hands of Canon Ponsonby we know them to be absolutely safe. (A minor, but, I trust, interesting piece of Bow bell history.)—Yours faithfully,

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.**ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLYMOUTH MEETING.**

The following arrangements have been made in connection with the meeting of the Central Council at Plymouth at Whitsun:—
HEADQUARTERS.—The Royal Hotel, Lookyer Street.

LOCAL SECRETARY.—Mr. E. W. Marsh, 13, Edith Avenue, Liphson, Plymouth.

SATURDAY.—Bells of St. George's Church, Stonehouse, available for a peal attempt. Members wishing to take part kindly send names to me. (Eight bells, tenor 12 cwt.)

SUNDAY.—Service ringing at 10.15 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.: St. Andrew's (ten bells, tenor 36 cwt.), Charles' (ten bells, tenor 23 cwt.), Emmanuel (eight bells, tenor 21 cwt.).

MONDAY.—Annual Meeting Devon Guild at Bideford. Rail excursion.

Bells of St. Maurice's Church, Plympton, available for a peal attempt. Kindly send names to me. (Eight bells, tenor 14 cwt.) (Plympton is five miles from Plymouth. Bus service half-hourly, fare 7d. return.)

Truro Diocesan Guild invite members to visit them at Truro.

Peal attempt at the Cathedral. (Band made up.)

Bells of Kenwyn Church available for a peal attempt. Kindly send names to me. (Eight bells, tenor 15½ cwt.)

Conducted tour round Cathedral. The bells of the above will be available after the peal attempts, together with those at St. Enoder (eight), Ladoek (eight) and Kea (eight).

TUESDAY.—The Council will meet in the City Council Chamber at the Guildhall, by kind invitation of the Mayor.

Standing Committee will meet at 9.15.

Council will meet at 11 a.m. Welcome by the Mayor and the Bishop of Plymouth.

Council will adjourn at about 1 p.m. and meet again at 2.30.

Bishop of Exeter will visit the Council at 3 p.m.

Tea at Goodbody's Restaurant, by invitation of the Devon Guild, immediately after meeting.

Social at headquarters, 7.30 to 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Dedication of the Devon Guild Memorial to the late Rev. Maitland Kelly at Kelly Church. Bells (six) available and also Tavistock (eight).

It is hoped to arrange a tour of the Dockyard and also ringing at the Dockyard Church and at Buckfast Abbey.

Will members, when sending names for peal attempts, kindly state the method they wish to ring.

Members visiting Bideford or Truro kindly send names to me.

Mr. E. W. Marsh has kindly offered to conduct parties round Plymouth.

A room has been reserved at headquarters for the use of members and friends, and ample accommodation is available (bed and breakfast 9s.). Kindly communicate with the manager.

GEORGE W. FLETCHER,

Hon. Secretary.

45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

REPORT OF THE METHODS COMMITTEE.**THE EVOLUTION OF RINGING.**

The following is the report of the Methods Committee to be presented to the meeting of the Central Council at Plymouth:—

We cannot enter upon our report without first expressing in some degree, however inadequate, the loss which we have sustained by the death of Henry Law James. He was not merely one of the original members of our committee; he was in a sense its originator, for it was due to a resolution moved by him more than thirty years ago that it was first appointed, and throughout its history he took a leading part in the many tasks which came before it. He was engaged on the new Collection of Triples Methods at the time of his death, and had he been spared there is no doubt that he would have done further useful service. But in a very real sense we can say the message he had to bring to the Exercise was delivered and the work he had to perform was done. He has left his mark definitely on the Exercise, and as long as our art continues ringers will benefit by his life and work.

CENTRAL COUNCIL 'RULES AND DECISIONS.'

It is a common assumption in the Exercise that 'Rules and Decisions' of the Central Council consist of a number of rigid laws which have been imposed on ringing with restrictive effect on the advice of a committee regarded as expert in this particular branch of study. Thus there is an impression that the rules of ringing are analogous to those of ordinary sports, such as football and cricket and the like. They are regarded as laws laid down by competent authority for sufficient reasons, and therefore ringers are in honour bound to observe them in loyalty to the Central Council and to the Exercise. Inevitably there has grown up as a natural consequence the idea in many people's minds that some, at least, of these so-called laws are arbitrary and artificial. A notable instance of this mistake is to be found in the furious warfare that raged a few years ago round the definition of a Plain Lead. The definition reads as follows: 'A Plain Lead is a succession of rows so arranged that when the hunt (or hunts) has completed its work from the lead-head to the lead-end, it is in a different relative position among the working bells,

but the working bells are in the same coursing order.' The controversy concerned itself solely with the last clause of this definition.

The real significance of a definition such as this and others like it and their place in the science of change ringing can only be learnt by an intelligent study of history. So far as can be ascertained from the earliest existing book on ringing, viz., Stedman's 'Tintinologia,' the Plain Course as we understand it (and therefore the Plain Lead) was unknown in his time. First, he tells us, there 'were invented (i.e., discovered) the sixes, being the very ground of a six-score.' Upon these were built up the 24 changes on four bells by adding a treble and causing it to hunt up through the other bells before the first change of the six, and hunt down again after that change had been made. Thus:—

234	1234	four bells must be equally true, and no proof of their
324	2134	truth is required. From this beginning progression on
342	2314	similar lines would be rapid, and the 720 of Grandsire
432	2341	Bob on six bells (pp. 94 ff.) would, and apparently
423	3241	did, develop out of a six-score of what we now call
243	3214	Reverse Grandsire Doubles. And still no proof is
—	3124	needed. Also it will be seen that the other important
234	1324	laws of change ringing, viz., those of symmetry, Plain
		Bob lead-ends and free movement, are all automatically
	1342	fulfilled, even if their existence—let alone their im-
	etc.	portance—was not as yet perceived.

At this point a radical change of outlook arose. The practical ringer in the tower would discover that most of the succeeding groups of 12 changes throughout the 720 were similar to one another, and it would occur to somebody to write down what we now call a Plain Course of Bob Minor. Further, he would notice that the other groups contained what Stedman called bobs and single changes, and by means of combining these together efforts would be made to produce further 720's, and the way would be open to the development of methods and compositions in the modern sense. Complications soon arose. Truth, for example, was no longer self-evident. Further, as methods were being produced experimentally, there was a natural tendency to ignore the other laws of which we have spoken, and there grew up a common, indeed almost universal though superficial, idea that 'places are the method.' As a consequence many people argued that symmetry (to take a single instance) had no necessary part in construction. But meanwhile the practical ringer found that those new methods which had been offered him with irregular lead-ends, lack of symmetry and so on, were not satisfactory. About that time the Central Council was founded and the Methods Committee appointed, whose first members drew up the Council's original 'rules and decisions.' The purpose of these was to standardise the general experience of the Exercise through three centuries, recognising the mathematical science on which change ringing is based and erecting signposts which should lead the ringer by a shorter road than the way of trial and error, which was the only road he could find for himself, from the lower to the higher.

But change ringing is a dynamic and not a static art. It cannot stand still. Thus in the course of time even the most complicated methods, such as Bristol and London Surprise, became commonplace, and greater complexity was demanded. This requirement has been met by the device of splicing, and up to the present the composer has been able to keep abreast of the ringer in the tower. But the thing to be noticed in this connection is that in the multiple Surprise methods that have been rung in peals of late years there has been an effective breakaway from the Plain Course as it was known 30 years ago. It may be, and indeed is, true that these compositions are made up of bits of courses of methods which are severally in conformity with the definitions, but it is really an abuse of language to speak of Plain Courses when dealing with 5,000's, of which there are never more than two leads alike in succession, and in which the tenor never gets below sixth's place at a lead-end.

It is not surprising that questioning and, perhaps, uneasiness has arisen. Have the Central Council Rules and Decisions no value? Has all the work of the Council and its committee in tabulating and systematising been on wrong lines? By no means. The method report set down the more important of the laws to which all change ringing is subject in simple terms, and summarised the experience of the ages.

No man can say what future development has in store. One thing is certain. Genuine progress will be along lines of evolution, not revolution. New ideas will prevail and last only so far as they follow logically on past experience, unless the unbroken history of change ringing is to be completely belied. Between the conception of a hunt as imagined by Stedman and as it is described in a text book of (say) 1900, there appears to the superficial observer but little, if any, connection, but to those willing to seek below the surface from the first step in the 'invention of the sixes' to a peal in 12 Surprise methods there has been steady, logical and (we are tempted to add) inevitable advance. Further development is to be anticipated not in the scrapping of formulae, but in their interpretation and enlargement in the light of fuller learning. And it cannot be too often emphasised that it is a misconception to regard the expert as one whose part it is to tell his fellow-ringers what they must and what

(Continued on page 292.)

THE LATE MR. SAMUEL WOOD. A CONDUCTOR OF RECORD PEALS.

With the passing of Mr. Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, whose death we briefly announced last week, one of the striking personalities of Lancashire ringing is removed from the Exercise. Fifty years ago Sam Wood was recognised as one of the greatest conductors in the North of England, and for more than a generation he worthily upheld that position. He inherited his ringing instincts, for his father, who was clerk and sexton at St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, was a composer and conductor of ability. The son thus had the advantage of early and constant tuition, and the father took the greatest delight in imparting knowledge to his promising boy. On his deathbed, old James Wood implored Sam not to let ringing at Ashton go down, and Sam never did.



THE LATE MR. S. WOOD.

Samuel Wood will be best remembered outside Lancashire for his great performances in long-peat ringing. In 1883 he conducted the famous record peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire, where T. Day's 16,608 was rung in 9 hours 48 minutes by T. Moss, J. Adams, J. Wood, S. Wood, B. Broadbent, J. Mellor, G. Longden and J. Thorp. That record stood until 1906, when it was exceeded at the same church. In 1911 Sam Wood was the composer and conductor of the record peal of 12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne, rung in 8 hours 39 minutes, and three years later he composed and called the record length of Royal in the same method—the 14,000 which beat a record set up more than 130 years before in London. Mr. Wood, in his younger days, was also a great striker on a heavy bell, as some of his performances at the back end of Manchester Town Hall bells prove. He was one of the finest strikers anywhere, and although he never aspired to the Surprise methods—much to his later regret—he was one of the safest conductors, in the methods which he did ring, that ever stepped into a belfry. He was a man also of great tenacity and determination. Once his mind was set upon an objective nothing would turn him from his goal. Before the Ashton band rang a peal of Stedman Triples, a great many attempts were made, and but for Sam Wood's determination it is probable that efforts would long before have been abandoned.

Mr. Harry Chapman, who now lives at Keystone, Huntingdonshire, but was formerly one of the pillars in the Manchester district, recalls the fact that Mr. Sam Wood was the first man to ring the 9th at Manchester Town Hall to a peal, when two men rang the tenor. This was a peal of Grandfire Caters, which Mr. Wood called, and some of the Manchester ringers of the time would not believe the peal was ever rung. This annoyed Sam, but after some years he got another chance, and, with one of the doubting Thomases in the peal, convinced them that the first peal had also been truly rung. This second peal was the first time the 52 cwt. tenor had been rung single handed to a five thousand, and it was Mr. Chapman who accomplished the feat, while a month later he rang it single handed to a peal of Royal, which Mr. Wood called from the 9th. Thus Mr. Wood had the privilege of calling the first three peals at Manchester Town Hall, all of them from the same bell.

Mr. Wood's first peal of Stedman Cinques was that rung muffled at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on the death of Henry Johnson, and about that time he made many friends among the Sheffield ringers, among them Charles Henry and Thomas Hattersley. Mr. Wood, with John Thorp and George Longden, used to go frequently to Sheffield for Stedman Cinques, but peals did not eventuate, and the Ashton men did not always get back the same day! Some of their experiences, as related by Mr. Wood, would 'make you laugh for a week,' says Mr. Chapman.

After the long peal at Mottram they wanted a long peal of Royal, but had not got ten bells for the job. Eventually they got permission to ring it at Manchester Cathedral, but it was to be rung at night. The band was got together, and the date arranged, and nine of the band turned up. The other man did not put in an appearance, and afterwards, when called upon for an explanation, said, 'Fancy asking for any bells for a night's ring! You would get locked up!'

In addition to his many peals in Lancashire and Cheshire, Mr. Wood had rung peals in North Wales and Yorkshire. He had rung peals with Jasper Snowden, and nearly 150 peals for the Lancashire Association, which he joined in 1884. His last peal was at Ashton-under-Lyne on May 18th, 1931, to celebrate the 48th anniversary of the 16,608 at Mottram. There was a wonderful spirit of good-fellowship among the ringers in the towers around Ashton, and Samuel Wood was one who was foremost in creating and cementing friendship. The brothers Wild and James Shaw (who has recently passed away) were among his special friends, and when the Ashton men

(Continued in next column.)

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. EAST BERKS and SOUTH DUCKS BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch, held at Beaconsfield on Saturday last, was quite a record gathering, even the weather being on its best behaviour. Among those present were the chairman (Mr. Justice Bennett), the general officers of the Guild: Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (Master), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (secretary), Mr. A. J. Wright (treasurer), Messrs. J. J. Parker, W. H. Fussell, J. C. Truss, F. Borcham, J. Evans, J. S. Hawkins, F. W. Goodfellow and 'the Merry Monarch.' The last-named was not quite his usual self, presumably having been attacked by one of his falcous when indulging in his 'sport of kings.'

The bells were raised, and at least two Surprise methods rung before the advertised time to start; in fact, practically everything that it was possible to rung was rung during the day. Of course, the peal ringers shone in the Surprise methods, but even amongst the regular monthly 'meeters' were some who aspired to 'Bachelor's Joy.' The boy who can't run did not put in an appearance, although he used to have a certain fondness for this part of the globe. Perhaps he thought Old Kate would be there.

The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar of Burnham (Rev. P. Nott), who gave an interesting address, his text being, 'And the city rang again.' The choir was augmented by members from Cookham and Stoke Poges, over 90 voices being raised in harmony and praise.

The whole party then enjoyed the hospitality of the chairman, the numbers having increased to 101. Tea was followed by the business meeting. Sir Charles Bennett first addressed a few words of welcome to the members, saying how much he felt it his privilege to entertain them, that it appeared to be the second day of spring, and how he appreciated the presence of the Master, whom it would be impossible to replace, particularly for his devotion to duty in attending branch meetings.

Various items of business were dealt with, the officers for the ensuing year being: Chairman, the Hon. Sir Charles A. Bennett; secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. D. Barker, Branch Ringing Master, Mr. T. J. Fowler; representatives on general committee, Mrs. A. D. Barker, Messrs. T. J. Fowler, J. L. Kirk, W. E. Taylor and J. C. Truss. Dr. Bachelor having left the district, the Rev. P. Nott was elected a vice-president of the branch.

ANOTHER DONATION TO STEDMAN FUND.

The Master thanked the chairman for his kind remarks and the members for receiving them. Then he urged those present to give greater support to 'The Ringing World,' to increase the circulation and reduce the price. At the same time, he put six copies of the current issue at the disposal of the secretary. The Master also had a number of Central Council publications for inspection and sale.

The Stedman Tercentenary Fund, the Master added, was still in need of assistance, and he would be grateful for a small contribution from the branch.

Mr. W. H. Fussell also spoke in advocacy of support for 'The Ringing World.' It was kept going during the war, he said, at great expense to Mr. Goldsmith, and it was now the ringing paper of the world and deserved everyone's support. Stedman, he continued, had been dead for nearly 300 years, and a large sum had been spent in restoring a ring of bells to perpetuate his memory, but there was still a debt. He suggested a collection from those present, saying that ringing was an economical pursuit, and, as a good many bobs were made by all ringers, he hoped that they would collect as many as possible toward the deficit.—The collection resulted in £4 for the Stedman Fund.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for his kind hospitality was proposed by Mr. J. J. Parker, and carried unanimously.—This was acknowledged by Sir Charles, who said that the thing that struck him most in connection with the branch was the increasing numbers of lady ringers as well as young men.

A proposed joint meeting with the Middlesex County Association in the summer met with the approval of all.

The General Treasurer (Mr. A. J. Wright) congratulated the branch on their success, and he also announced that the price of the annual report would be 4d. a copy. Incidentally it is not printed yet.

The General Secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert) said it gave him great pleasure to follow such famous men as the Master and Mr. Fussell. Speaking in support of 'The Ringing World,' he urged the members at least to get one copy for the tower until they could afford one each. Some of the peal ringers who did not buy it reminded him of a man who put money on a horse in the Derby and then would not buy a paper to see if it had won.

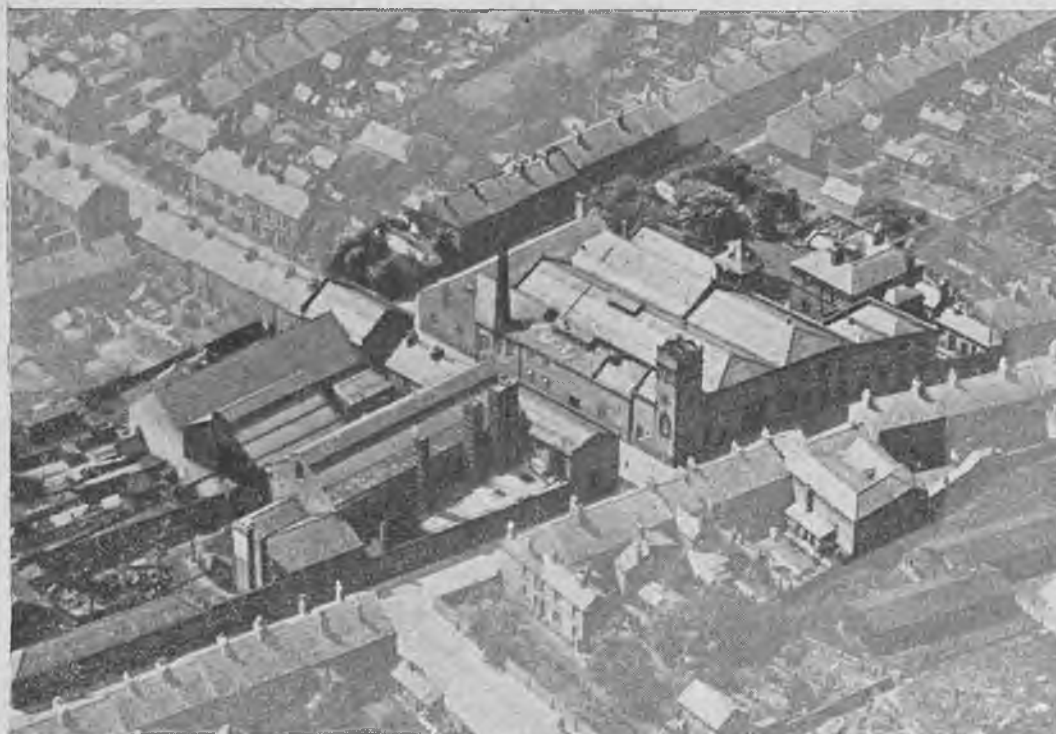
The bells were afterwards kept going until 9 p.m., and the secretary was heard to remark, 'Thank goodness, that's over for another year.'

(Continued from previous column.)

visited Hyde, or the Hyde men visited Ashton, it nearly always resulted in the visitors having to walk home. On visits to Manchester it often happened also that the return was made on foot in the early hours of the morning.

Samuel Wood had a long and active ringing career, and something will be missing at Ashton-under-Lyne now that the belfry of St. Michael and All Angels' Church will know him no more.

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.



Aerial view of the Loughborough Bellfoundry.

THE LOUGHBOROUGH BELLFOUNDRY

IS OPEN TO VISITORS ON
ANY DAY AT ANY TIME

A visit at the present time would find work in progress on some of the following orders:

RINGING PEALS :

LEEDS PARISH CHURCH, Yorks.
HOWDEN, East Yorks.
SOLIHULL, near Birmingham.
TAMWORTH, Staffs.
DEBENHAM, Suffolk.
BOSTON, Lincs.
WESTERLEIGH, Somerset.
DODDERHILL, Worcs.
HARWELL, Berks.
WIDECOMBE, Devon.
GRIMLEY, Worcs.
MENHENIOT, Cornwall.
BLYTH, Notts.
STAPLEFORD, Notts.
SUTCOMBE, Devon.
CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY, Hants.
WITHAM, Essex.
STAGSDEN, Beds.

Recast peal of 12 and a flat sixth. New frame.
Recast peal of 8. New frame.
Recast peal of 10. New frame.
Peal of 8 recast (except tenor). New frame.
4th, 6th, 7th and tenor recast and peal of 8 hung in new frame.
Peal of 8 to be recast and augmented to 10. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung in new frame. Treble recast.
Peal of 6 to be restored and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be restored and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be restored and rehung in new frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung in new frame, the treble and 3rd to be recast.
Peal of 6 to be restored and rehung in new frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 3 to be rehung in new frame made for 8 bells.
Peal of 3 to be rehung and augmented to 6. New frame.
Two new trebles to augment the peal to 12.
Two new trebles to augment the peal to 8.
Peal of 5 to be rehung with new fittings and new treble added to make 6.
Peal of 6 to be rehung on ball bearings.
Peal of 6 to be recast and hung in new frame for 8.
New frame for peal of 6 bells.

Tenor 43 cwts. in C.
Tenor 22 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 20 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 20 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 18 cwts. in E.
Tenor 18 cwts. in E.

S. ALBANS (St. Michael's), Herts.
ROCESTER, Staffs.
HARSTON, Cambs.

CARILLONS AND CHIMES :

A carillon of 66 bells, largest bell 6 tons, for Richmond, Va., U.S.A.
A set of 5 bells for Clock Chimes for Seacombe Ferry, Birkenhead, etc.

RESTORATION OF STANDLAKE BELLS.**SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A DIFFICULT TASK.**

To everything there must be a beginning, even in matters of bell hanging. Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, has long been known for the excellence of his oak frames, but hitherto he has failed to secure an opportunity of showing what he can do in the way of a metal frame. Strange to say, this has been given him under conditions more suitable for a crowning achievement than an initial endeavour.

An octagonal tower, in diameter eight feet six inches, lacked about in order to accommodate a rickety timber structure in which a ring of six bells, with a tenor of eleven hundredweight, might swing in two tiers, the two heaviest bells being up in the steeple, the task of the ringer a perilous toil. Such were the main conditions.

To-day one finds the bells neatly hung in three frames of cast-iron sections on girders, one above the other, and each self contained, the ropes skilfully guided down into a perfect circle, the tower steady and the 'go' of the bells all that could be desired.

Mr. White would be the first to acknowledge the help he received from Mr. E. Ravenscroft, architect, of Reading, in advising as to the repairs to the masonry and the position of the required girders, but as one looks upon the finished work one rejoices to think that the talent responsible for hanging ten bells in the little tower of Appleton still survives in the White family.

The work was dedicated last Saturday by Bishop Shaw.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEMORIAL TO CANON BAKER.**

The jubilee of the Bedfordshire Association was celebrated on Easter Monday, when a large number of members attended the annual meeting at Bedford. Ringing took place during the day at St. Paul's Church (10) and St. Peter's (6), and luncheon was served at the Silver Grill.

At the business meeting which followed, the Rev. A. Rust (president) occupied the chair, and a letter was read from Mrs. Baker, widow of Canon W. W. C. Baker, conveying her deep gratitude to the members of the association for their kind expressions of sympathy in her bereavement.

A letter of congratulation was received from Mr. J. N. Frossell, of Kingston, Surrey, who took part in the first 720 of Bob Minor rung for the association at Biddenham.

The report of the committee stated that the last year had been remarkable for a striking advance in the peal list, 37 peals being rung against 27 for the previous year. Noteworthy performances were the peal of London Surprise Major rung at Luton by the local band and a peal of Little Bob Royal rung on handbells at Woburn. A pleasing feature, also, was the number of members ringing their first peal, and the number of new conductors indicated sure progress in the art. Two important additions to peals of bells had been made, two trebles at Husbrow Crawley, and a complete new peal of eight at Eaton Socon. Many district meetings had been held during the year and were well attended. Altogether a valuable year's work had been completed.—The report was adopted.

On the proposition of Mr. E. Hobbs all the officers were re-elected to serve during the coming year.

Bedford was again chosen for the place of meeting next Easter Monday, and it was hoped to hold the summer festival at Eaton Socon in July.

Touching on the Canon Baker memorial, the Rector of Dunstable, the Rev. G. C. Rolfe, said he was grateful for the offer of the association to place two new trebles in Dunstable Priory Church in memory of Canon Baker, and, although he had done everything in his power, the architect and builder responsible for restoring the tower said 'No.' It would sound that the tower would not carry these extra bells, so he had reluctantly to refuse the offer.

After lengthy discussion it was decided to replace the dangerous wooden ladder approach to the Priory belfry with a modern structure as a memorial to Canon Baker. Messrs. A. King (Luton), G. W. Heley (Dunstable), F. C. Tysoc (Bromham), and H. Skerman (Southill) were appointed as a committee to take charge of the project.

FIRST 'LOCAL' 720.

At Overton, Hants, on Saturday, April 16th, 720 Bob Minor was rung for the first time at St. Mary's Church by an all local band: M. Lawes 1, J. Winterbourne 2, W. Lance 3, A. Taylor 4, H. Garrett (conductor) 5, B. Garrett 6. The ringer of the treble is to be congratulated on this performance, being only 13 years of age. This was repeated for evening service on April 24th.

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they must not do. His real function is the more difficult because less obvious task of examining the natural trend of development of the art of ringing, and seeking to explain the inner meaning of what it is that the practical ringer is doing, and thus it may be sometimes his privilege to point the way for the future as a logical outcome of the past.

(Signed) EVERARD S. POWELL.
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. ABERDARE BELLS.

The quarterly meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Aberdare on April 9th. The bells, a ring of eight by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, put in about fifty years ago, were raised early in the afternoon, and touches in various methods rung. Service, a very shortened evensong, with an inspiring and interesting address given by the Vicar (Rev. R. Ward), was followed by tea, which had been very generously provided by the Vicar and his wife.

Prior to the business meeting, over which the Vicar presided, all present stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Williams, of Aberavon tower, and Mr. Evans, of St. John's, Cardiff, who have recently died.

In the course of reports on suggested restorations, mention was made that Aberdare bells badly needed rehanging. The Vicar's reply was that he was in full sympathy with the ringers and the requirements, but owing to an overdraft of over two thousand pounds at the bank in connection with church schools, etc., he regretted that nothing could be done to the bells until that had been wiped out or substantially reduced.

The agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting at Plymouth was read by the hon. secretary, and the representatives were asked to support whatever they thought best.

New members were elected, including a few of the old stalwarts of Aberdare tower, where call changes have been practised. Nevertheless, the heartiest welcome was accorded to them, and it was pleasing to learn that through Mr. Emm, who has been a faithful member of the association for many years, several young ringers were practising half-pull ringing.

Mr. Cole, of Merthyr, promised to give what help he could as an instructor, and it is hoped that when the next meeting is held at Aberdare it will be a half-pull tower. Caerphilly was chosen as the place of the next Glamorgan quarterly meeting, and the next Monmouth meeting to be held at Dingestow.

Various matters of interest to ringers were mentioned, including the colossal gathering at Croydon, the proposed rehanging of Bow bells, and the peal recently rung by the association on the bells of St. David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire.

The hon. secretary afterwards read the appeal which is being made by the Gloucester and Bristol Association to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, and it was unanimously decided that the hon. secretary make an appeal by sending out a circular letter to each tower affiliated to the association, to be returned to him within six weeks with whatever subscriptions are collected.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar, who suitably replied, remarking that he hoped it would not be as long before the next meeting was held at Aberdare as it had been since the last was held there, viz., seventeen years.

The ringing during the evening was curtailed owing to illness near the church, but the meeting proved a huge success.

DEATH OF CARDIFF RINGER.

The ringers of St. John-the-Baptist's Church, Cardiff, suffered a great loss through the death of Mr. William Henry Packer Evans, which took place on March 28th, at the comparatively early age of 55 years. Some months ago Mr. Evans' health suddenly broke down, but after being ill for a considerable time, his health improved, and there were hopes of a full recovery. This, however, was not to be, and a relapse occurred from which he never recovered, and to the regret of everyone who knew him he passed away on the above date.

'Bill' Evans, as he was familiarly known to all his friends, had been a member of St. John's band for about twelve years, and for several years was tower secretary. In regular attendance on practice nights, and ever present at Sunday service ringing, he was an ideal example to all. The Llandaff and Monmouth Association meetings have also lost one of the most regular supporters. Mr. Evans had rung several peals of Triples and Caters, and was ever willing to fill a gap at the shortest notice.

His activities were not confined to the belfry. For many years he had performed the duties of sidesman, and was always ready to do anything for the church he loved so well.

The funeral service, which took place at St. John's Church on April 1st, was conducted by the Vicar, Canon Lewis, assisted by the Rev. Bowen, curate, and was attended by a large gathering of sympathetic friends. At the conclusion of the service, the 'Dead March' was rendered on the organ by Mr. Cole, organist. The bells of St. John's Church were rung muffled before and after the service by a band composed of Llandaff Cathedral and St. John's Church ringers.

The interment took place at Cardiff New Cemetery, the graveside service being conducted by the Rev. Bowen. There was a profusion of floral tributes, amongst which were wreaths from the two Cardiff bands of ringers, both being also represented at the graveside service.

Bill Evans was known among his comrades and fellow-ringers as 'one of the best,' ready to do a good turn to anyone, and never heard to speak an unkind word. He was of a most cheerful disposition, and always looked on the bright side of life. Such men can ill be spared.

NOTICES.

THE LATE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES.
PROPOSED MEMORIAL.

The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association invite subscriptions to enable them to place in Tewkesbury Abbey a memorial of the great services rendered to the Exercise by the late Rev. Charles D. P. Davies. It is proposed to add two bells to the present peal of ten and to furnish one of the side chapels as a 'Ringers' Chapel.' A sum of £250 is required.

Donations, however small, will be gratefully received either by:—

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Temple Gate, Bristol.

Rev. E. S. Saleby, The Vicarage, Leonard Stanley, near Stonehouse, Glos., Master.

P. C. Williams, 34, Victoria Park, Fishponds, Bristol, Hon. Treasurer.

E. Guise, 48, Jamaica Street, Stokes Croft, Bristol, Hon. Secretary.

BUSHEY.—The meeting arranged for April 30th at Bushey is cancelled.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, April 30th. Service in the Morning Chapel at the Cathedral at 3.15 p.m. Tea at the Co-operative Hall, Silver Street, 4, at 1/8 per head, followed by business meeting. Ringing at the Cathedral, St. Peter-at-Gowt's and St. Botolph's, from 1.45 p.m.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Half-yearly meeting at Wigan on Saturday, April 30th. Bells of Wigan Parish, Poolstock, Hindley and Standish available from 3 p.m. Service at Parish Church at 5. Tea at Vose's Cafe at 6, at 1s. 9d. each.—W. H. Shuker and A. Tomlinson, Hon. Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Godshill on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., by kind invitation of the Vicar (the Rev. H. J. Stone), followed by business meeting. All ringers welcomed.—B. J. Snow, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Daniel Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The first quarterly meeting will be held at Duffield on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Business meeting in belfry at 4.30 p.m. Subscriptions for 1932 (1s. 6d., including report) are now due. ALL ringers cordially invited.—George Freebrey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 81, Roe Street, Derby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—West Norfolk Branch.—A meeting will be held at Litcham on Saturday, April 30th.—W. J. Eldred, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Saffron Walden on Saturday, April 30th, at 3 p.m. Service in the church at 5 p.m., followed by tea at 5.30 p.m. Those intending to be present kindly advise me.—H. A. Wacey, 44, Rye Street, Bishops Stortford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual spring meeting of the above branch will be held on Saturday, April 30th next, at Tackley. Service at the church at 3.30 p.m. Several towers will be at our disposal.—W. Evetts, jun., Sec., Hill Court, Tackley, Oxford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yardley Hastings, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. A special bus will leave the Market Square, Wellingborough, at 2.45. Return fare 1s. 6d.—F. Barber, Branch Sec., School House, Gordon Road, Wellingborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Peak District.—Next meeting at Hathersage, Saturday, April 30th. Church of St. Michael (6 bells, tenor about 15 cwt.) available afternoon and evening. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting at Clive, near Shrewsbury, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (6, tenor 25 cwt.) available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. per head) in the Vicar's Hall at 5 o'clock, followed by meeting.—Rev. F. Tennison, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The next meeting will be held at Kibworth, on Saturday, April 30th. The bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m. Tea at the Greyhound at 5 o'clock. Outstanding subscriptions can be paid and reports for 1931 obtained at this meeting. Please turn up in crowds and make this a record meeting.—E. H. Bagworth, 36, Turner Road, Leicester.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A practice meeting will be held at Shoreditch on Saturday, April 30th, from 3.30 till 7 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—G. A. Card, Hon. Sec., 7, Gilstead Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Queenborough on Saturday, April 30th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea, generously provided by ladies connected with church. The business meeting will be presided over by His Worship the Mayor (B. Wayland, Esq.). Half railway fares (maximum 2s.) will be allowed all members attending.—Stanley J. T. Shellock, Hon. Sec., 162, Barnsole Road, Gillingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Norfolk Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Wroxham on Saturday, April 30th, at 3.30 p.m.—W. B. Duncan, Branch Sec.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 30th, at Ashton Parish Church. Bells (13) from 3 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m. All ringers welcome.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Knebworth on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (8) available 3.15. Short service. Tea at Lytton Arms at 5 p.m.—Don Mears, Hon. Dis. Sec., Offley, near Hitchin.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting at St. Mary Magdalene, Enfield, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea, 1s. each, at 5.30. Please advise me. Bells at St. Andrew's from 3 to 4.30. All ringers welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at South Petherton on Saturday, April 30th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. For tea please notify early.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Bramley on Saturday, April 30th. Tea will be provided (1s. per head). Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Business meeting in the same room (approximately 6.30 p.m.).—H. Lotthouse, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Luton on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea arrangements will be made. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. Nash, Dis. Sec., North Mimms, Hatfield.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Micheldever on Saturday, April 30th. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. Morris Wells. Bells available at 2 p.m. Please let me know if you are coming.—George Noice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 6, Cathedral View, Highcliffe, Winchester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on May 3rd and 31st, St. Magnus' on the 5th and 19th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 12th and 26th, St. Giles', Cripplegate, on the 17th (8 p.m.) and on Sunday, May 22nd, at 5.30; all the others at 7.30. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Pre-Whitsun meeting at Staindrop on Saturday, May 7th. Bells of St. Mary's (8, tenor 15½ cwt.) will be available after 2.30. Committee meeting in Vestry at 4.30, and tea at Mrs. Brown's Central Café, 1s. 6d. per head, at 5 o'clock. By train to Winston Station; buses leave Darlington Market Place every 60 minutes after 12, and Bishop Auckland at 12.35 and every 60 minutes. Members intending to be present please advise me not later than May 3rd.—Geo. S. Taylor, Sec., 149, St. Leonard Street, Sunderland.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome.—F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Hatfield, near Doncaster, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, and application for same should be made to Mr. H. Crowe, Town End, Hatfield, near Doncaster, not later than first post May 5th. Buses leave Christ Church, Doncaster, every ¼ hour, and from Goole every ½ hour.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on May 7th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. All welcome.—C. J. Puplett, Hon. Sec., Aylesbury Road, Tring.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting of the Bicester Deanery Branch will be held at Islip on Saturday, May 7th. Service 3.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Those requiring tea will greatly assist me by sending their names early.—F. Sharpe, Hon. Sec., Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Jubilee Festival will be held at Salisbury on Saturday, May 7th. Annual meeting in Chapter House at 12 noon. Luncheon in Palace grounds at 1.30, 1/6. Festival Service in Cathedral with military band quartet at 3.30. Preacher; The Bishop of Salisbury. Towers open: St. Thomas (8), 11 a.m. to 12, 5 to 6 p.m.; St. Martin's (8), St. Edmund's (8), St. Paul's, Amesbury, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Dinton, Tisbury, Winterslow (6), all 10 to 11.45 a.m., 5 to 9 p.m. All ringers heartily welcome. Those wishing to attend luncheon are requested to inform the secretary by Saturday, April 30th, at latest.—F. Jewell, Hon. Sec., Kingston Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Heston (St. Leonard's) on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) available from 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15. Bells (6) of Norwood Green also available from 3 to 5. All ringers welcome. (Note—a postcard costs a penny!)—F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec., 16, Nellgrove Road, Hillingdon Heath, Middlesex.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby District.—Next meeting, Ulceby, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (5) ready 2 p.m. Service 4.15 Tea 5 in School Room at 1/6, followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea to Mr. H. Ebbatson, High Street, Ulceby S.O., Lincs, by the previous Wednesday.—H. I. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

A JOINT MEETING of the Suffolk Guild and Ely Association will be held at Elveden, nr. Thetford, on May 7th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Village Hall (1/- each). Those who require tea please notify Mr. W. A. Bowers, 3, London Road, Elveden, nr. Thetford, by May 6th.—R. Sharpe, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A meeting will be held at Kirkby Mallory and Peckleton on Saturday, May 7th. Bells at Kirkby (5) available from 3 p.m. Tea (by kind invitation of the Rector) at 5, followed by ringing at Peckleton (6 bells) until 8. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, May 4th?—A. E. Rowley, Local Hon. Sec., Station Road, Higham-on-the-Hill, Nuneaton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford and District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Garsington (6 bells), on Saturday, May 7th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. Guild service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, May 4th. Bus leaves Oxford (Castle Street) at 1.55 p.m. All ringers welcome.—W. Simmonds, Hon. Sec., 7, Fairacres Road, Oxford.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—The next meeting of the branch will take place at Kirkby Lonsdale on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) available 2 p.m.—Tea 1/- to those who notify me by May 4th.—E. Jennings, Hon. Sec., Castle Oval, Kendal.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A meeting will be held at Pitsford on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (5) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Please notify me not later than Tuesday, May 3rd, those who require tea.—T. Tebbutt, West Street, Moulton, Northampton.

NORTH STAFFS & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Broughton on Saturday, May 7th. Tea will be provided for all who notify me before May 5th.—C. S. Ryles, Hon. Sec., 72, Station Road, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—The next meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, May 7th. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4.45. Tea at 5. A good attendance is hoped for, and a hearty invitation to all ringers is extended.—A. C. Kay, Dis. Sec., 6, Sturges Road, Ashford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Mansfield on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. All ringers welcome. Please look your methods up.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., 23, Shaw Street, Ilkeston.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford District.—A quarterly meeting of the district will be held at Withington on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) available 3.30 to 8.30. Tea 6 p.m. Please notify me not later than May 4th.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deanery Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Lilbourne on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (5) available at 2.45. Service 4.15, followed by tea and business meeting.—R. Adams, East Haddon, Northants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting will be held at Cardington on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea 5. Everyone welcome.—P. C. Bonnett, Dis. Sec., Stagsden, Beds.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Chudleigh on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting to follow. Those who intend coming please advise me by May 3rd. All welcome.—H. J. Hole, Hon. Sec., Tauntonia, Church Street, Paignton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton-on-Trent District.—A meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Will those intending to be present kindly notify me not later than Thursday, May 5th. Make this a record meeting.—A. Sharp, 194, Uxbridge Street, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at South Weald on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided for all those who notify me of their intention of being present by Wednesday, the 4th.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Chislehurst, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service and address by Rector at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Ringers requiring tea should notify Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., 35,

Albany Road, Chislehurst, by Wednesday, May 4th. Applications received after that date will not be considered.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The meeting at Horwich has been postponed until May 7th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Epping on Wednesday, May 11th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Arrangements will be made for service and tea.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Liverpool on Saturday, May 14th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 5. Tea (by kind invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. Miller) to follow. For tea please notify Mr. F. S. Owen, 187, Falkner Street, Liverpool, by Wednesday, May 11th.—Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Cobham on Saturday, May 14th. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me, or Mr. W. James, Home Yard, Cobham, by May 11th.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec., 37, Church Walk, Leatherhead.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The 53rd annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, May 16th.—F. J. Pitstow, Gen. Sec. and Treas., 45, High Street, Saffron Walden.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday. The Central Committee will meet in St. Giles' Buildings at 11 a.m. Service at 12 noon in St. Giles' Church. Lunch at the Plough Hotel, Bridge Street, at 1 p.m., followed by business meeting. Lunch tickets can be had on application (with 2/6 remittance) up to Tuesday, May 10th, from Mr. T. Tebbutt, West Street, Moulton, or from the General Secretary. Bells available 10 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.; St. Edmund's (8), St. Peter's (8), St. Giles' (10), St. Sepulchre's (8) from 3 p.m. onwards; St. Giles' 5 to 6; St. Edmund's 6 to 7; Duston (6) from 4 to 6. Frequent bus service to Duston from Horse Shoe Street and St. Andrew's Road.—R. G. Black, General Secretary, Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

DEATH.

BUESDEN.—On April 24th, 1932, Edwin G. Buesden (Canterbury Cathedral Company), aged 49 years, for many years a member of the Kent County Association and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

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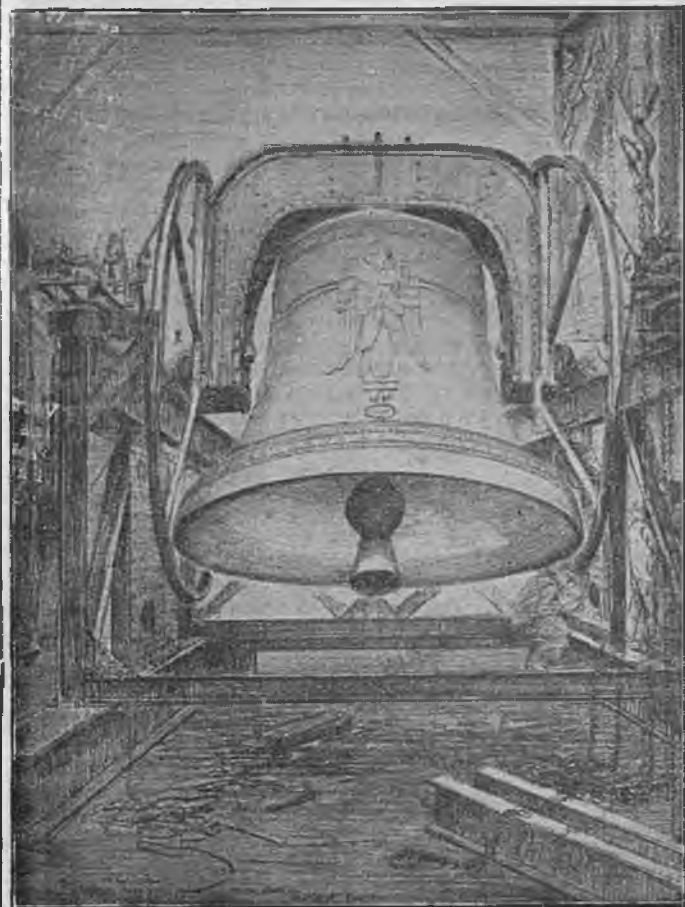
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FIFTY YEARS OF PEAL PROGRESS.

The jubilee celebrations of numerous ringing associations and guilds have been a reminder of the changes which have been effected in the last fifty years in our art and all that appertains to it, but nothing is more striking than the remarkable progress made in regard to peal ringing during the half century. The peals analysis for 1931 — compiled with stupendous labour by the Analysis Committee of the Central Council — which we publish this week, reveals the total of 2,082 peals rung in the twelve months, the greatest number ever recorded in one year, except in that phenomenal period, 1912 and 1913, which produced 2,329 and 2,358 peals respectively. We are getting back close to the peak figures of twenty years ago, and it is significant that it has taken so long to make up the leeway which resulted from the war. It is not our intention at this moment, however, to trace the recovery in peal ringing in the last twelve years or so. In this year of many 'jubilees' it is almost more interesting to carry the comparison back, as we are able to do for the first time, a full fifty years and note the progress that has been made over the fuller period.

In 1881 the total number of peals recorded was 156 — an average of exactly three a week. In 1931 the average weekly number was 40! The year 1881 was the first for which any details were compiled, but there are no analytical statistics available and one can only take a general survey of the performances. The performances consisted chiefly of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major, with an occasional peal of Caters or Royal and a still rarer peal of Stedman Triples or Cinques. Compare such a record with last year, with not only its huge aggregate of peals, but its vast variety. The peal ringers of fifty years ago may have known something of the complexity of the higher methods, but what knowledge they had gave them the impression that peals of the kind were almost unringable. Surprise ringing, even on eight bells, was all but a closed book to them; to-day it is common everyday practice all over the country. On eight, ten and twelve bells, 387 Surprise peals were rung last year — considerably more than twice the total number of all peals rung in 1881, when even Double Norwich was almost unheard of in peal ringing. Now one finds more peals of it rung than of the simpler Plain Bob. The occasional peal of Stedman half a century ago has developed into more than 300 in a year in these days, while peals on five and six bells have been developed to a remarkable extent — they have multiplied nearly a hundred times.

Let us not, however, despise the work which was done by the peal ringers of those days. They were laying a foundation from which we have reaped an advantage. The success of one band is the inspiration of another; and it was

(Continued on page 298.)