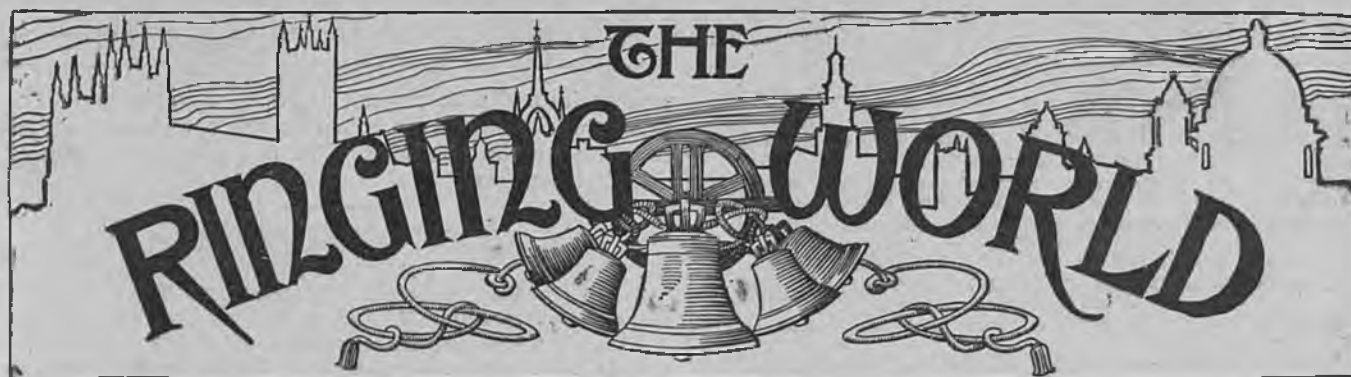




No. 1,199 Vol. XXIX.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 1934.

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BELLRINGING IN A NOVEL.

A novel, in which change ringing figures prominently, is just now claiming a good deal of interest among the public. 'The Nine Tailors,' by Dorothy L. Sayers, is not quite the first mystery story which has featured bell-ringing, but we have no hesitation in saying that it is the best attempt yet to deal in this form with the art. The authoress was at special pains to acquire some knowledge of methods and ringing, and, allowing for the limitations of the self-instructed student and the exigencies of the plot, the ringing side of the story is much better done than anything of the kind which has been published before. There is, however, one blemish which ringers will dislike and that is an incident in which the ringers refresh themselves with beer in the belfry—an incident emphasised in the daily paper, in which the story is now running as a serial, by a picture. This will certainly tend to create a wrong impression among the public of the behaviour of ringers in the belfry and is unfortunate, for such abuses have long since disappeared.

But all those who read the novel will, we feel sure, enjoy it, whatever its shortcomings from the ringers' point of view may be. Equally, too, will be admired the good intentions of the talented authoress, revealed in a letter sent to one of her ringer critics, in which, while admitting that it was a rash thing to attempt the sympathetic use of the art in a novel, she realised that whatever she did she 'could not possibly write worse nonsense than had been written by others.' Which is unquestionably true. The utter drivel which customarily appears when bellringing is dealt with by writers ignorant of the subject has led to a great deal of misapprehension among the public. If Miss Sayers' efforts achieve her hope that the novel will at least make the 'man in the street' feel that there must be 'something more in change ringing than the deliberate production of a prolonged and offensive noise,' she will indeed have accomplished something worth while, and ringers will not only forgive her for the faults which she so handsomely acknowledges in her letter, but be ever grateful to her for a service rendered.

The trouble taken by Miss Sayers to make herself acquainted, not only with the jargon of the art, but with some of its technical details, even to the extent of working out touches of Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major, has enabled her to present the subject with much greater accuracy than anything of the same character which has appeared before. In the serial version, however, the story is very much 'cut' on the ringing side, but in its original form ringers will find their particular interests most sympathetically treated, and such

(Continued on page 102.)

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a powerful and wide appeal, as revealed in the popularity
of the work, should do much towards a better under-
standing by the public of what is behind the efforts of
church bellringers.

TEN BELL PEAL.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SS GEORGE AND DENIS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb. in D flat.

CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON ... Treble	WILLIAM BIBBY 6
*MISS NORAH M. BIBBY ... 2	ALBERT J. HUGHES 7
*FRED DUNKERLEY 3	JOHN E. BIBBY 8
*NORMAN HEAPS 4	JOHN WORTH 9
WILFRED STEVENSON ... 5	EDWARD JENKINS Tenor

Composed by J. MOTTS.

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

* First attempt at Surprise Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 26, 1934, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST BRETT Treble	FREDERICK DIGBY 5
*HARRY HOSKINS 2	*JAMES G. A. PRIOR 6
JOSEPH WAGHORN 3	JAMES E. DAVIS 7
GEORGE R. PYE 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by J. E. DAVIS.

* First peal in the method.

GRUNDISBURGH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1934, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

LESLIE G. BRETT Treble	FRANK L. FISHER 5
*JOHN ARBON 2	GEORGE BENNETT 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
ALBERT E. WHITING ... 4	JAMES BENNETT, JUN. ... Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by J. BENNETT, JUN.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor
and first attempt. Leslie G. Brett has now rung each bell in this
tower to a peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 5, 1934, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES

Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES E. DAVIS Treble	HARRY HOSKINS 5
JOSEPH WAGHORN 2	FREDERICK DIGBY 6
ERNEST W. FORBANK ... 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
ERNEST BRETT 4	JOSEPH MARKS Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by J. E. DAVIS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 5, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIAM PYE Treble	JAMES BENNETT 5
NORMAN S. BAGWORTH ... 2	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 6
ERNEST W. PYE 3	JAMES G. A. PRIOR 7
WALTER D. JOLLEY 4	ALFRED J. HOUSE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, March 7, 1934, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
At THE BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 gr. 13 lb.

F. HORACE E. STUBBS ... Treble	CHARLES ALLSOP ... 5
GEORGE E. FEIRN ... 2	JOSEPH T. PACK ... 6
JOHN GRUNDY ... 3	COLIN HARRISON ... 7
JOHN SADDINGTON ... 4	*A. HICKMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by COLIN HARRISON.

* First peal.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*GORDON W. LIMMER... Treble	WILLIAM E. TAYLOR... 5
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE... 2	†GEORGE H. LIMMER... 6
GEORGE MARTIN... 3	PERCY DYKE... 7
THOMAS S. GOODCHILD... 4	GEORGE GILBERT... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by G. GILBERT.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob away from the treble.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

SHELFORD SPARROW... Treble	ARTHUR GRIMWOOD... 5
*CHARLES TAYLOR... 2	KRITH W. WHITTLE... 6
WILLIAM C. RUMSEY... 3	HARRY D. LISTER... 7
GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL... 4	THOMAS H. CHAPPELL... Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by WM. C. RUMSEY.

* First peal on eight bells.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART, No. 6.

Tenor 14 cwt.

*JAMES WOODYATT... Treble	GORDON W. CROCKETTS... 5
*GEORGE E. LARGE... 2	DENNIS R. MORRIS... 6
*THOMAS W. LEWIS... 3	CHARLES CAMM... 7
WILLIAM LEWIS... 4	*FREDERICK G. YATES... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES CAMM.

* First peal in the method.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

JAMES BAKENDALE... Treble	WILLIAM BARTON... 5
SAMUEL WARD... 2	GEORGE AMBLER... 6
*WILLIAM H. SENIOR... 3	*THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY... 7
J. ERNEST PROCTER... 4	JOHN AMBLER... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (31). Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

* First peal in the method.

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SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

GORTON.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOSEPH REED... Treble	FREDERICK J. STEELE... 5
CHARLES OLLIER... 2	JOHN FEARNHEAD... 6
*ALBERT SMITH... 3	EDWARD F. MAWBY... 7
*PERCY RUSHTON... 4	WILFRID J. MOSS... Tenor

Composed by W. BERRY.

Conducted by W. J. MOSS.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a 14th birthday compliment to Miss Margaret Steele, youngest daughter of the ringers of the 5th.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

JONATHAN PRESTON... Treble	FREDERICK W. RISEWORTH... 5
GEORGE F. SWANN... 2	WILLIAM DAVIES... 6
RICHARD C. INGRAM... 3	EDWARD V. RODENHURST... 7
ALAN SHORT... 4	GEORGE F. GARRISON... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

RICHMOND, SURREY.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt.

HENRY R. NEWTON... Treble	MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE... 5
HENRY G. MILES... 2	THOMAS LANGDON... 6
HARRY R. PASMORE... 3	HERBERT LANGDON... 7
CHALLIS F. WINNEY... 4	ALFRED B. PECK... Tenor

Conducted by H. LANGDON.

This peal was specially rung to inaugurate the 'Richmond Youth Campaign,' March 10th to 28th.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

THOMAS HEMMING... Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE... 5
WILLIAM SHORT... 2	JOHN LLOYD... 6
JOHN BASS... 3	RALPH PARTON... 7
HAROLD SHUCK... 4	ROBERT MATTHEWS... Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

BEESTON, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLIAM DICKINSON... Treble	J. CHARLES DICKEN... 5
LAWRENCE CHADBURN... 2	FRANK BRADLEY... 6
ALFRED B. MOSS... 3	PERCIVAL PRICE... 7
JOHN E. HOBBS... 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER... Tenor

Composed by H. JOHNSON. Conducted by FREDERICK A. SALTER.

BOOKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

SAMUEL WARNE... Treble	CHARLES BURTON... 5
WILLIAM KREBLE... 2	REGINALD MARTIN... 6
*GEORGE IVES... 3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN... 7
*HARRY G. FELTON... 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by L. W. WIFFEN.

* First peal in the method. The monthly peal for the district.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HAISALL, LIVERPOOL.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(WIGAN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 23, 1934, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

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

Being 720 each of Woodbine Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Single, College Single, London New Bob and Plain Bob.

*JAMES LONGTON Treble	*WILFRED CORE 4
*THOMAS PRESCOTT 2	HENRY SERGEANT 5
HENRY FYLES 3	*ARTHUR MAWDSLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR MAWDSLEY.

* First peal. This is the first peal by a band of local ringers at this church.

KING'S WALDEN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 24, 1934, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, New London Pleasure, Duke of York, Woodbine, Oxford Delight, Oxford and Kent.

WILLIAM K. NORTH Treble	SIDNEY CARTER 4
ALBERT LAWRENCE 2	BARNARD PATMORE 5
WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE ... 3	JOHN WELCH Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY CARTER.

DESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1934, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*STANLEY SMITH Treble	SIDNEY MUNTON 4
*LEONARD WARD 2	*GEORGE FEIRN 5
*CYRIL ARCHER 3	JOSEPH PACK Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH PACK.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Bob Minor on a tower bell. First peal of Bob Minor as conductor.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 3, 1934, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, Lincoln, Cuneastre, Cambridge, York and Durham. Tenor 10 cwt.

GEORGE LORD Treble	ARTHUR GILL 4
WILLIAM GREEN 2	ARTHUR PANTHER 5
HAROLD CHANT 3	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

First Surprise peal as conductor. Rung for the love of the art.

MORTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 3, 1934, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven true and complete 720's in 14 methods in the following methods: (1) Northumberland and Carlisle; (2) Newcastle and Chester; (3) Berwick and Hexham; (4) Norfolk and Primrose; (5) Durham and Beverley; (6) Ipswich and Cambridge; (7) London and Cuneastre. Tenor 18 cwt.

ALBERT E. SCOTT Treble	JAMES OSBORN 4
JOHN W. LAKE 2	ALBERT S. ALLEN 5
*JOHN T. MACHIN 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. LAKE.

* First peal of Surprise Minor and the first Surprise peal on the bells.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, DURHAM.—At SS. Mary and Cuthbert's Church, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss M. A. P. Bertie 1, *N. C. Brewis 2, W. P. Pattison 3, F. Sheraton 4, W. Brown 5, J. A. Brown (conductor) 6. * First 720 and first attempt.

ALLENDSMORE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*REV. C. G. LITTLEHALES Treble	ALFRED T. KITSON 4
W. HENRY YOUNG 2	*WILLIAM A. KITSON 5
*VICTOR C. PREECE 3	*REGINALD W. DAVIES ... Tenor

Conducted by W. H. YOUNG.

* First peal.

STOKE POGES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, March 7, 1934, in Three Hours and One Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being a 720 each of Annable's London Surprise, Norwich Surprise, Hull Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb. in F.

*WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM ... Treble	*EDWARD J. BAGG 4
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 2	*GEORGE GILBERT 5
*LEONARD STILWELL 3	*ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in seven Treble Bob methods. Rung as an 81st birthday compliment to Mr. J. J. Parker, of Farnham Royal.

TEWIN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 8, 1934, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,880 Grandsire (ten callings) and 2,160 Plain Bob (four callings). Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

HARRY WEBB Treble	SIDNEY CARTER 3
BARNARD PATMORE 2	JACK WELCH 4
WILLIAM K. NORTH Tenor	

Conducted by WILLIAM K. NORTH.

Grandsire and Plain Bob were rung in 720's alternately. The band wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Compton for their kind hospitality after the peal.

OLD WARDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

HERBERT L. HARLOW ... Treble	*JOHN CHURCH 4
*WILLIAM WAGSTAFFE ... 2	LEWIS H. BYWATERS ... 5
ARTHUR W. DILLEY 3	HERBERT SHERMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by LEWIS H. BYWATERS.

* First peal of Minor.

COWFOLD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four extents of Kent and three of Oxford. Tenor 10½ cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN Treble	ROBERT SANGRIDGE 4
THOMAS ADAMS 2	JOHN COOK 5
PETER CHARMAN 3	WILLIAM STANFORD ... Tenor

Conducted by W. STANFORD.

The first peal of Treble Bob on the bells.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of Peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

A large selection of Compositions included.

Price:—Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp, 2/9 (6 copies for 15/-). 6 bell edition, sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

All post free from Rev. E. S. Powell, Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

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

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Bob, Colledge Single, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14 cwt.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE Treble	ROBERT G. KNOWLES 4
* WILLIAM HALFORD 2	WILLIAM RANFORD 5
FRANK LAWRENCE 3	SIDNEY T. HOLT Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

* First peal in seven methods 'inside.'

DITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 11, 1934, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising one extent of Cambridge Surprise and two extents each of Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. in F sharp.

GEORGE MAYERS Treble	† ROSELL W. CURSON 4
* GEORGE H. PEGNALL 2	† HENRY TOOKE 5
† WALTER R. FARROW 3	NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal in four methods. † First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells, rung December, 1931, the 4th and 5th of which were cast in 1380 by Dawe, of London. The Rev. Thorn kindly entertained the band to tea after the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, March 2, 1934, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church Tower,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

* CYRIL UNDERWOOD 1	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS 3
RONALD C. DAKIN 2	ARTHUR SYMONDS 4
STEDMAN H. SYMONDS 5-6	

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

* First peal.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, March 7, 1934, in Two Hours and One Minute,

At the Residence of Mr. A. Catterwell, Wythensfield Road,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

ARTHUR C. RIPPINGALE 1-2	ALBERT CATTERWELL 3-4
OLAVE E. BROYD 5-6	

Conducted by O. E. BROYD.

First peal on handbells in five methods by ringer of 1-2. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 8, 1934, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

At 20, ABERDEEN CRESCENT, EDGELEY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLY'S TEN-PART.

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES 1-2	FREDERICK PAGE 5-6
ALLEN F. BAILEY 3-4	* HIRAM MEAKIN 7-8

Conducted by FREDERICK PAGE.

Umpire—Harold Jackson.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung as a birthday compliment to Hiram Meakin on attaining the age of 67 years.

LEVERSTOCK GREEN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 10, 1934, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At the School.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WALTER AYRE 1-2	FRANCIS KIRK 5-5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	CHARLES JEFFS 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

LEATHERHEAD SURPRISE MAJOR.

12345678	5,088
21436587	BY G. MARRINER.
12346857	23456 M. B. W. H.
21438657	
24136857	52436
42318675	42635 — 3
24138657	62534 — 3
42316875	35426 — 3
24361857	42356 — —
23468175	26354 — 2
32641857	53624 — 2
36248175	34625 — 2
63428715	34256 x —
64327851	53246 — 3
46238715	45236 —
42637851	23456 — —
24367581	
23465718	
32647581	
36245718	
63425178	
64321587	
46235178	
24613578	
42165387	
24615378	
42163587	
41265378	
14623587	
41263857	
14628375	
14263857	

Bob 16423857

The first peal in this method was rung at Leatherhead on Jan. 20th. It is a combination of the Rev. E. B. James' Peterborough and Mr. G. Baker's Horsham Surprise, arranged by G. Marriner, the front half of the work being Peterborough and the back half Horsham. It has one false course head tenors together 24365.

CHILTERN SURPRISE MAJOR.

Of the Surprise methods of which the late Mr. John Carter was the author, No. 6 was rung to a peal for the first time on January 25th at Egham, Surrey, and given the name of Chiltern.

THE METHOD.	5,056
12345678	BY H. W. WILDE.
21436587	23456 B. W. M. H.
12346857	
21438675	64235 — —
24136857	26435 — —
42318675	42635 — —
42136857	63425 — —
24318675	63254 — —
42381657	26354 — —
24836175	32654 — —
24381657	65324 — —
42836175	36524 — —
24863715	53624 — —
42687351	62534 — —
46283715	56234 — —
64827351	25634 — —
46283751	25346 — —
64827315	32546 — —
68423751	53246 — —
86247315	24536 — —
68274135	52436 — —
86721453	43526 — —
86274135	54326 — —
68721453	35426 — —
86712435	42356 — —
68174253	34256 — —
68712435	23456 — —
86174253	
81672435	
18764253	
81674523	
18765432	
18674523	

Bob 17864523

MUFFLED BELLS.

On Thursday, February 22nd, at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, Kent, a date touch of Stedman Caters (1,934 changes) was rung half-muffled as a tribute to the late King Albert in 1 hour 25 minutes: J. Spiller 1, E. Spiller 2, A. Gasson 3, T. Grice 4, H. Coast 5, L. Head (composer and conductor) 6, H. Travers 7, F. Leeson 8, B. Baker 9, H. Dunn 10.

THE FUTURE MATTERS MOST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter from Mr. E. M. Atkins which you published in your issue of March 2nd criticises two things, viz.: (1) The management of district meetings, and (2) the contents of 'The Ringing World.' I take it that all ringers are in favour of two objects—(1) the spread of change ringing, and (2) the improvement of 'The Ringing World.' May I point out that these objects depend upon each other, and may I take an illustration from my experience as a beginner 45 years ago?

I started ringing in a six-bell tower, as one of an entirely new band, including one change ringer and one other man, who could handle a bell, but had never rung changes. After a few years we lost our change ringer, who had taught us the 'rudiments of the faith,' and the beginners were left entirely to their own resources. We had our difficulties; for years there was one ringer who could only ring the tenor in Doubles, and another who could only ring a plain hunt bell. Still, before six years were out we managed Grandsire and Bob Doubles and half a dozen plain Minor methods. In those days there were no district meetings and no motor buses or cars to bring visitors to help us. But the one thing that made our men keen was the possibility of seeing in the 'Bell News' from time to time a notice of a 720 rung for evening service, with a footnote, 'First 720 in the method by all the band.' I had almost forgotten that just before the end of the six years the band were attempting Stedman Doubles—not bad for beginners with no one to teach them.

I believe five or six members of the band took the 'Bell News' regularly, which was then sold at 1d. The cheaper the price, the greater the help and incitement to the beginner; if more beginners will buy, the cheaper will be the cost of production. If 'The Ringing World' (which has taken the place of the 'Bell News') can find room for notices of 'service ringing' whenever a first 720 of Minor is rung by all or some of the band, I think the Editor will find that his circulation increases, and he will then be able to reduce the price; and the increase in the circulation will help more beginners, just when they want help. The ringer who has scored 100 peals, or 'has circled the tower,' needs no encouragement, and he can help himself. He is like a boy learning to skate: at first he wants all the help he can get: when he can do outside edge forwards and backwards well and with confidence, he does not need more help than he can get from books, or an occasional hint from a friend.

Now I turn to district meetings:—In a tower where the home team are all, or nearly all, beginners, while the visitors are most of them first-rate ringers, a touch of 500 or so of Stedman is not really wanted by the visitors, and is absolutely useless to the home team, who can make nothing of a method where a bell can come to lead at back stroke, and may stay there for only a half-pull. The result is that beginners are apt to fight shy of district meetings, and so they remain 'beginners' for much longer. Their achievements will never appear in 'The Ringing World,' and it has no interest for them, and the circulation of the paper languishes. I wish I could persuade the skilled ringers that district meetings should be regarded as opportunities mainly for helping beginners, and not for ringing Stedman or Surprise methods. If instead of ringing Stedman Triples one or two of them would stand behind beginners—giving as many as possible a short touch in Grandsire Triples, and reserving the Stedman for the last ten minutes before the service, there would be a much greater probability of a notice in 'The Ringing World' of a 'quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples—first quarter-peal by all the band,' and (I hope) eight new subscribers for 'The Ringing World.'

Turning back to the six-bell towers, may I say that I would far sooner hear that seven separate bands rang 720 in a Minor method on the same Sunday, each in its own tower, than that a carefully selected team from seven towers rang 5,040 of the same Minor method on one day; also that I would like all bands in six-bell towers to set before themselves, as a minimum, one 720 for at least one service on each Sunday.

5,000 TREBLE BOB ROYAL.

BY NOLAN GOLDEN.

23456	M	6ths	B	7ths	W	H
42356						1
63254	1	1	—	1		2
54326	1				2	2
42635	1				2	
56234	1					1
52364				1		2
24365	1					2
23645				1		2
32548	2					2
45236				2		2
23456				1		1

Rung at St. Peter Mancroft, December 26th, 1933, conducted by the composer. The first 5,000 of Treble Ten to be rung with all the combinations of 4-5-6 in 5-6 with the 6th's the extent home, 4-5-6 only in 6th's and the 2nd one course only in 5th's.

DEATH OF MR. H. T. HOWELL.

A WELL-KNOWN WEST COUNTRY RINGER.

We regret to announce the passing of Mr. Henry T. Howell, of Bristol, Past Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, which office he held from 1921 to 1923, also first Master of the Bristol United Ringing Guilds, 1921.

Mr. Howell died on Wednesday, March 7th, at the age of 73 years. The end was rather unexpected, although he has been ailing for some time. Mr. Howell was well liked by all who knew him, and his example could be well followed by others. His ringing career in Bristol started about 50 years ago at St. George's, Bristol, East, at which church he was at one time churchwarden.

He was very prominent in the ringing fraternity with Mr. F. G. May (now in South Africa) at St. Nicholas', Bristol. After the regrettable incident of the closing of St. George's tower, he joined St. Philip's band, and when the new peal was installed at St. Ambrose's Church he gave assistance there.

The funeral took place on Saturday, March 10th, at St. Ambrose's Church, the service being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. S. Lee). The interment was in the family grave at Avon View Cemetery, Bristol.

By special request of the family, the hearer party were ringers, the following making the party: Mr. J. Gould (Master, Gloucester and Bristol Association), Mr. F. Skidmore (Bristol branch secretary), Mr. F. G. Leaker (association adviser), and Mr. B. C. Worsdell (St. Ambrose's).



The late Mr. H. T. Howell.

The bells of St. Ambrose's Church were rung half-muffled for the service, the following taking part: J. T. Dyke (hon. secretary, Bath and Wells Association), John W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff Association), Sidney G. Riches (Bristol United Ringing Guilds), W. Lansdown (vice-president, Gloucester and Bristol Association), W. A. Cave (Past Master, Gloucester and Bristol Association), Mrs. R. J. Wilkins (St. Stephen's), G. S. Wiltshire (St. Philip's), A. Wiltshire (St. Ambrose's) and A. Knight (St. Ambrose's).

The 'whole pull and stand' was successfully rung as well as touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major, conducted by J. T. Dyke.

The floral tributes included a wreath from the Gloucester and Bristol Association (Bristol Branch), the Bristol United Ringing Guilds, St. Philip's Ringing Guild, and St. Ambrose's Ringing Guild. A memorial service was held at St. Ambrose's Church at evensong on Sunday, the 11th inst.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Ambrose's Church on Wednesday, March 7th, with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect: Mrs. F. Skidmore (3 years) 1, W. Lansdown (46 years) 2, A. Knight (46 years) 3, G. S. Wiltshire (44 years) 4, F. Skidmore (26 years) 5, A. Liversedge (48 years) 6, S. Phillips (46 years) (conductor) 7, W. Stafford (26 years) 8.

This quarter-peal was the same composition that was rung as the first quarter-peal on the bells of St. Ambrose's, conducted by the late Mr. H. T. Howell. The figures in brackets denote the number of years each ringer knew Mr. Howell in the ringing world. With the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Skidmore, the others were ringers of the old St. George's band.

The bells of St. Nicholas' Church, Bristol, were rung half-muffled to a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes) following the interment at Avon View Cemetery: E. J. Brown (conductor) 1, A. Maggs 2, G. Pearce 3, Miss A. Brown 4, S. Riches 5, P. C. Williams 6, J. Richmond 7, B. C. Worsdell 8, G. S. Wiltshire 9, G. Burcher 10.

The late Mr. Howell was a ringer at St. Nicholas' Church for 18 years and had rung many peals there. This quarter-peal was rung as a last mark of respect.

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ANOTHER RING OF SIX IN HANTS. A BARRON BELL TRUST GIFT.

A new treble bell to increase the ring to six was dedicated at Barton Stacey, Hants, on Saturday week, by the Bishop of Southampton. The old oak bell cage was badly damaged by the death-watch beetle, and a new frame has been provided and the old bells retuned. The work, the gift of the Emma Barron Bell Trust, has been carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, in their customary efficient manner.

Some of the old bells are of historic interest, as they were cast by a little known founder, Cor, of Aldbourne, Wilts. The earliest known bell in Hampshire from this foundry is dated 1693. The inscriptions on the old bells are: 2, Cor of Aldbourne 1725; 3, T. Mears of London, fecit 1828; N. C. Winkworth gave five guineas, Cor of Aldbourne 1725; 5, Martin Wright Esquire gave ten guineas, Cor of Aldbourne 1725; 6, Nicholas Elliott and John Edwards C.W. O. Cor 1725.

The church was crowded for the dedication service, prior to which the old five bells were rung. About 30 members of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild were present, and Mr. R. H. Dove represented the founders. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. C. R. d'Arcy), and the lessons were read by Canon R. S. Medlicott (Rural Dean of Whitechurch) and Canon Cunningham (Rural Dean of Winchester).

During the procession of the Bishop, Vicar and choir to the tower, music to Hawker's poem, 'The Bells of Bottreaux,' was played on the organ by the Rev. N. C. Woods, Sacrist of Winchester Cathedral, and formerly hon. treasurer of the Winchester Guild:—

Come to thy God in time,
Thus saith the pealing chime
Youth, manhood, old age past,
Come to thy God at last.

Then followed the Dedication, and while the choir and clergy were returning to the choir stalls the bells were rung by W. Andrews (Winchester) 1, R. Smith (Winston) 2, J. A. Hill (Bishopstoke) 3, N. R. Perkins (Stockbridge) 4, O. Smart (Andover) 5, J. Chesterman (Basingstoke) 6.

The Bishop of Southampton based his address on the science of bellringing, which, he said, was peculiarly an English custom. He hoped the bells would send out a two-fold message—a challenge to the worship of God in God's house; a consolation to those who were unable to do so.

During the singing of the hymn, 'Saviour, again to Thy dear Name we raise,' a collection was made, and a beautiful and memorable service was brought to a close.

Ringling was kept up during the evening, and everyone was delighted with the improvement effected in the bells.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. CANTERBURY DISTRICT.

The spring meeting of the Canterbury District was held at Wingham on Saturday, February 24th. The methods rung ranged from Grand-sire to Double Norwich, interspersed with rounds for the new members. The association form of service was held in the church, the Vicar (the Rev. F. B. Beavan) giving an interesting and helpful address. Mr. W. E. Pittman, Mus.Bac., presided at the organ.

Tea followed at the Dog Inn, at which 32 members were present. The Rev. F. B. Beavan occupied the chair, and in the regrettable absence of the district secretary (Mr. Percy Smith), Mr. E. H. Spice acted in that capacity.

New practising members were elected as follows: St. Peter's, Thanet, E. Perryman, F. Dack and F. Brencley; Wingham, W. Martin; Whitstable, A. Hoare, F. Bottle and C. Dilmot; St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, J. W. Cobb; and the whole of the Throwley company. The Vicar was elected an honorary member.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. F. B. Beavan and to Mr. Pittman.—The Vicar suitably replied, and said that while he was at Wingham the association would always be welcome there.

It was decided to hold the next by-meeting at Northbourne.

Among the towers represented were Littlebourne, Sturry, Dover, Deal, Walmer, Whitstable, Wickhambreaux, St. Peter's, St. Lawrence, Canterbury Cathedral, St. Alphege and St. Stephen's, Elham, Herne, Lyminge, Brabourne and Wingham.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 24th, the Western Branch held a very successful meeting at Kempsey. About 45 members, the greater majority of which were members of the 'younger school,' were present from 17 towers of the branch.

A very inspiring address was given by the Vicar (the Rev. E. B. R. de Jersey), after which tea, kindly given by the Vicar, was partaken of at the Village Hall.

At the business meeting which followed, five new members were elected.

Croome d'Abitot was proposed for the summer meeting.

The methods rung during the day included Grand-sire, Bob and Stedman Doubles, and Minor from Plain Bob to London Surprise.

WEDDING BELLS.

At Launton, Oxfordshire, on Saturday, March 10th, for the wedding of Mr. J. Hales and Miss E. L. Foster, 720 of Union Doubles: F. Sharpe 1, J. Marriott, sen. (conductor) 2, T. Marriott 3, H. Gregory 4, R. Castle 5, J. Marriott, jun., 6. Also another 720 with H. Massey ringing the tenor. The first in the method by all the band.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Albert Walker (Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild) has been elected a member of the Parochial Church Council for St. Martin's, Birmingham.

John Arbon, whose first peal on tower bells was Cambridge Surprise Major 'inside,' rung in February, 1933, has now rung a peal of Cambridge, London and Superlative.

The bells of St. Dany's, Sleaford, have been restored by Messrs. Taylor and Co., and were reopened on Saturday at a gathering attended by about 75 ringers.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. Challis F. Winney, who will be 76 to-morrow. As long as most living ringers can remember Mr. Winney has been an outstanding figure in London ringing.

On March 22nd, 1734, a peal of 6,876 Grandsire Caters was rung at New College, Oxford. Doubtless the now very active Oxford Society will see to it that the bicentenary is fittingly celebrated.

One hundred and fifty years ago on March 24th, a peal of 5,160 'Double Twelve In' was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, London. What a pity that this fine, historic ring are now silent, except on rare civic occasions.

The peal of Doubles rung at Blackmoor, Hants, and recorded last week, consisted of 5,280 changes, not 5,040 as printed.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

All resolutions to be proposed at the next annual meeting must be sent to me immediately.

Secretaries of affiliated societies are reminded that all subscriptions became due on January 1st.

G. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Secretary.

45, Walsingham Road,
Enfield, Middlesex.

BOW BELLS ON THE 'WIRELESS.'

The Ancient Society of College Youths have sent, through their hon. secretary (Mr. W. T. Cockerill), the following letter to the B.B.C.:-

College Youths highly appreciate your innovation of broadcasting the record of Bow bells during the intervals. We hope this will be continued, and that, if possible, we may have the pleasure of listening to more ringing before the Sunday services.

WOODBIDGE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Drake again assumes too much—I have not seen his second letter to the 'East Anglian Daily Times.' The first one was more than enough for me, and in view of what it contained it is comical to read this week that Mr. Drake wishes correspondents to be RELIABLE.

'OLD RINGER.'

COLCHESTER BELLS.

Dear Sir,—Re the letter of the Rev. H. Drake in your issue of March 9th, as regards bells in Colchester, St. Peter's possessed a peal of eight bells, all cast by Lester and Pack, dated 1763, with tenor reputed to be 20½ cwt. and 49 inches diameter, but which was found lighter when all the bells were taken away for recasting by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. They were opened and rededicated by the Bishop of Colchester on March 13th, 1913. The inscription on the tenor bell (weight 21 cwt. 0 qr. 17 lb.) is as follows: 'This peal of eight bells, cast in 1763 by Lester and Pack, of London. Rev. Wm. Symthies, Vicar, Robt. Duke, Jas. Rohgent, Churchwardens, was recast 1913. C. Trippitt Ward, Vicar, A. Polley, T. M. Lloyd, Churchwardens. This bell was recast at the expense of the parishioners, congregation and friends.'

H. T. PYE,

Hon. Secretary, St. Peter's Company, Colchester.

MR. J. J. PARKER 81.

As is usual on March 7th, a large number of ringers, representing many towers, gathered at Farnham Royal to do honour to the 'Grand Old Man' of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, Mr. Joseph J. Parker, who was celebrating his 81st birthday anniversary. Rounds, Grandsire, Stedman, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise were all rung before the bells were finally lowered in peal.

A few words of congratulation from the secretary and a hope that many more celebrations would take place, with a gracious reply from Mr. Parker, thanking all for their presence, brought the evening to a close.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a little of your valuable space to thank my many ringing friends for their very kind birthday greetings I received on the 7th. Among them were letters from several old friends who used to love to join in my Whit Monday gatherings of 50 years ago, when the Editor of the 'Bell News' used to give it out that there would be ringing all day. With 27 visitors, a very enjoyable evening was spent in the tower. My thanks are due to our secretary, Mr. A. D. Barker, for making the arrangements.

J. J. PARKER.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

BOUNDARY DIFFICULTIES.

Two points of special interest were discussed by members of the Surrey Association at their annual meeting, held at Beddington on Saturday. An informal talk between the secretary and the secretaries of adjoining Associations and Guilds on the subject of boundaries where the various organisations overlap was agreed to; and the committee are to take into consideration the question of holding a ringing competition.

There were nearly a hundred members present, who, after ringing on the pleasant peal of ten bells, attended a bright service conducted by the curate (the Rev. F. Witcomb), who in his address welcomed the association to Beddington, and said he had been warned not to preach on the subject of the history of bells, as they would probably know more about it than he did. Instead, Mr. Witcomb dealt with the application of Christian principles to the problems of modern life.

Tea was served at the Harvest Home Inn, where the meeting was subsequently held, the Master (Mr. D. K. C. Birt) presiding, supported by the officers of the association.

The hon. treasurer's statement was a very satisfactory one, a debit balance at the commencement of the year of £2 5s. 2d. having been converted into a balance in hand of £6 13s. The two districts had contributed the cost of printing the reports for the years 1931 and 1932, amounting to £23 9s., and also £6 15s., the cost of a new peal book. The proportion of members' subscriptions received was £2 4s. 6d. in respect of 89 members from the Southern District and £3 17s. 3d. in respect of 155 members from the North-Western District, while £1 15s. had been received from new compounding members.

PEAL RINGING.

The balance sheet was adopted, as was also the committee's annual report, which stated that the district meetings had been very successful. In the North-Western District ringing had been of an excellent character, both as regards striking and quality of methods rung. It was regretted that the combined practices which commenced at the beginning of the year did not receive enough support to be continued, although they were of considerable assistance to some of the bands at the towers where the practices were held. Seventeen new ringing members had been elected during the year, including the band at All Saints', Carshalton. The membership of the district was: Hon. members 5, attached ringing members 134, unattached 33, total 177. In the Southern District progress had been maintained and a determined effort had been made to encourage new conductors. There had been a decided falling off in the number of peals rung by the association during the year 1933 compared with 1932, and it was regretted that there was no improvement in the position regarding the recent closing of several towers to peal ringing. Efforts had been made by local societies to ring peals by their Sunday service company, and other bands had been practising new methods, resulting in many failures before success was achieved and a corresponding drop in the number of peals for the association. Special mention was made in the report of the following performances: Grandsire Triples at Benlinton, the conductor also calling a peal for the first time; Grandsire Triples at Betchworth by the Buckland Society; London Surprise Royal at Beddington, being the first peal of London Royal for the association; Yorkshire Surprise Major, being the first peal of Major in the method by the association. The number of peals rung was 28, the number of members taking part 96 and the number of conductors 14. The peals were rung in 18 towers. Some interesting statistics were given showing comparison of peals rung in various years. Here are some of them:—

	1923	1932	1933
Number of peals	39	51	28
Number of conductors	13	16	14
Number of ringers taking part	102	100	96
Average number of different ringers taking part per peal	2.6	1.9	3.4
Average number of peals to each conductor	3	3.2	2

Commenting on the report, the Master said the figures showed that while the number of peals had gone down, peal ringing and conducting had been spread among a larger number of ringers, which meant that instead of a number of peals being rung by expert bands, struggling bands had been encouraged to get to the point of ringing a peal. Mr. Birt pointed out that their association existed primarily to ring church bells for church services, and the final test of their work must be the extent to which they had been able to do that. He thought they had been able to do it fairly satisfactorily (applause). Their work was essentially team work, and they must above all things be ready to sacrifice their own interests to the common good. Where this existed they got a happy state of things in the belfry and progress was likely to follow.

Mr. C. H. Reading asked whether, having regard to the chairman's remarks, they could have some particulars in the report showing whether service ringing had been maintained or increased during the year?

The Chairman said the committee would certainly consider that point.

Four places were suggested for the next annual meeting of the association, and Reigate was selected, the voting being as follows: Reigate 31, Southwark 20, Kingston 8, Guildford 2.

The following officers were re-elected for the year, no other nominations having been received: President, the Bishop of Croydon; Master,

Mr. D. K. C. Birt; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. Dean; hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Kippin; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Darby; hon. auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

The Master acknowledged the re-election of the officers, to whom a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Reading, who mentioned especially the work done by the Master, the hon. secretary and assistant secretary.—Mr. Darby responded.

BOUNDARIES TO BE DISCUSSED.

The following motion, passed by the committee, had been placed on the agenda for consideration: 'That the secretaries of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and Kent County Association be invited to confer with the secretary of this association with a view to an adjustment of boundaries upon diocesan lines.'

The hon. secretary said the committee had brought this forward because one of these days they might have to decide what they were really going to do about diocesan status. At the present time the boundary of their association was somewhat vague. They called themselves the Surrey Association, but they had never been down further than Leatherhead to his knowledge, and they had the London County Association overstepping them in the other direction. The idea of having this conference of secretaries was to have an informal talk to see if any scheme could be worked out on the basis of diocesan boundaries, which for their own association meant the Diocese of Southwark. But part of the Diocese of Southwark was in Kent and included towers like Lewisham, Deptford and Woolwich. There was difficulty in that direction, but if they had a meeting of secretaries they might explore the ground informally without committing their respective associations to anything. One of their difficulties was that Croydon was in the Diocese of Canterbury; an island portion surrounded by Rochester on one side and Southwark on the other.

The Chairman said there was no doubt a tendency in these days for ringing associations to be diocesan in character rather than county. Their own association was established on a county basis. Their neighbours on one side were diocesan, but on the east the adjoining organisation was county. Then they had the extraordinary anomaly that Croydon was part of the Diocese of Canterbury, though it was completely isolated. The Surrey Association had been doing useful work for a great number of years on the county basis, and if the time came when the status of ringing associations was to become entirely diocesan, it was only right that the association should find its place in the scheme of things.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith suggested that, if there was to be any informal conference, the secretary of the London County Association, which had also taken the title of 'North Southwark Diocesan Guild,' ought to be invited, and moved an amendment to include this in the motion.—Mr. A. Clark seconded.

Mr. W. Hewitt said he was in favour of County Associations. In the case of the London County Association, they had, in his opinion, simply taken on the subsidiary title of 'North Southwark Diocesan Guild' on purpose to forestall the Surrey Association in taking the title of Southwark Diocesan Guild. There was no such thing as a North Southwark Diocese, and the title was ridiculous on the face of it. He did not agree with the London County secretary being invited. Honestly, he considered it would be far better to stick to the title of the Surrey Association and get permission of the Bishop to add the sub-title of 'Southwark Diocesan Guild.'

Mr. W. R. Melville said he did not think it would be many years before the ringers, as churchworkers, would be called upon to form themselves into Diocesan Guilds. Even in the case of the joint Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, the Bishop of Winchester had expressed a desire that Portsmouth diocese should have its own Guild, and he believed other Bishops would form the same opinion. The time would come when churchworkers would be diocesan workers.

Mrs. Kippin: That doesn't tell us where we come in.

Mr. Melville: You will have to be the Southwark Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Tony Price thought the time would come when they would have a national association, and the Diocesan Guilds would be merely branches.

The Chairman said they did not want to be brought into antagonism with other associations or to squabble over this tower or that. If they did their job to the best of their ability they would find out soon enough where they stood. Croydon, he added, presented a special problem, and in any change they made they would have to make special provision for it. There was no particular reason for saying 'good-bye' to some of their very best friends.

The amendment was agreed to with three dissentients, and the motion, as amended, carried nem con.

A member asked that in the annual report the footnotes to peals should be printed. The hon. secretary replied that in regard to the 1933 peals it was too late to do this, as the footnotes had already been cut off. It would be borne in mind in future, but it might add to the cost.—Mr. J. Beams: Some of the footnotes are perfect rubbish (laughter).

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector of Beddington and the Rev. F. Witcomb for conducting the service.

SUGGESTED COMPETITION.

Mr. F. G. Talbot asked if it would not be possible to have a ringing competition on the lines of some of those held in the North of England. He believed it would add interest to ringing in the association. (Continued at foot of next page.)

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE T. POTTER. FORMER PRESIDENT OF DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

There passed away on March 2nd one of the most lovable and popular men in the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, but who was practically unknown to the present generation of ringers, Mr. George Potter, a past president of the association. He followed the late Mr. Robert Spencer Story to the chair in 1905, and reigned with distinction till 1908. Not content with that, when the need came during the war he stepped into the secretary's work and kept the association from falling into oblivion, and his energy was followed by the success it deserved.

Mr. Potter started his ringing in the old days of 'Stoney' ringing in Newcastle, but dropped it for many years until the bells were installed in All Saints' Church, Gosforth, in which parish he was then living. With the enthusiasm which was his bent, he progressed in the art and excelled in most of the standard methods, including London Surprise, of which he rang two or three peals. He was an honorary member of the Newcastle Cathedral Guild, and did much to help in the progress there 20 years ago.

He retired from business and from ringing some ten years ago, and little was seen of him, but his memory will live long with those who loved his kindly, genial presence and his 'camaraderie' at every meeting of the association.

He was quietly laid to rest at Gosforth Parish Cemetery on Monday, March 6th, and there was not one there who did not feel a sense of deep loss—that of a loving father and a staunch friend.—R.I.P.

SHERBORNE BELLS.

DETAILS OF RESTORATION WORK.

The following information amplifies the brief report of the restoration and reopening of the bells of Sherborne Abbey given in our last issue :—

The frame has been tightened up carefully all round, and all faulty places made good. The frame was in excellent condition before the bells were taken out, and is sound throughout, including the foundation.

The bells themselves have all been tuned and brought into line as regards their hum notes. The tenor was recast, and now weighs more than the old bell; the old bell weighed 45 cwt. 1 qr., the new bell 46 cwt. 5 lb.

The bells have been fitted throughout with new clappers; the 5th, 6th, 7th and tenor have got balanced clappers, and can all easily be clappered up the right side. Every clapper is also rubber buffered.

The crown staples of the treble, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th have been drilled out and fitted with independent staples; the other bells had already independent staples fitted to them. All the bells have been fitted with new ball bearings, mounted on stout steel foundation plates firmly secured to the top timbers, and through bolted where possible. New garter hole fillets have been fitted to the wheels to give the rope a larger radius.

The work was carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

The recast tenor is a remarkably fine bell in B flat, which has little enough metal for a bell of this note, but the result from a musical point of view is all that can be desired, and the peal throughout are unquestionably now very fine. The 'go' of the bells is remarkable, and quite a few ringers, who had never tackled bells of this weight, on the opening day managed to turn this bell in with ease to Major and Minor.

The bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Sherborne, and a very appropriate address was given on the history of the bells from the pulpit of the Abbey by the Vicar of Sherborne.

The 200 ringers present were hospitably entertained to a meat tea in the Digby Hall after the service. O. S.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION (Continued from previous page).

Mr. C. W. Roberts said he thought, as churchworkers, it would lower their status considerably to go in for anything in the nature of prize-giving and its attendant abuses.

The hon. secretary seconded Mr. Talbot's suggestion, because he thought it would stimulate better ringing.

Mr. T. Price supported the suggestion. He could not see why ringers should not have a competition to encourage an improvement in ringing.

Mr. C. F. Johnston said a competition would be quite an innovation, and there were so many points involved that he thought it would be wise to refer it to a committee to thrash the matter out very carefully before making a recommendation.

Mr. Young hoped the committee would also take into consideration the fact that a competition might lead to the creation of a certain amount of bitterness.

Mr. Reece (Carshalton) thought the committee should also consider the question of a competition for Sunday service ringing, based on the number of attendances and the number of bells rung.

Mr. C. W. Roberts said the Durham and Newcastle Association had an excellent scheme of this kind, in which the six-bell band, ringing Doubles or Minor, had an equal chance with the twelve-bell band ringing Cambridge Maximus.

The suggestion to refer the matter to the committee for report was adopted, and the meeting then terminated.

A 'REAL' STORY ABOUT RINGERS.

Dorothy L. Sayers' book, 'The Nine Tailors,' is remarkable in the manner in which the practical and technical side of change ringing is woven into an entertaining detective story. The book itself must be read in order to appreciate the care that has been given to this side, as the serial version, now appearing in a daily paper, has been much curtailed in this respect.

Subsequent to criticism published in the daily Press, the following letter, sent by Miss Sayers to a ringer, will be of interest to those who are following the story day by day. It speaks eloquently of the trouble taken in presenting a true perspective of the practice and theory of ringing in the form of a popular novel, which, being widely read, must do much to promote a better understanding of our art. Miss Sayers says :—

' . . . Thank you very much for your letter. It is good of you to be so indulgent to the floundering efforts of a complete ignoramus to deal with the intricacies of change ringing. It was a very rash thing for me to attempt, but I was fascinated by the idea of the book and invented two excuses for myself—(1) that, so far as I knew, nobody had ever tried (except, perhaps, one) to make sympathetic use of this art in a novel and that it would be a novelty to the general reader; and (2) that whatever I did I couldn't possibly write worse nonsense than has been written by others.

' I am sending you a copy of the complete "Nine Tailors" for the amusement (perhaps the derision!) of your local bellringers. You will see that the technical terms are exploited throughout in the chapter-headings, etc., and that there are a lot more bellringing details and no doubt thousands more errors than in the serial version. I will beg you not to be too hard on me, for I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me! I must explain that I started work in almost complete ignorance, except that I did know the difference between ringing and chiming, which is more than most people do. But I bought a copy of old Troyte's little manual, and I toiled over it till I could write out on paper a complete touch of Graudsire Triples or Kent Treble Bob Major from the course-ends and observation calls—I did, indeed!

' I find that the effect of the book on the "man in the street" has been, as a rule, to make him feel that there must, after all, be "something more in" change ringing than the deliberate production of a prolonged and offensive noise—and if I've succeeded in getting that idea over it is perhaps a little bit to the good, especially as one is always seeing ill-tempered grumbles from people who complain that bells are a nuisance. . . . A certain number of "licences" are, as you realise, due to the fact that I was writing a detective story. Lord Peter had to be relieved of his bell for a bit, so that he could walk out and observe the untimely light in a cottage window, and so forth. . . .

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT.

The meeting at St. Mary's Church, Finchley, on Saturday, March 3rd, attracted quite a number of ringers, including several experts who desired to get some six-bell practice. Ringing commenced at 3 o'clock, and until five hardly a minute was wasted. The Rector (the Rev. S. F. L. Bernays) conducted the service and preached a very fine sermon (not about bells). A very nice tea was arranged, about 40 sitting down, with the Rector presiding.

Before the business meeting the Rector had to leave. Prior to doing so he found an opportunity of welcoming to association to Finchley and expressing his pleasure at seeing such a large company of ringers. He added that when at Stanmore he had been able to augment the six bells to eight; he hoped some day that they would have two more bells at Finchley.

The hon. secretary (Mr. C. T. Coles) asked members to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector. He said that clergymen who put in new bells at one church had their names written very small on the scroll of fame, but clergymen who added new bells at two churches had their names written very large on the scroll.

There was general laughter at this, in which the Rector joined, and the vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Subsequently, at the business meeting, four members were elected, including E. A. Barnett, of Crayford, and A. S. Richards, of West Wickham, whose provisional elections prior to ringing the 'boys' peal at St. Olave's Church, Hart Street, City, in December last, was confirmed. The hon. secretary took occasion to congratulate this young band on a fine performance.

It was announced that the annual general meeting would be held at Ealing on April 21st, and that the Bishop of Willesden had promised to attend.

Northaw was chosen for the next district meeting, on May 5th or 12th, it being coincident with the jubilee of the bells.

The business meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all who had helped in making the meeting a pleasant one. Whilst some of the party rang several touches on the handbells, others visited the tower, where ringing in a great variety of methods continued until nearly 9 o'clock.

WEM BELLS RESTORED.



The 15th century tower at Wem, Salop.

The bells in the 15th century tower at Wem, Shropshire, have just been restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. The old oak frame has been strengthened with steel girders, which now anchor it to the tower walls. The bells have been rehung on ball bearings, one-eighth turned and provided with new fittings.

The reopening service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. P. R. Turner) and the sermon preached by the Rev. F. Brighton. Among those who rang on this occasion were Messrs. G. Cowley (captain),

F. A. Barnett (treasurer), J. Ravenscroft, W. J. Simpson, J. Grocott, R. Jones, E. Ralphs, V. Challinor and H. Stephens (Wem), H. Vickers (Moreton Corbet), W. Lycett, T. Price, F. Price, T. Williamson and G. Berry (Hodnett).

The six original bells were cast by Thomas Rudhall, of Gloucester, in 1768. They were restored and augmented to eight by the addition of two trebles to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The first peal on them was rung on May 7th, 1898.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

READING BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Reading on February 24th. During the afternoon the bells of St. Giles', St. Mary's and St. Laurence's were kept going, touches in the usual standard methods being rung.

A well-attended service was held at St. Laurence's, conducted by the Rev. C. E. Wigg, of High Wycombe, the Deputy Master of the Guild, who gave an appropriate address. The lesson was read by the Rev. St. G. Edwards, of Checkendon, while the organ was played by Mr. S. Lodge, one of the ringers of St. Laurence's tower. Tea and business meeting followed at St. Mary's Church House, at which 65 members attended, including visitors from Abingdon, Bucklebury, Newbury, Oxford, Slough, Swindon and Yateley.

The chair was taken by Dr. Leonard Joyce (chairman of the branch), supported by the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Mr. A. J. Wright (hon. treasurer), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (hon. general secretary), and the hon. secretary and treasurer of the branch (Mr. E. G. Foster).

Before the business of the meeting commenced the Chairman referred to the great loss the Guild and the branch had sustained since the last annual meeting by the death of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn. He also referred to the death of two ringing members, Mr. G. White, of Henley, and Mr. Barnes, of Tilehurst, and the members present stood in silence in respect of their memories.

The balance sheet was read and adopted, and the secretary reported another successful year. The number of towers and members was practically the same, while the balance in hand, although less than last year, was considered satisfactory, the secretary explaining the reason for the reduction. The secretary also reported on the very successful quarterly meetings which had been held at Shiplake, Nettlebed and Tilehurst.

All the officers were unanimously re-elected, viz.: Dr. L. Joyce, chairman; Mr. E. G. Foster, hon. secretary and treasurer; Mr. A. W. Wiggins and Mr. A. Cullum, auditors; Messrs. Humfrey, Runham and Swain, representatives to the Oxford Guild General Committee.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings at Checkendon, Mortimer and Henley.

Satisfactory reports were received from most of the towers in the branch, regular attendance and good Sunday ringing having been maintained.

The meeting was then addressed by the chairman, who drew the attention of all present to a new book just published, 'The Nine Tailors,' which he thought was certainly written by someone with a knowledge of bellringing and worth reading.

The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. Wigg, Mr. A. J. Wright and Mr. R. T. Hibbert. Regret was expressed at the absence of Canon Coleridge, and the secretary was instructed to send a letter of sympathy with a hope for a speedy recovery.

The secretary was also instructed to write to the B.B.C. expressing appreciation of their action in substituting bellringing records in place of the usual 'tick-tock' signals.

Votes of thanks were passed to all those who had helped in various ways in making the meeting the success it was.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.

A very pleasant quarterly meeting of North Bucks Branch was held at Great Brickhill on Saturday, March 3rd, when quite a good number attended, even more than was expected, as this place lies rather wide of the beaten track. A good ringing practice helped to make the meeting a success. A short service had been arranged by the Rev. D. R. James, Rector of Great Brickhill, and the address given by the Rev. J. F. Amies, Vicar of Weston Underwood. The latter is a ringer, and, keeping away from the subject of bells, substituted 'Loyalty'—loyalty to the Church, to the Guild and to the tower.

Tea had been provided at the Village Hotel, where about 40 sat down to tea.

The chairman of the branch (the Rev. H. Adeane Byard, Vicar of Newport Pagnall) presided at the business meeting, at which several discussions took place on matters that were of interest to the branch. The usual votes of thanks concluded a very enjoyable meeting. Ringing ranged from Grandsire and Stedman Doubles to Cambridge Minor.

PEALS OF MINOR.

THE BANKES JAMES ARRANGEMENT.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Two and a half centuries ago Fabian Stedman, in one of his books, wrote a very profound truth. 'Though,' he said, 'change ringing is a real thing, the notions by which it is reduced to practice are not so.' What he meant was that the real things in change ringing take place in the mind of the ringer, or, in other words, the thing is abstract.

It is, I say, a profound truth; so profound that to most people it is quite unintelligible; for few persons are capable by nature or training of appreciating anything abstract. And small blame to them. For you can go through life and know all you need to know about business and art and science without consciously troubling yourself about anything abstract.

But now and then, at long intervals, you do come across questions which, if you really want to know the truth about, you must be prepared to try and understand abstract things. Such questions will meet you when you are dealing with the fundamentals of change ringing, for unless you understand the real nature of our science and art you are little likely to be able to solve correctly the problems that arise out of it.

We are divided as to whether the individual 720's in the Bankes James Cambridge Minor are true extents or not. There are some people, for whose abilities I have the greatest respect, who argue like this: 'If I start with 123456 and from it write out rows according to the Bankes James composition, when I reach the 720th row I shall have written out the total number of possible rows without any repetition whatever. Does not that prove that the 720 is a true extent? What other proof can you have than that you should have all the possible rows and none twice?'

The argument seems unanswerable, and so it is, so long as you look at the matter in the way these people do. Nothing that can be advanced will shake it. It is only when we view their position with the wide vision of Fabian Stedman that we can see that it is radically unsound. For they are not dealing with the 'real' thing which is change ringing, but with one of 'the notions by which it is reduced to practice,' which is not real. They are assuming that writing out rows of figures on paper is the same thing as change ringing. But it is not. Figures on paper have neither part nor lot in change ringing. They are only symbols which, in a very imperfect way, serve to express some parts of change ringing.

The actual use of rows of figures by the Exercise is very much less than one might at first suppose. The great majority of ringers never use them at all, and of those that do practically all use them, not as rows, but as a means by which they can construct a skeleton course, either actual or mental. It is not the rows that you take with you into the tower when you go to ring, but the skeleton course. Even the proof of peals is done by formulae, by course-ends and Q sets, and scarcely ever by actual rows.

And behind all is the 'real' thing which is change ringing. Change ringing is movement of the bells according to a pre-arranged plan and with the proviso that during the movement the bells shall not fall twice into the same order. That is the idea which actually and historically created our art, which developed it, and which still controls it. From the nature of the case this movement is governed by a rigid mathematical science analogous to geometry. It is movement which necessarily is cyclical; that is, it is always working from a point, round towards that point again and nothing is finished until the bells return to where they started from. It consists of a definite number of steps and these steps are the things that matter. We call them hunting and place making and dodging and snapping and leading and lying and the rest. It is the steps that you must count, not the number of times the bells strike. You could ring a six-score of Grandsire Doubles in whole pulls (as used to be customary)—you have only rung a six-score (and a true one), though the bells may have struck 250 times or more.

Now, with these ideas in our mind, let us look at the first 720 in the Bankes James Cambridge. The bells start from 123456, and the first step brings them to 214365. That is No. 1, for until you reach it you have only done one thing, and till then you have not begun to ring Cambridge. The 719th step brings us to 143265. We have now been in every possible position and only want to take one step more to bring us home and finish our job. But that step we cannot take. We are in sight of home, but between us and it is a deep ditch which we may not jump. If we turn to the right hand or the left we shall tread on ground over which we have already been. And since the last, essential, step cannot be taken we cannot say that we have completed the extent. We cannot say that we have completed anything. We are brought sharply to a full stop with no way to turn unless we have repetition.

The problem is not a new one. It arose and was answered definitely years ago, so far as Grandsire Triples and Bob Major are concerned. The principle on which these 720's are composed is as old as the 18th century. By using bobs only you can write out 5,040 rows of Grandsire Triples, just as these 720 rows of Cambridge are written out. And by using bobs only you can write out 6,720 rows of Bob Major with 7-8 together. You will find the compositions in the standard ringing books. But the Exercise has definitely and finally decided that a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triples with

common bobs only is not possible; and that a true and complete 6,720 of Bob Major with 7-8 together with bobs only is not possible.

What is new is the question whether in a peal of Minor we are necessarily tied down to using full extents only. Is it possible to use other units and yet be thoroughly loyal to those principles of truth and completeness which lie at the base of all our peal ringing? I think it is possible and I think the Bankes James Cambridge shows that it is so. But let us be honest in the matter. It is futile to pretend that it consists of seven extents. It does not. It is made up of other units, which together equal seven extents. Here you have a development of Minor ringing which may be of great use. Why not try and investigate its possibilities? In any case the Cambridge cannot stand alone. Its claims are the same, no greater and no less, than the Morris Doubles and the Turner Treble Bob.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

MR. JOYCE'S CHALLENGE.

Dear Sir,—I can assure my friend Mr. Joyce that it was no wish of mine that caused the principle underlying to be deeply shadowed. It was so much in the 'deep shadow' in his first letter that it was missed altogether by another correspondent, who thus made the mistake of 'putting Mr. Joyce right,' for which he has suffered a quite unmerited rebuke.

However, to get down to the 'principle underlying,' I am not disposed to contradict Mr. Joyce as to what constitutes a lead of a method; as a matter of fact, I have never stated anything different. But surely he must admit that something more is necessary. Mr. Joyce is an expert on Minor methods, but even he would not know Surfleet Surprise from Hexham Surprise, or Primrose from Cambridge, without the back stroke row at the lead-end. There are many other instances where a method cannot be distinguished from its mate without that row. If Mr. Joyce would like a different name put in instead of Norfolk for the method in the twelve-method peal, perhaps he will say so—I do not mind. Whatever the names, there were twelve entirely different methods rung; I wonder if the many multi-method peals of Surprise Minor can show such distinctive differences in the methods said to have been rung. Personally, I very much doubt it.

However, there is a much more important point in Mr. Joyce's argument. I cannot admit that anything said above has any bearing on the 'Minor controversy.' In my opinion, a method consists of so many 'rows,' starting with rounds, but ringing consists of the changes produced by these rows, always one row more than the number of changes. In ringing, we ring two rows to make one change, three rows to make two changes, and so on, thus making it necessary to exclude the first row of the 721 (as a change), and to include the final row (the 720th change). Our first change is, therefore, at hand stroke (when rounds is departed from), and our last change is rounds at the end. As the 720th change of the Bankes James peal is not rounds, the 720 (as such) is not complete, and it contains a repetition. By this I do not imply that the whole peal of 5,040 changes is false, except in so far as all peals of Minor are false. In my opinion, it is as true as any peal of Minor that has ever been rung, but not because of Mr. Joyce's UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE, or because my friends and I did not elect to call some particular lead in our twelve-method peal by the name of 'Timbuctoo' instead of 'Norfolk.'

Before closing, I should like to thank Mr. Joyce for his handsome acknowledgment of the merit attached to ringing the peal he has brought under notice.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park, E.4.

'EXTENTS.'

Dear Sir,—I did not imply, as Mr. Drake contends, that there was any law which necessitated ringing beginning with an even number of rounds. I expressly stated, to the contrary, that a peal would be just as correct if changes commenced at a back stroke.

What I implied was that peals do begin with an even number of rounds, for I, personally, have never heard of one which began with an odd number.

What I wish to emphasise is that two rows of rounds are not necessary at the start and finish of a peal in order to make it complete.

The meaning of the word 'complete' as applied to a composition simply means that it finished at the same point as it began, and it needs only one row of rounds at each end to do so.

Mr. Drake, in his definition No. 1, states that 'an extent is the full number of changes which can be rung on a fixed number of bells.'

No one can possibly quarrel with that, but Mr. Drake now states that if people ring peals of Minor with only one row of rounds between the extents, 'they will have to recognise that they are ringing incomplete extents.' Mr. Drake does not, however, explain how seven 'incomplete' 720's have all these years managed to aggregate 5,040 changes. One would suppose that they would total something less than that number.

I fully appreciate that this is not necessarily Mr. Drake's personal opinion, but a definition which lays down such an erroneous rule cannot possibly be tolerated.

I am afraid that I cannot accept Mr. Drake's invitation to re-frame the definition, as I submit that the completeness of an extent is a mathematical fact which needs no man-made rule to support it.

H. G. CASHMORE.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT DUDLEY.**

The annual meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at Dudley on Saturday, March 3rd, in ideal spring weather, the attendance being between 80 and 90. The ten bells were at the disposal of the members, and were kept going in various methods until the service in the Parish Church, which was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Dr. A. P. Shepherd), who is also president, and gave an interesting address. After the service an adjournment was made to the Parish Hall, where a bounteous tea was in readiness, provided from funds collected by the secretary (Mr. H. Sheppard) from prominent ladies and gentlemen from St. Thomas' congregation and other friends. The following ladies presided at the tables: Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Barry (wives of the churchwardens), Miss A. S. Payne, Miss C. J. Payne and Miss Bessie Sheppard. The ringers' wives and other friends kindly undertook to prepare and serve the tea, to which, it is needless to say, that full justice was done. The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, supported by Messrs. T. W. Watson (Vicar's warden), W. Barry (people's warden), H. Sheppard (secretary), S. J. Hughes (treasurer), and J. Goodman, jun. (Ringing Master). The Chairman welcomed all those present, and said that the large attendance showed a real interest in bellringing all round the district. Mr. T. Watson (churchwarden) also welcomed the company to Dudley on behalf of himself and his co-warden, Mr. Barry. The elections of officers for the ensuing year then took place. Mr. B. Gough (Coseley) proposed the election of the Vicar of Dudley as president, and Mr. S. J. Hughes, in seconding, thanked the Vicar for his kindness and support during the last year.—The motion having been carried by acclamation, the President thanked the members for the honour they had again conferred on him, and said he would do all he possibly could for the benefit of the Guild.

The following vice-presidents were elected en bloc: Rev. E. L. Warren (Vicar of Netherton), Dr. P. S. Blaker, Messrs. W. Shuttleworth, Harry Mason, J. W. Nayler, O. E. Lloyd, A. E. Meredith, Arthur Spittle, A. Winbow, H. W. Watson, with the addition of Mr. W. Barrey. It was also decided to ask the Rev. A. L. Chapman, the new Vicar of Tipton, to become a vice-president. Mr. B. Gough then proposed Mr. John Goodman, jun., as Ringing Master, but the latter rather hesitated to accept the office again, saying that he felt he had not the time to attend to the duties satisfactorily.—Mr. Hughes, who seconded, said he hoped that Mr. Goodman would continue, as he thought that the Ringing Master should come from the Dudley belfry.—Mr. Goodman eventually decided to serve again, and said that this would be his 16th year in that office.

Mr. H. Sheppard was again chosen as secretary. Mr. S. J. Hughes was re-elected hon. treasurer, and the hon. auditors, Messrs. T. Justice (Bilston) and T. A. Townsend (Netherton) were also re-elected and thanked for their services.

Several new members were added to the roll, and it was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Wimbourne or Penn if the usual permission can be obtained. The annual peal arrangements were left with the Ringing Master.

Mr. Hughes said that he thought a small presentation should be given to Mr. Goodman for the work he did for the Guild during the time he has been Ringing Master. The secretary spoke in support of the suggestion, adding that Mr. Goodman had not received anything that he was entitled to towards the expenses of carrying out his duties, and he thought he should receive some remuneration.—It was eventually agreed that an honorarium of two guineas be granted.

The balance sheet, showing a good balance, was duly passed. The Guild still holds its own, the membership, both honorary and performing members, keeping up to the average.

Mr. Gough proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to the Vicar of Dudley for his kindness and interest in giving permission to hold the meeting at Dudley, also for conducting the service, for his address, for the use of the tower and bells and for presiding at this meeting; to the wardens for their presence and support; to the ladies for presiding at the tables, and to those who prepared and served the tea; also to the organist for the musical part of the service. Special thanks were given also to the donors to the tea fund.

The Vicar responded on behalf of all concerned.

Several members again returned to the belfry and kept the bells merrily going until 9 o'clock.

THE LATE MR. J. N. FROSSELL.

The funeral of the late Mr. James N. Frossell, of Kingston-on-Thames, took place on Friday morning at the Kingston Cemetery, Norbiton. Mr. and Mrs. Crofts (cousins) were the only family mourners. Others present were Mr. J. Howes, Mr. H. Duffield and Mr. J. H. Howes (members of the Kingston band) and Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking). The only wreath placed on the coffin was one from his ringing friends.

Mr. Frossell, whose wife predeceased him some years ago, would have been 78 years of age had he lived to the end of this month.

On Friday evening the bells of All Saints' Church, Kingston, were rung half-muffled to the memory of the late Mr. Frossell by the remaining members of the local band, assisted by Mr. F. G. Goddard, of Isleworth. They were also rung half-muffled on Sunday morning for service ringing.

NOTICES.

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

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SUFFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Woodbridge on March 17th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. each, at St. Mary's House, at 3.30 p.m. Meeting follows.—H. Drake, Ufford Rectory.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District meeting at Shere, Saturday, March 17th. Bells at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Guildford.

BARWELL, LEICS.—The reopening of the ring of eight bells restored by John Taylor and Co. will take place on Saturday, Mar. 17th. Service at 3 p.m. Preacher, Rev. R. P. Farrow, M.A., Rector of Stoney Stanton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Bacup, on Saturday, March 17th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Business important.—J. Bracewell, Hon. Sec., 8, Regent Street, Bacup.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting will be held at Sharnbrook on Saturday, March 17th. Bells (nice peal of six) ready early. You are heartily welcome. Just a card for tea, please, which is at 5 o'clock.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Beds.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Northill on Saturday, March 17th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. Please come and let us have a good meeting.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bispham Parish Church (eight bells) on March 17th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 4.30. Subscriptions due.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool, S.S.

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—The first 1934 general meeting will be held at Whittlesea, near Peterborough, on Saturday, March 17th. Bells (Taylor's eight, "nuff said") 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. The postman wants a rise; make him busy. To our friends who find Whittlesea too far, come to Sutton on March 14th, 5.45 p.m. A real welcome awaits you. We ring and talk; talk and ring; and, say it quietly, we follow Troyte, we adjourn.—F. Warrington, Mill Road, Over, Cambs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne (12), on Saturday, March 17th. Tower open for ringing at 6 p.m.—D. Brown, Hon. Sec.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting will be held at East Markham to-morrow (Saturday) March 17th. Bells ready from 2.30 p.m. Please look up Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. Please notify the hon. secretary if you require tea.—R. W. Stockdale, Hon. Sec., c/o W. J. Bowmay, East Markham, Newark.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society).—March-April meetings at St. Clement Danes', Strand, W.C. Practices: March 19th at 7.30 p.m., April 9th at 7 p.m., April 23rd at 7.30 p.m.; also at St. Mary's, Lambeth Palace, March 27th, at 8 p.m. Quarterly meeting, St. Clement's, April 9th, at 8.15 p.m.—Chas. O. Moore, Hon. Gen. Sec., 7, Camberwell Station Road, S.E.5.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 20th and St. Magnus' on the 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, March 24th. Bells (10) at the Abbey available afternoon and evening. Service in the Abbey at 4 o'clock; preacher, the Vicar. Tea 1s. 6d. per head. Please advise Mr. J. W. Hall, 9, Westbourne Road, Selby, by March 22nd. Business meeting immediately after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—A meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held at Birkenhead (St. Mary's) on Saturday, March 24th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Six bells. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards. A good meeting is requested.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual nomination meeting will be held at Bramley (St. Peter's) on Saturday, March 24th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) will be provided for all who notify Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warreis Avenue, Bramley, Leeds, by March 22nd. All towers are requested to be represented.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Berkeley on March 24th. Bells (10) open at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea afterwards. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Fussell, Fortfields, Dursley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A meeting at Caxton on Saturday, March 24th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Church Hall at 5 o'clock, price 1s. each.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Come and join the bright young people at Chalfont St. Peter (6 bells) on Saturday, March 24th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 1s. per head for those who notify me not later than March 19th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The March meeting will be held at Bulkington on Saturday, March 24th. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Tea provided.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., Green Ways, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HASTINGS AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Salehurst on Saturday, March 24th. Tower open 3 o'clock. All ringers are welcome.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Sec., 238, Priory Road, Hastings.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting will be held at Stanford-on-Soar on Saturday, March 24th. Bells (8) will be available from 3.30 p.m.—D. S. Collins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The management committee meeting and the general annual meeting will be held at Cirencester on Easter Monday, April 2nd. **THE DAVIES MEMORIAL**.—The dedication of the memorial to the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies will take place on Saturday, May 19th. The Memorial Chapel and the retuned and augmented peal of bells will be dedicated at the one service. We ask the co-operation of all ringers and friends by their attendance.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 46, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 54th annual general meeting will be held at Maidstone on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Committee meeting in All Saints' vestry at 11 a.m. Association service at 12 noon. Luncheon in the Corn Exchange at 1 p.m., followed by business meeting. The following towers will be open during the day: All Saints', Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), West Malling (8), Aylesford (8), Barming (6), East Farleigh (6), Boxley (6), and Bearstead (6). Application for luncheon tickets (1s. each to practising members, 3s. to non-members, including moderate refreshment) must be made to the undersigned before first post, Wednesday, March 28th. Remittance must accompany application.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Leicester, on Easter Monday. Bells of St. Margaret's (12), Cathedral (10), St. John's (10), St. Saviour's (8) open from 11 a.m. during day (except short intervals for weddings, etc.). Committee meet 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. (1s. 9d. per head) at Victoria Hotel, near Midland Station. General meeting follows. Convivial evening at Star Hotel, Clock Tower, 7 p.m. onwards. Tea will not be reserved unless notification is sent to Mr. E. H. Bagworth, 36, Turner Road, Leicester, before Thursday, March 29th.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Seaton on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Service, Parish Church, at 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.10 at the Geisha Cafe. Bells (6) 2.30, also Luppitt (6) and Ottery St. Mary (8). All ringers are very welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

LADIES' GUILD (Northern District) **AND SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY**.—A joint meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 2nd, at Rotherham Parish Church. Bells (10) available from 10.30 a.m.

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(not 10 a.m.). Tea at 4.30 p.m., price 1s. each. It is important that those requiring tea should notify Mrs. Ryder, 19, Middle Lane South, Rotherham, by Wednesday, March 28th. All ringers and friends welcome.—S. N. Cawthorne and M. E. Wilson, Dis. Hon. Secs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in the Parish Hall. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, March 27th. All ringers welcome.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bonvilston, near Cardiff, on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Bells (6) available. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—John W. Jones, Sec., Cartref, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 2.15 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, D.D., to whom a presentation will be made to celebrate his 25 years as president. Service with address by the Dean in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5.30 p.m. for those who notify me before Wednesday, March 28th. Bells available: Cathedral (12) 12.20 to 2, St. John-in-Bedwardine (8), All Saints' (10), St. Nicholas' (6), and St. Swithin's (6). Subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained in St. Helen's Church House between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.—J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec., Sheepcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, April 2nd. Ringing at Cathedral at 12 noon, St. Peter's 2 p.m., St. Stephen's and St. Michael's by arrangement. Service in the Cathedral at 4.30 p.m., with an address by the Rev. Earnshaw Smith, Vicar of Watford. Meat tea in the Abbey Institute after service, followed by the Annual Meeting for the election of officers, etc. Please let me know whether you intend to take tea. This is very important.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

DEVON GUILD.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Oakford on Saturday, April 7th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Transport can be arranged from either Tiverton or Bampton for visitors if notification is sent to me by Saturday, March 31st (latest date), also for tea. Bampton bells also available.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silvertown, near Exeter.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual General Committee Meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, April 7th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual dinner of the Gloucester Branch will be held on Saturday, April 14th, at the Spread Eagle Hotel, at 6 p.m. Full details later.—W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, Railway Terrace, Lydney, Glos.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Leeds on Saturday, April 14th. Tower open for ringing

at 3 o'clock. Service at 5, followed by tea (free) and business meeting. All ringers welcome. Please notify me early.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

BRIGHTON.—Ringers visiting Brighton for the Easter Conference of the N.U.T. are asked to communicate with S. E. Armstrong, 1b, Chester Terrace, Brighton.

THE ADDRESS of Mr. W. H. Fussell is now 19, Farnham Avenue, Slough.—Mr. R. H. Bullen has removed to 1, Sandpit Road, Braintree, Essex.

IN MEMORIAM.

SHEPPARD.—Treasured memories of a dearly loved wife and mother, Mary Ann, who passed peacefully on March 18th, 1931. Sadly missed by her husband (Herbert), daughters (Bessie and Mildred), and son and daughter-in-law (Cyril and Muriel, South Africa).

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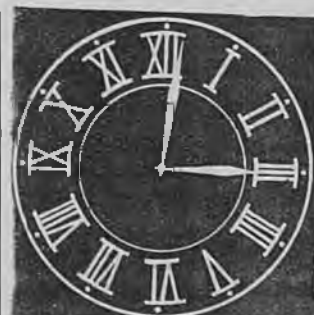
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ASHFORDBY.—At All Saints' Church, on March 4th, for evening service, a 720 of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Cook (conductor) 1, R. Aley 2, R. Looker 3, H. Aley 4, E. Lomas 5, H. Ball 6.

MARKET DEEPING, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Sunday, March 4th, for evensong, 720 York Surprise: A. E. Sneath 1, H. M. Day 2, W. Clark 3, T. A. Cooper 4, J. O. Landan 5, W. A. Day 6. First 720 in the method by ringers of 3 and 6.



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