THE RINGING WORLD

No. 1,364. Vol. XXXIV. FRIDAY, APRIL 14th, 1939. [Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.] Price 3d.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE ANALYSIS.

The vagaries of peal ringing show themselves every year in the Peals Analysis and few definite conclusions can be drawn from a detailed comparison between one year and the next. It is only when taken over a series of years that it is possible to form any worthwhile judgment upon the advance that is being made. In any one year the activities of a single band may influence the tables unduly in some particular direction, and may lead to a false idea of individual relationships such, for instance, as the growth or loss of popularity of any method or group of methods. In this way, too, it is easy to be misled by such statistics as those relating to the number of people who have rung a peal in (for them) a fresh method or on a different number of bells. In this category in 1937, 1,240 were included, a decrease of 194 compared with the previous year. In 1938 the number rose by 84 to 1,324. This, in itself, however, is little guide to the progress of the Exercise as a whole, when, for example, one band rang fourteen Major methods for the first time, and in these peals alone added 112 to this particular total. It is a tribute to these ringers' skill and capacity, but it does not necessarily indicate that the Exercise in general is advancing. Again, these figures may include such things as a first peal of Minor by a band who have rung dozens of peals in the same method on eight, ten or even twelve bells. There was a time, perhaps, when these particular statistics did indicate a measure of general progress, but to-day they are largely the result of individual ambitions achieved, down, as well as up, the scale. That does not make them uninteresting, but goes to prove our point that, taken from one year to another, too much weight should not be attached to details of this description.

There is one direction, however, in which the tables show us that ringing has improved little in recent years and that is in the number of peals of Doubles rung in one method. Even allowing for the restricted field on five bells, it is surely a sign of lack of enterprise when in each of the last three years, and perhaps longer, the peals of Doubles have included over sixty per cent. rung in only one method, and the bulk of these, also, rung in towers where there are six bells. It seems a reflection on those who ring these peals that so many of them seldom get beyond a peal in one method and do not do more peal ringing, when the opportunity occurs, in Minor methods. It cannot be said that the limitations are imposed by the desire to enable ringers to score their first peal, because examination of the individual performances shows that a great many of these peals have no claim

(Continued on page 230.)

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to include a 'first peal.' A peal of Doubles in one method may be a useful first step, but it would seem that there are too many ringers content to stay on this first rung of the ladder instead of using it as a starting point to reach higher things. There is a striking lack of initiative and enthusiasm in the men who are content to stick at one method of Doubles when they have six bells at their disposal.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LONDON.
THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
On Saturday, April 1, 1939, in Three Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;
Tenor 28¾ cwt.

HARRY SEAR...	...*Treble*	THOMAS BEVAN	7
JOHN W. CORNFORD	2	ARTHUR J. W. HUGHES ...	8
MRS. C. J. MATTHEWS ...	3	*THOMAS H. FRANCIS	9
ARTHUR RADLEY	4	WALTER SEAR	10
GEORGE H. CROSS	5	GEORGE W. STEERE... ...	11
GEORGE RADLEY	6	CECIL J. MATTHEWS ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.
* First peal of Stedman Cinques.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Three Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

ALFRED E. PITSTOW ...	...*Treble*	LEONARD E. PITSTOW... ...	7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ...	2	WILLIAM J. BROWN	8
GEORGE R. PYE	3	FREDERICK W. HOUSDEN ...	9
HOBART E. SMITH	4	JOHN W. WARD	10
GEORGE A. FLEMING	5	WALTER AYRE	11
HAROLD N. PITSTOW	6	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD ...	...*Tenor*

§ Composed by G. E. SYMONDS. Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY.
First peal of Maximus on the bells.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)
On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 31 cwt.

FRED HAYES	...*Treble*	*WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM ...	7
WILLIAM HENLEY	2	†REV. R. F. R. ROUTH ...	8
RALPH COLES	3	†PERCY NEWTON	9
*WILLIAM WELLING	4	HARRY WINGROVE	10
GEORGE MARTIN	5	J. HOWARD FREEBORN ...	11
JOSEPH S. HAWKINS	6	F. DONALD BORHAM...	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by FRED HAYES.
* First peal of Maximus. † First peal on twelve. First peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus as conductor.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.
THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, April 8, 1939, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, E.C.,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

RONALD H. DOVE... ...	...*Treble*	ERNEST W. FURBANK	6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ...	2	ARTHUR B. WIFFEN	7
PHILIP A. CORBY...	3	EDWARD D. SMITH	8
MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK...	4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... ...	9
ERNEST J. KING	5	FRANK E. DARBY	...*Tenor*

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by P. A. CORBY.
First ten-bell peal as conductor.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 23 cwt.

*WILLIAM F. J. COPE...	...*Treble*	‡FREDERICK OLDROYD...	... 6
CHARLES HAZELDEN	... 2	§SIDNEY BREEZE ...	 7
RAYMOND PHILPOTT ...	... 3	C. ERNEST SMITH	 8
SIDNEY ELTON	... 4	REGINALD A. REED ...	... 9
†THOMAS E. DENYER ...	... 5	FREDERICK W. ROGERS	...*Tenor*

Composed by G. H. CROSS. Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.

* First peal of Treble Bob and of Royal. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal. ‡ First peal on ten bells. § First peal of Royal. First peal of Treble Ten as conductor.

PRESTON, LANCS.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;
Tenor 24½ cwt. in D.

KENNETH HALL	...*Treble*	JOHN BOOTH	... 6
JOHN JACKSON	... 2	HAROLD DAVIES	... 7
E. ROGER MARTIN ...	... 3	GEORGE F. BRADLEY ...	... 8
FRED RIGBY	... 4	JAMES W. GROUNDS ...	... 9
ALFRED BLOGG	... 5	CHARLES SHARPLES ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (154). Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

First peal of Grandsire Caters for all except ringers of 6, 9 and tenor. First peal of Grandsire Caters on the bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WEST DIDSBURY, MANCHESTER.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 1, 1939, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5188 CHANGES;
Tenor 17⅞ cwt.

JAMES FERNLEY	...*Treble*	*JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER	... 5
REV. FRANK BONNER ...	... 2	JAMES A. MILNER	 6
ERNEST BENNETT ...	... 3	ALBERT FORD ...	 7
ALFRED W. FROST ...	... 4	HAROLD JONES ...	... ...*Tenor*

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by ERNEST BENNETT.

* First peal in the method 'inside.' Rung as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. W. H. Bishop, M.A.

FINCHINGFIELD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 1, 1939, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

MRS. J. H. CRAMPION...	...*Treble*	PERCY GREEN	 5
ERNEST W. FORBANK...	... 2	JOHN G. NASH	 6
ERIC J. COE	... 3	ARTHUR H. EVERETT ...	... 7
ERNEST W. PYE	... 4	JOHN H. CRAMPION	...*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by J. H. CRAMPION.

KING'S NORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, April 2, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 21 cwt.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	...*Treble*	WILLIAM A. WOOD	 5
ALFRED BALLARD... ...	... 2	CHARLES MARSHALL ...	... 6
CECIL E. CARR	... 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD	... 7
W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON ...	4	ARTHUR DEBENHAM	...*Tenor*

Composed by E. C. GOBEY. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD

The first peal of Treble Bob on the bells. Specially arranged as a 79th birthday compliment to Mrs. Debenham, mother of the tenor ringer. Also a birthday compliment to Mrs. W. A. Wood and Mr. C. W. Ballard.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, April 3, 1939, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,
A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

HORACE BELCHER ...	...*Treble*	†ERNEST W. PYE...	 5
HARRY HOSKINS... ...	... 2	JAMES E. DAVIS ...	 6
JOSEPH MARES	... 3	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON...	... 7
*THOMAS H. FRANCIS...	... 4	PHILIP A. CORBY	...*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 154). Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

* First Surprise peal away from the treble. † First peal in the method.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, April 8, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

*GEORGE A. PACKER ...	...*Treble*	JAMES A. MILNER	 5
†HARRY F. HOLDING ...	... 2	WILLIAM FERNLEY	 6
*RICHARD D. LANGFORD	... 3	JAMES H. RIDING	 7
JAMES FERNLEY	... 4	JOHN WORTH... ...	... ...*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method away from treble.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

*WILFRED GOWING ...	...*Treble*	JOHN E. TAYLOR ...	 5
BRYAN O'NEILL	2	CYRIL A. BURGESS	 6
PETER A. BLAMEY, R.A.F.	3	THOMAS J. FOWLER	 7
MARTIN A. BLAMEY, R.A.F.	4	GEORGE GILBERT	... ...*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by CYRIL A. BURGESS.

* First peal of Major. First peal on eight as conductor.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HIGHAM-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 1, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Single Court, Double Court, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob.
Tenor 10½ cwt.

*CYRIL TABERNER ...	...*Treble*	BARNABAS G. KEY	 4
HOWARD HOWELL ...	... 2	†JOSEPH W. COTTON ...	... 5
*WILLIAM H. CURSON	... 3	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ARTHUR E. ROWLEY.

* First peal in seven methods. † First peal 'inside' of seven methods.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, April 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two different extents each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

GEORGE A. NAYLOR ...	...*Treble*	*WALTER H. DOBBIE ...	... 4
ARTHUR S. BOAR ...	... 2	*STANLEY B. DOBBIE ...	... 5
*JOHN E. SPICE	... 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE	...*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

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

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION AT ST. MAGNUS'.

In connection with a special Palm Sunday parade held annually at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, London Bridge, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on Sunday morning: Miss G. E. Alleway 1, E. W. Furbank 2, D. G. Brown 3, C. A. Hughes 4, R. A. Johnson (first quarter on eight) 5, P. A. Corby (conductor) 6, F. W. Alleway 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 8, 1939, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob, two extents of Oxford Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 17 cwt. (approx.).

*IVAN B. GARDINER ...	...*Treble*	REV. FRANK BONNER	4
*JOCELYN B. GARDINER ...	2	C. KENNETH LEWIS	5
THOMAS TAYLOR	3	JOSEPH WHITTAKER ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal in more than one method and first attempt for Treble Bob. Rung on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. J. B. Wood, of the local band, after 55 years of devoted service.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 9, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

STANLEY N. BRISTOW	...*Treble*	GEORGE W. ALDERMAN ...	4
*DOUGLAS B. PARSONS ...	2	*JACK H. MANNING	5
FREDERICK ALDERMAN ...	3	HAROLD BRISTOW ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by FREDERICK ALDERMAN.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung to commemorate the 24th anniversary in the ministry of the Rev. T. L. Bullock at the Parish Church.

LYONSHALL, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 9, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two six-scores of Reverse Canterbury, 10 of Bob Doubles, and 26 six-scores and two 240's of Morris' arrangement of Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

*F. READ, R.M.	*Treble*	†J. BUTLER	4
L. EVANS	2	T. JONES	5
W. PREECE	3	T. BEAVER	...*Tenor*

Conducted by T. JONES.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods. First peal in three methods as conductor. Rung for the Easter festival.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Single Court and Oxford Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

KENNETH THOMASSON	...*Treble*	FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY ...	4
*FRANK BARNARD	2	RICHARD T. HOLDING ...	5
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY ...	3	ALBERT CRAWLEY ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal of Minor. Rung for the christening of Brian Frederick, son of F. H. Crawley and grandson of the conductor.

THORINGTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of one extent each of London, Stamford, Rossendale, Durham, York, Norwich and Cambridge. Tenor 9 cwt. 22 lb. in G.

ALBERT HALES	...*Treble*	VIOLET A. FROST	4
CHARLES A. ANDREWS ...	2	HARRY J. MILLATT	5
ALAN R. ANDREWS	3	GEORGE A. ANDREWS ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

First peal in seven Surprise methods by all and the first peal in seven Surprise methods in the North-Eastern Division of the Association.

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PEAL NOTES.

POINTS ABOUT PERFORMANCES.

Mr. J. W. Cornford 'completed the circle' on the twelve bells at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on April 1st, when he took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques. The tower at Shoreditch has been recently restored at very considerable expense.

By calling a peal of Minor at Milton Regis, Kent, on April 2nd, Mr. G. A. Naylor brought his total up to 50. It was his first peal in four methods as conductor and the first in four methods on the bells, as well as by three of the band.

The custom of attempting a peal at the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge, on Easter Eve, has been kept up for a good many years, and last Saturday a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung there. It was much regretted that Mr. W. H. Fussell, who has frequently made one of the band for this occasion, had not sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to stand in this year's peal. The peal was made a birthday compliment to Joan Darby, the six-year-old daughter of Mr. F. E. Darby, who rang the tenor to the peal.

An early Easter Day peal was rung at Ashbrittle, Somerset, to commemorate the 24th anniversary in the ministry of the Rev. T. L. Bullock at the Parish Church. The peal was rung before morning service and all the ringers are members of the Sunday service band.

The first peal of Maximus at Saffron Walden was rung on Monday. It is 25 years since the bells were made into a ring of twelve. It was a source of regret that Mr. Fred Dench was unable to take part in the peal. He is only just recovering from a serious illness, which has laid him aside for the past two months. He was out on Sunday for the first time.

The first peal of Grandsire Caters on the bells at the Parish Church, Preston, Lancs, was rung on Monday and seven of the band also scored their first peal of Grandsire Caters, although the tenorman (Mr. Charles Sharples) had previously rung an inside bell to Grandsire Cinques, in far off Melbourne.

A peal in seven Surprise Minor methods was rung on Monday at Thorington, Essex. It was notable for the fact that it was the first peal of this kind by all the band, and in the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association, in which all the ringers reside.

For the christening of Brian Frederick, infant son of Mr. F. H. Crawley and grandson of Mr. Albert Crawley, a peal of Minor was rung at Wistaston, Cheshire, on Monday. Three members of the family took part in the peal, including the proud father, who called it.

Mr. J. B. Wood, of Marple, Cheshire, has just retired from ringing after 55 years of devoted service with the local band. A peal of Minor in three methods was rung in his honour on Saturday. Two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were included. Previously Mr. I. B. Gardiner, who rang the treble, had never struck a blow in a Treble Bob method, and Mr. J. B. Gardiner, who rang the second, had never touched Oxford.

Seven Burnham Cumberland Youths and the Oxford Guild Branch Ringing Master (a 'Collegian') rang a peal of Bob Major at Burnham on Monday. It was arranged for the brothers Peter and Martin Blamey, now of the R.A.F., who were home on leave from Cranwell R.A.F. Depot.

Another peal in seven methods was rung at Higham-on-the-Hill on April 1st, when Mr. A. E. Rowley got together a band and revisited his native place. The last peal was rung two years ago as a farewell to Mr. Rowley when he left to take up residence at Ibstock.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PROMISING YOUNG RINGERS.

The Shropshire Association visited Malins Lee on Saturday week, when a company of 30 enjoyed the welcome and hospitality extended by the Malins Lee band and the Rev. T. N. Crowther Green.

Members of the recently-formed Dawley band were present and received some instruction in Grandsire Doubles. Three are still of school age and should learn quickly. Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Oxford Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were rung, members being present from Shrewsbury (St. Chad's), Coalbrookdale, Wellington, Stockton, Moreton Corbet, Madeley and Wolverhampton.

The Rev. T. N. Crowther Green, who is treasurer of the association, conducted the service, and, in welcoming the visitors, spoke of the excellent services rendered to his church by the local band. He appealed to ringers to consider it part of their duty to attend service after ringing an invitation to others.

Tea had been prepared by a ladies' committee, and afterwards a short business meeting was held, at which Sidney Douglas, Peter Nelson and Margaret Nelson (Dawley) and James Ellis (Malins Lee) were elected members.

Correspondence from the Bridgnorth Branch of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was read, in which regrets at their inability to be present was expressed. It was also stated that their next meeting clashed with the Wellington date, but, on hearing that April 29th was the only possible date for Wellington, it was decided to adhere to this arrangement and to arrange a joint meeting later in the year, at Coalbrookdale if possible.

Further ringing in the tower afterwards took place.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE REV. F. J. O. HELMORE.

Annual Meeting Rejects Suggested New Rule.

The Kent County Association, one of the most active and successful of all the ringing organisations, held its annual meeting at Erith on Monday, and members attended in large numbers from all districts. Erith, a newly-constituted borough on the banks of the Thames, has become a busy industrial town and forms part of an area which is fortunate in being well equipped with bells. There was, therefore, no lack of ringing facilities for visitors on Monday, and ringing took place at a number of towers in the morning, as well as in the afternoon and evening after the business meeting.

At noon a service was held in the ancient parish church, with its squat tower, surmounted by a shingled spire. The Vicar (the Rev. R. Thornhill) officiated, the lesson was read by the Mayor of Erith (the Rev. J. W. Wilkinson), and the Archdeacon of Rochester pronounced the Blessing.

The address was given by the Vicar, who began by saying it was a great privilege to welcome the association to the church. He spoke of the team work necessary in religion and to the part which ringers played in it. They were, he said, an essential part of the team in church work. The parson in the church could only appeal to those who were present at the service; the ringers could compel a far larger multitude to listen. The belfry was a kind of 'wayside pulpit' from which they proclaimed their message.

As ringers, continued the Vicar, they supplied the one link with the great traditions and the great legacy left them in the past. In these days of strident mechanical noises, the church bells were the one thing that publicly linked them with the past. He hoped those who heard them ring would often, in this changing world, be compelled to put up the old prayer, 'O Thou who changest not, abide with me.' Ringers, the preacher proceeded, were privileged to have the opportunity of consecrating to God a service which was one of their main interests in life. Ringing was an all-absorbing interest, a science and an art, which was a vocation and a ministry. The object of their service that day was to help them to get their motives right, to get their spirit right, and he hoped they would all be helped by it in their ministry to serve God more faithfully; to work in closer harmony with one another in their united act of witness for God.

Over two hundred sat down to lunch in St. John's Hall, the Mayor presiding, supported by the Archdeacon of Rochester, Canon Ryley (Rochester), the Vicars of St. John's and Christ Church, Erith, Mr. F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary of the association), etc.

After the loyal toast, Mr. E. A. G. Allen gave 'The Archbishop and the Clergy of Kent.' It was due to the clergy, he said, that they were able to run their association, and they were indebted to the clergy for the welcome they were offered and the facilities given them for ringing.

AN ERITH LEGEND.

The Archdeacon of Rochester (who was formerly Vicar of Erith) replied to the toast and spoke of the legend of a bell which was supposed to ring with the rising and falling of the tide in 'Church Hole,' a spot in the Thames near Erith Church. The bell, the legend said, was stolen and dropped into the river. If they wanted to prove the story they could go to Church Hole with grappling irons and fish for the bell (laughter). But if they found it he warned them it would be claimed by the Vicar of Erith Parish Church (laughter). Bell-ringers, continued the Archdeacon, were one great brotherhood and sisterhood; indeed, they were more; they were a family. In Erith they were very proud of the fact that their towerkeeper, Fred Cullum, was the third generation in succession in his family to hold that office: and now his daughter was a ringer (applause). He supposed she held the promise of being towerkeeper in succession to her father (laughter and applause). The Archdeacon concluded by hoping that those gatherings of the association, which had now gone on for more than 50 years, might continue in the future and that they might keep the bells through these critical days ringing out always their message of peace and goodwill (applause).

The hon. secretary proposed the toast of 'The Borough of Erith,' and said they were honoured in having the Mayor with them. They were grateful to him also for having read the lesson at their service. It was many years since such a thing as that had happened.

The Mayor, in reply, welcomed the association to Erith. It was not, he said, the first occasion he had joined them, or their predecessors, at their annual meeting, for he remembered attending such a function in the early 'twenties,' when he was a curate at St. Nicholas', Deptford. The Mayor referred to his own experiences as a 'ringer,' when he pulled a bell at Cliffe at Hooe which lifted him considerably off his feet, and at Christ Church, Deptford, where he often had to chime the single bell. He went on to remind the company of the record peal of 15,072 changes rung at Erith on April 3rd, 1899, in 9 hours 24 minutes, and said he was filled with astonishment that men could keep it up for that length of time. He noticed that the names of the Vicar and churchwardens were on the record, but he did not know what they had to do with it, unless it was that they helped to supply the refreshments (laughter).

The Mayor went on to say he wondered whether the number of ringers was increasing in this present wave of economy, when fewer church towers were going up, and some churches were being only half or even quarter finished, so that towers and steeples and bells seemed not to be arriving in the profuseness of the days of our grandfathers. He hoped the present generation would remember that when they erected churches they should build steeples and put up bells.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADVICE.

The business meeting then proceeded, with the Mayor presiding. Among the apologies for absence was one from Mr. E. H. Lewis, vice-president, who wrote: 'Will you please make my apologies for non-attendance at the annual meeting on Monday. I am intending to spend Easter with my family in Scotland this year, as I see less and less of them as time goes on.

'I should have liked to be with you in order to state my views on the proposal to change the rules, which is forecast in "The Ringing World" of February 17th. I sincerely hope that no change will be made. It seems to me that the proposal arises from a single incident in one district, and that it should be possible to settle any differences in that district by other means. If all the energy spent in quarrelling were spent in teaching beginners, the association would go ahead quickly towards the ideal of full service ringing in every tower in the county. All best wishes to the association for an amicable and fruitful meeting.'

Apologies were also received from Messrs. F. White (Cranbrook) and Stafford Green (Southborough).

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO CANON HELMORE.

The annual report opened with a reference to the death of the late hon. secretary, the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore. The position the association holds to-day, it said, both from its place in the ringing world and its financial stability, is undoubtedly due to the untiring energy and devotion which Canon Helmore showed during the 38 years he held office as hon. secretary. The Belfry Repairs and Benevolent Funds were instituted during his period of office, and have both grown to be in a sound financial position. 'By his cheery disposition, his kindly interest in all, and his devotion to duty he earned the love and respect of all members,' continued the report, 'and we trust the example of his life and work will be an incentive to those who have been deputed to carry on the work and build on the foundation he so firmly set.'

It is proposed to raise a memorial fund to perpetuate the memory of Canon Helmore.

Within a few weeks of our late secretary's passing, another foundation member was called to rest, Mr. Charles Slingsby, who had attained the wonderful age of 101 years. Another link with the past gone—but leaving an example for all to emulate.

With the passing of the older ringers, one is apt to hear at times that the ideals of the association are not upheld by the generations that follow. It can safely be said that the objects of the association are carried out more strongly than ever by the vast majority of its members. The first of our objects is Sunday service ringing and we know that is uppermost in the minds of all ringers. 'Duty to God' surely comes first. Peal ringing is only an effort to perfect ourselves to give of our best to God when we ring the bells for His service.

Let us put aside the personal feelings in such trivial matters that appear to be existing in some quarters and ask ourselves, 'Are we giving our best to God's service?' Let us set a good example to those who are coming along to help us in our work and do all in our power to foster a brotherly spirit and righteously uphold the cause we should have at heart. What better example can we have than by trying to follow in the footsteps of our late dear friend, Canon Helmore?

The report added that there were 121 towers in union, Bexley having joined, but Deptford (S. Nicholas'), Dover (St. James'), Sandhurst and Stouting lapsed for various reasons. The life members totalled 28; honorary members 70. Of practising members exactly 1,000 paid their subscriptions as follows: Adults 933 and juniors 67. Fifteen non-resident life members joined during the year.

Thirty-one quarterly and by-meetings were held during the year, and to the incumbents who conducted the services and made it possible for these meetings to be held grateful thanks were tendered as well as to those who extended hospitality on these occasions.

Owing to the lamented death of Mr. W. Smith, a vacancy in the Lewisham District representation occurred and Mr. E. Barnett was elected to again represent the district. The resignations of Mr. A. Waddington, Maidstone District secretary, and Mr. W. Wenban as representative were received with regret, and Mr. R. G. Rayfield, of Ightham, had been elected secretary, and Mr. W. T. Grice as representative. Best thanks were offered to the retiring officers, especially to Mr. Waddington for his gallant efforts in the district during the past four years.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

One hundred and fifty-one peals were recorded for the association during the past year—nine more than 1937—146 on tower bells and five 'in hand.' The peals were as follows: On 12 bells, 2 (1 'in hand'); on 10 bells, 3 (1 'in hand'); on 8 bells, 119 (2 'in hand'); on 6 bells, 25 (1 'in hand'); on 5 bells, 2. They were rung in 66 towers in Kent and one in London. Handbells, 3 at Brasted and 2

(Continued on next page.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

BENEVOLENT FUND'S PROGRESS.

at Crayford. Twenty-four members rang their first peal and 136 rang their first in a method. The conducting was shared by 51 members; 3 conducted their first peal and 15 the first in the method. One new method has been added to the list of first performances, viz., Painswick Surprise Major.

'It is pleasing to note the progress the youth of the county are making,' added the report, 'not only in the methods rung, but also in conducting. Mr. P. A. Corby, who heads the list of conductors, is a striking example in this direction. Many more young ringers are coming to the fore as conductors than in past years, and this is an encouraging sign, as we shall not have the fears that existed in the past, when the conducting was in the hands of a comparative few.'

The balance sheet of the general fund revealed an excess expenditure over income of nearly £10. This was no cause for alarm, as the extra expense was occasioned by annual and district commitments. It was a clear indication that members were taking a keener interest in the association's affairs by attending the meetings in larger numbers than heretofore. The balance in hand is £61 17s. 6d.

From the Belfry Repairs Fund £5 was paid to Bexley, and the balance in the fund had increased to £144 13s. 6d.

The Benevolent Fund had justified its existence during the year as £38 3s. was distributed to six aged members and two widows. Four of these members could claim between them over 180 years' service for the association, and it was only fitting that in their declining years they should be enabled to obtain a little extra nourishment from a fund which every member must be proud to know the association possesses. So stable had this fund become that it was pleasing to record that nearly the whole of the amount granted was paid out of income during the year, which was again assisted by collections at meetings to the extent of £11 14s. 10d. The balance in this fund is £296 4s. 8d., and the total worth of the association, as shown by the balance sheet, is £983 17s. 7d.

The report and balance sheets were adopted, and the president, vice-presidents and committee re-elected.

On a vote for two trustees, Messrs. F. White and W. J. Jefferies were elected. Mr. E. Barnett being unsuccessful. Mr. G. H. Cross was re-elected auditor and Mr. F. M. Mitchell hon. secretary and treasurer. Appreciation of Mr. Mitchell's work was expressed by Mr. G. A. Ambrose, who proposed his re-election, and by Mr. J. W. Steddy, who seconded.

A ballot took place for four representatives on the Central Council, and at the end of the meeting the Mayor announced that the voting had been as follows: Mr. F. M. Mitchell 130, Mr. G. H. Spice 105, Mr. F. J. Cullum 97, Mr. T. E. Sone 91, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., 75, and he declared the first four elected.

BENEVOLENT FUND AS MEMORIAL.

The hon. secretary submitted a recommendation from the committee that a memorial to the late Rev. F. J. O. Helmore should be provided. He said they all knew what a lot Mr. Helmore did for the association, and the committee thought it was fitting they should institute a memorial fund. They recommended that a fund should be inaugurated, to be known as the 'Helmore Memorial Fund,' and that the whole of the amount raised by subscription should be invested and the interest accruing be paid into the Benevolent Fund of the association, and that the amount, together with any sum necessary, be paid annually from that fund, and be known as the 'Helmore grant,' to an old and deserving member of the association, whose name had been on the books for not less than 25 years, the recipient to be determined by the Benevolent Committee.

Canon Ryley asked to be allowed to second the recommendation, because, he said, there was no one in that hall who knew Mr. Helmore as long as he did. He first made his acquaintance as a small boy in the year 1881. He could see him now in that study at Canterbury, and again later in life with the huge desk with the silver bell in the centre that was presented to him by that association. That was the proudest piece of furniture that Mr. Helmore possessed. His heart was in the Cathedral and few knew what he meant to the Cathedral, but, outside that, the first place with him was held by the association of bellringers. He (Canon Ryley) saw him only just before he died and he talked then, as always, about the ringers of Kent.

The motion was carried unanimously.

TROUBLE IN LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

The Lewisham District submitted the following for inclusion in the rules of the association:—

'A member whose conduct is, in the opinion of his or her district, prejudicial to the well-being of the association shall be reported to the committee.

'A member so reported is to be given the opportunity of attending when the report is investigated by the committee and of explaining his or her conduct.

'If it is found out the report is justified, the committee shall have power to remove the member's name from the books.'

Mr. E. Barnett, in proposing the motion, said they would no doubt realise that there were occasions when such a rule was desirable. He did not intend to enlarge upon it, for the motion spoke for itself. It was submitted from the Lewisham District, and, as one of the district representatives on the committee, he was deputed to introduce it.

Mr. F. J. Cullum, as another representative of the district, seconded and emphasised the fact that the motion came from the district and not from any individual.

Mr. W. J. Jefferies said he would like Mr. Barnett to preface the motion, as he prefaced it at St. Nicholas', Chislehurst, by giving the reason for it. Everybody there should know it.

Mr. H. Hoskins said a member of the association was brought before the General Committee and censured for his conduct. He was asked to resign from the association, but it was pointed out there was no rule which permitted them to ask a man to resign. The member, knowing the vote of censure had been passed on him, retained his membership; hence the need for this rule.

Mr. G. H. Spice (secretary of the Rochester District) strongly opposed the motion. He was grieved that it should be thought the association needed a rule to turn out one of the members of the 'family' which had been referred to that day. The motion was born in the Lewisham District, where there had been trouble for a number of years, a trouble that, had it been nipped in the bud and the people concerned had met each other fifty-fifty over the job, could have been eliminated so that the present position need never have arisen. Mr. Lewis, who was unfortunately not able to be present that day, had been trying to mediate in the matter. It would, he thought, be a disgrace in the absence of Mr. Lewis to put up a rule that would besmirch the rules of the association (applause). He suggested the motion should be withdrawn, or, at any rate, postponed until Mr. Lewis had the opportunity to pour oil on the troubled waters. Their present rules served them well and they did not want to quibble over them, but instead to get on with their work as churchworkers. He appealed to those present to defeat the motion if it was put. 'It is wrong,' he added, amid applause.

DISTRICT BEING 'STRANGLED.'

Mr. W J. Rawlings said they must not lose sight of the difficulty which they had had for five years in the Lewisham District. They had endeavoured without success to settle the matter amicably by persuasion but they had now come to a serious position. They had at the head of one of their towers a man who removed from his tower one of his ringing members for no apparent reason except that that member disagreed with his captain at a district meeting. He felt sure they would agree that captains of towers should not have that right. That was a serious problem for the future if it was allowed to grow. The passing of this proposed new rule was the only hope they would have in the Lewisham District, where they were being strangled by the efforts of one man. The Lewisham District asked for support in this trouble. If a member was censured for his conduct, did that not call for some district action? The rule was definitely required for the welfare of the association, otherwise the trouble was going to grow.

Mr. Battin said they did not want the rule. The association had lived for 59 years without it and had never wanted it. Even if they passed the motion and got rid of the member, they could not make him keep a man in his tower. They would only make the position worse. He could not understand why they were trying to pass the rule at that meeting. There were five districts who knew nothing about it until they came there that day. Why had it not been brought up at the annual district meetings?

AN ASSOCIATION OR A DICTATOR?

Mr T. Groombridge, sen., said each district sent two representatives to the General Committee, and if they had reported to the districts what had transpired at the committee meeting the districts would have known about the proposal. It was not the fault of the Lewisham District if the members did not know. He was afraid a great many of them did not know what had happened in that district. They in the Lewisham District wanted to know whether they were to run it as an association or by one man as a dictator? Mr. Groombridge went on to state that a wish of the district to hold a meeting at St. John's, Deptford, was frustrated by the influence of this member with the Vicar and alleged that the member complained that the district wanted to interfere with his tower. 'We do not want to interfere with any tower in the association,' said Mr. Groombridge. 'The towers are in union with the association, and we do not interfere with the internal working of any tower. But because this member could not have his own way he called some of the clergy together and discussed the association's business with them without any representative of the association being present. What right has he, as an individual, to call a meeting with the clergy of the district and discuss our business without any officer of the association being present? The result is he is going to keep five or six towers closed against the association for good. Are we to be ruled by the members of the district or by a dictator?'

Mr. A. Richardson (secretary of the Tonbridge District), opposing the motion, said the question of using the towers rested with the incumbent and churchwardens. It did not rest with the ringers or the association.

Mr. G. E. Rawlings said he was the member who was called upon to leave the tower, where he had long been a regular service ringer, because he disagreed with Mr. Jefferies outside the tower. He had a right to his own opinions, and because he did not agree with Mr. Jefferies at a meeting he was practically compelled to leave. That was not the sort of thing the association wanted to foster.

MOTION DEFEATED.

The Hon. Secretary said the discussion was very distasteful to him, after what he had said in his report appealing to them all to show a brotherly feeling. In view of something which he knew, but which the members did not know, he asked them for the time being either definitely to reject the motion or hold it in abeyance. He hoped by mediation they would get over the trouble. They all had their faults and he thought by a little tact matters might be smoothed out. Mr. Lewis and he were working on the matter and he hoped before the next annual meeting the trouble might be amicably settled. He moved that the motion be now put.

This having been seconded and carried, the motion was submitted to the vote and defeated.

Afterwards Mr. Mitchell thanked the members for again re-electing him as hon. secretary. As he had told them before, he would try to do his best, but he had a very difficult task sometimes. He had been their secretary for ten years and thought he ought to give a little account of his stewardship. The number of practising members was still about the same. When he was elected their total funds were £354 18s. 4d. The balances now amounted to £983 17s. 7d. The thing he was most proud of was their Benevolent Fund. He had put in a good deal of time for that and they should be proud of the fact that they had been able to pay out £38 in one year almost out of revenue (applause). He thought that was a wonderful thing to have done. He thanked the members who had subscribed to the fund at the meetings.

Mr. Mitchell went on to thank Mr. Lewis, the vice-president, Mr. Green, who analysed the peals, and all the district secretaries for all the work they put in (applause). He also thanked the Vicar of Erith for the service and for his splendid address, and the other incumbents who had placed their bells at the disposal of the members. He concluded by thanking the Mayor for presiding.

Mr. E. Barnett seconded, and, the motion having been carried, the Mayor replied and the meeting terminated.

RINGERS' ENGAGEMENT CELEBRATED.

On Friday evening, March 17th, a quarter-peal of Little Bob Major was rung at Whiston by members of the Yorkshire Association and Sheffield District Society to celebrate the engagement of Mr. Norman Chaddock and Miss Elsie Brothwell: Tom Brothwell 1, Reginald Payne 2, Miss Elsie Brothwell 3, Jack Brothwell 4, John H. Brothwell 5, Gordon Graham 6, John J. L. Gilbert 7, Norman Chaddock (conductor) 8. Mr. Norman Chaddock is well known in peal ringing circles in the North and is Ringing Master of the Sheffield District Society. Miss Brothwell rang her first peal a few weeks ago, after being a ringer for only six months.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

At St. Stephen's, Hackington, Canterbury, on Friday, March 31st, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): Mrs. E. H. Spice 1, P. J. Small 2, *F. Youlden 3, *A. Elphick 4, B. J. Luck 5, G. Swaffer 6, *R. Port 7, F. R. Weller (composer and conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal.

At Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, on March 28th, a quarter-peal of Surprise Minor (1,272 changes), made up of a touch each of York, Beverley, Carlisle, Chester, London, Wells and Cambridge: H. Newman 1, P. Ponting 2, E. Jefferies 3, J. Hammond 4, F. Simmonds 5, F. Ponting (conductor) 6. First quarter-peal in these methods by all.

On Palm Sunday, at St. Stephen's, Ealing, before morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Miss D. E. Lidbetter (first in the method as conductor) 1, J. A. Trollope 2, H. G. Andrews (first in the method) 3, H. Belcher 4, P. E. Clark 5, E. C. S. Turner 6, W. G. Wilson 7, H. W. Lidbetter 8.

At the Parish Church, Watford, Herts, on Sunday, March 26th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. W. Dix 1, D. Laud (first quarter-peal 'inside') 2, W. G. Paul (conductor) 3, F. Bullock 4, R. G. Bell 5, S. H. Hoare 6, H. L. Long 7, D. S. Pearson 8.

At St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on March 19th, before evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Waldron 1, Miss B. Hart 2, A. Tozer 3, C. D. Nichols (conductor) 4, R. Gilbert 5, A. Bone 6, E. M. Atkins 7, H. Corney 8. First quarter-peal for ringers of treble and third, and first quarter-peal as conductor.

On March 17th, at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Bebington, Cheshire, for a Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. J. Battle 1, E. Breeze 2, R. Barnes 3, H. S. Brocklebank 4, H. Martin 5, T. R. Storer (conductor) 6, J. Goddard 7, J. Hough 8. The local ringers would like to express their thanks to the friends from Oxton and Bromborough who helped to complete the band and make the quarter-peal possible.

On the occasion of a local wedding, a quarter-peal (1,332 changes) of Grandsire Caters was rung at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, on Saturday, March 11th: George Smith 1, A. Humphries 2, L. Williams 3, W. Townsend 4, W. Thomas 5, W. Dyer (conductor) 6, C. Martin 7, T. Boreham 8, J. Ballinger 9, C. Collier 10. It was the first quarter-peal of Caters and first attempt by George Smith and the first 'inside' by L. Williams. George, who is still a young schoolboy, is so enthusiastic that he will cycle anywhere between Bristol and Birmingham and the Forest of Dean and Swindon for a pull and is likely to bob up at any meeting on a Saturday afternoon. He has made many friends by his persistency. There is no vacant rope if George is anywhere about.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Attention is called to the notices of the annual meetings of the Warwickshire Guild and the North Notts Association, which are to be held to-morrow. These notices arrived too late for our issue last week, when we went to press a day earlier than usual.

Mr. Nolan Golden, hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, writes that the peal total of Norwich Association for 1938 was 103, and not 101 as printed in the Central Council's Analysis. The association should have been credited with 11 peals of Kent Treble Bob Major (instead of 10) and a peal of Grandsire Triples.

Mr. Tom Groombridge, sen., who was defeated in the ballot on Monday in the election of representatives of the Kent County Association, lost his seat on the Central Council after serving continuously for 30 years. He was first elected to represent the association in 1909.

The Ladies' Guild made a gallant attempt on Monday for a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Beckenham, Kent. They rang for over an hour—but it was good practice for the next time, when, everyone will hope, they will be successful.

The meeting of the Bath Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, which was to have been held at Bathampton to-morrow, has been cancelled.

THE PEAL AT BUSHEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I believe many members of the Exercise will be with me in the desire to register a protest against the use of the bells of a parish church for ringing a peal 'to celebrate All Fools' Day.' If it were intended as a joke it sounds very puerile, and is certainly not edifying as 'an occasion' worthy of an attempt for a peal while the Church is keeping Passiontide.

One would like to know whether *every* member of the talented band who rang in this particular peal was in sympathy with the footnote. But, in any case, are not the times too serious for emphasising such fantasies?

C. CAREW COX.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis.

A SCOTTISH BELL BROADCAST.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Having noted a request in 'The Ringing World' for the names of broadcast ringers to be published, the following band rang a touch of Stedman Caters for the broadcast service from St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Passion Sunday, March 26th, viz.: W. H. Pickett (conductor) 1, J. Ewing 2, N. Leiper 3, F. Wilson 4, H. Sargent 5, E. Boumphrey 6, S. Lewis 7, E. Stafford 8, T. Winderam 9, J. Carmichael 10. All are members of the local band and regular service ringers.

We were, at first, informed that the bells would not be broadcast owing to traffic interference, but, on taking the matter up with the B.B.C. direct, they carried out a test on the preceding Thursday and decided *at once* to put them 'on the air.' It was then too late, of course, to print the announcement in the 'Radio Times.' Time allowed, 3½ minutes.

The reports we have received state that reception was excellent, as also the tone of the bells. I should like to know for future reference how they were received in other districts. The bells were broadcast only once previously, on March 26th, 1933. So, it seems to me, that the remedy for more bell broadcasts is for tower secretaries to get into touch direct with the B.B.C., and in the proper spirit, of course. The responsible party is the Director of Outside Broadcasts.

ERNEST A. STAFFORD, Hon. Secretary.

28, Seamore Street, Glasgow, N.W.

THE BROADCAST FROM ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL.

The band who rang for the broadcast service from St. Albans Cathedral on February 26th were all members of the Cathedral Society and regular Sunday service ringers: J. G. Blow 1, F. L. Whiteman 2, L. Hansell 3, R. Tysoe 4, W. J. Arnold 5, A. Howkins 6, H. E. C. Goodenough (conductor) 7, C. Jeffs 8, F. Beeson 9, J. Dryden 10. The touch was 274 Stedman Caters.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of Doncaster and District Society was held at Tickhill on March 25th, when members were present from Arksey, Burgwallis, Doncaster, Rotherham and the local company.

Good ringing was enjoyed and some of those who attended were able to ring fresh methods.

Mr. W. E. Lloyd (vice-president) acted as secretary, as the secretary was indisposed, and Mr. Harold Walker was voted to the chair.

Thanks were accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and to Mr. Walker for presiding over the meeting.

Mr. Walker, in reply, expressed his desire to be with the society more often in the future. He always watched their movements with interest through 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. Walker was the founder secretary of the society and still helps to further it, although he lives far away at Whitley Bay, in Northumberland.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—66.

ALBERT HARMAN.

While it is peal ringing principally that brings conductors into the limelight, there are many among them who, while turning their ability to good account in this direction, make their most valuable contribution to the advancement of the ringing by the work they do quietly in their own and neighbouring belfries, keeping the Sunday service ringing going, assisting struggling bands, organising practices for advanced methods and helping lame dogs over stiles. These ringers, and happily there are many of them, are the greatest asset which the Exercise holds. Among them is Mr. Albert Harman, Ringing Master of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, who has devoted a great deal of his leisure to fostering change ringing in many towers in his district and to whose efforts, in no small measure, a company has been raised to the 'Spliced Surprise' level in the Leatherhead area.



MR. ALBERT HARMAN.

Mr. Harman was born on September 9th, 1888, at Burstow, Surrey. And it was there, in his youth, that he learned to ring. At one time Burstow was frequently 'in the news' for six-bell performances that took place there, and Mr. Harman's first peal and his first as conductor were both rung there, although by that time Grandsire Doubles was the best that could be done. His first peal was on April 6th, 1908, and that as conductor two years later.

Most of Mr. Harman's early peals were rung in Sussex with the Crawley and Brighton bands, and he has rung 78 peals with the Sussex Association. After the war Mr. Harman settled in Leatherhead, and for the Surrey Association, for which he has rung 146 peals, conducting 54, and later also with the Guildford Diocesan Guild, has put in some excellent work. Among the peals which he has conducted have been the first of Ashtead and Leatherhead Surprise Major and Painswick Surprise Royal. These were rung for the Guildford Guild, for which society Mr. Harman has already rung 82 peals and conducted 53. Altogether his peals total 312, of which he has conducted 111.

In addition to having been Ringing Master of the Leatherhead District ever since the formation of the Guildford Guild, he has represented the Guild on the Central Council during the last three years.

GUILD OF CLERICAL RINGERS.

RINGING WEEK IN DEVON.

The clerical ringing week, which usually takes place immediately after Easter, begins next Monday, the visit this year being paid to Devon, with headquarters at Bovey Tracey.

The party will meet at Brampford Speke, where the Rev. E. V. Cox, hon. secretary of the Guild of Clerical Ringers and organiser of the tour, is Vicar. After tea at the Vicarage, a visit will be paid to Chudleigh before going on to Bovey Tracey. On each of the succeeding four days there will be a peal attempt in the morning and ringing at various other towers. The peal attempts are at Bovey Tracey, Buckfastleigh, Highweek and Moretonhampstead. The annual business meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday evening.

The following are expected to join the party for the week, or some part of it: The Revs. J. H. B. Andrews (Leeds), E. G. Benson (Burghill, Hereford), H. Benson (Quinton, Glos.), Canon G. F. Coleridge (Crowthorne, Berks), C. Carew Cox (Lyme Regis), E. V. Cox (Brampford Speke, Devon), F. Ll. Edwards (Kington Magna, Dorset), R. D. St. G. Edwards (Checkendon, Oxon), E. Bankes James (Fareham, Hants), A. Rhys James (Bow, Devon), F. S. H. Marle (Deane, Hants), R. H. Palmer (Preston Capes, Rugby), E. S. Powell (Staverton, Daventry), I. J. Richards (Caerleon, Mon.), B. F. Sheppard (Somersham, Hunts), W. H. R. Trewhella (Truro), W. M. K. Warren (Binegar, Bath), C. Elliot Wigg (Chearsley, Bucks), R. F. Wilkinson (Ordsall, Notts), W. P. Wright (Eyam, Derbys), with, of course, the Rev. E. V. Cox. Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Richards will accompany the party.

'RINGING UP.'

GOOD COMPASS NECESSARY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In 'raising' or 'falling' a peal of bells, the great consideration is that all the bells should be kept together in a proper 'compass' or 'beat,' as in all ringing.

At the commencement of a 'rise' the bells should be struck very close together—in a small compass—and as they get higher should be gradually opened out until they get into the ordinary 'compass' of rounds. The treble-man should very gradually let his rope coils out *as he finds the bells rising*, and not let out several inches of rope at a time.

On some heavy peals of bells a good treble-man finds it necessary to come down a trifle when the bells are 'beam-high'—half-way up—to improve the clappering of the back bells, and then proceed gradually up. Care should be taken to very gradually bring the bells to the hand-stroke lead when fully up. There will not be a good 'rise' unless every ringer strikes his bell at the proper distance—neither too wide nor too close—all the way up. Mistakes in this direction must be corrected. In the case of heavy peals the back bells should be brought into the rise after the front bells have had several pulls. A good 'rise,' therefore, depends on all the bells being kept together in a correct 'compass' and the treble-man, whilst listening carefully to the bells, gradually leading them up *as a whole*.

The first essential for a good 'fall' is to get the bells into perfect rounds. It must be thoroughly understood that there cannot be a good 'fall' unless the bells are kept together in good rounds—or a good compass—before attempting to lower the peal. A good leader will, therefore, insist on good rounds as a preliminary, the same as a good conductor will insist on good rounds before attempting changes.

Having got good rounds, the back bells should be gradually closed in, and as all the bells get into a smaller 'compass,' the treble-man should *follow* them down, not attempt to lead them down. Actually the treble-man should correct any bell not keeping the proper distance in the 'compass' and let the treble strike after the tenor. When the bells are nearly down and the back bells get into the chiming position, the treble-man should very gradually bring his bell and all the rest into chiming.

It should be remembered that the bells will lower themselves if allowed to do so. Only guidance and sufficient pull to ensure that every bell is kept in its proper position in the 'compass,' with taut ropes, is therefore necessary, and not the tremendous lugging and checking that we see in some towers.

The chief drawback to successful raising and falling is the totally unnecessary lugging at the sallies by some ringers. Practically all the pulling in the lower stages should be done on the end of the rope, and only a steadying hand given to the sally, except when the bells are nearly up.

To sum up: Every ringer striking his bell correctly in the compass all the way up or down, and a treble-man who has sufficient 'ear' to grasp the compass of the bells at all stages, and move accordingly, are the requisites for good raising or falling in peal. Such a treble-man is not found on every street corner.

Moral: If you have a good treble-man, keep him, but let him teach others as a reserve.

I hope this will be of some service to 'Yokel,' as from one yokel to another.

W. POSTON.

Bridstow, Herefordshire.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TREBLE-MAN.

Sir,—I, too, regretted that only two correspondents had replied to this very interesting subject, because it has to be performed in some way or other every Sunday in the year by most of the bands in the churches where there are peals of bells.

However, I have often given the matter some thought and have noticed how sometimes we get fair 'rings up' and many times we get poor ones. I have also noticed that when, say, 'Fred' leads up on the treble it is invariably a better 'ring up' than when 'Tom' is on, or any of the others. The reason for this is, I think, that Fred has that knack of keeping a constant speed of rise all the time. He doesn't put that almost imperceptible check to his bell, half-way up, which is so amplified down at the heavy end and so prompts the remark which we hear occasionally, 'They are coming down again.'

Also, when they are nearly up and everybody is beginning to feel that they have done a good one, there isn't that jumble with 'Fred' during the transition stage of just *short* of being on the balance and full control when they are *on* the balance. Many of our 'rises' are spoiled that way.

I certainly think that from my bell, 6 or 7, the slightest change in speed of the treble is very noticeable.

I daresay some will say it is the tenor which controls the speed of ringing up. Well, in our case the captain always rings the tenor up. He is an elderly man and, I am afraid, thinks he is the only man who can do it. He also always keeps the conducting to himself. No one else must presume to that, the most interesting part of ringing. He rings the tenor up at a steady beat, but if the pace alters he does not do his best to pull in or put a little extra weight on to meet it. Oh, no, if he is up first or if the rest are up before him that is no concern of his. They should ring to the tenor, that is his standpoint.

(Continued on next page.)

THE LIBERTY BELL OF AMERICA.

PHILADELPHIA'S CHERISHED POSSESSION.

Among the famous bells of the world not one has been associated with events of so great importance as the Liberty bell of America, which was rung before the first reading of the Declaration of Independence, in 1776.

In 1751 the bell was ordered through the Colonial Agent of the Province of Pennsylvania in London, Mr. Robert Charles. The letter conveying the commission to him was as follows:—

'Respected Friend, Robert Charles,

'The Assembly having ordered us to procure a bell from England to be purchased for their use, we take the liberty to apply ourselves to thee to get us a good bell, of about two thousend pounds weight, the cost of which we presume may amount to one hundred pounds sterling, or perhaps with the charges something more.

'We hope and rely on thy care and assistance in this affair, and that thou wilt procure and forward it by the first good opportunity, as our workmen inform us it will be much less trouble to hang the bell before their scaffolds are struck from the building where we intend to place it, which will not be done 'til the end of next summer or beginning of the fall.

'Let the bell be cast by the best workmen and examined carefully before it is shipped, with the following words, well shaped in large letter round it, viz.:—

"By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752."

And underneath:—

"Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.—Lev. xxv. 10."

'As we have experienced thy readiness to serve this province on all occasions, we desire it may be our excuse for this additional trouble, from thy assured friends, Isaac Norris.
Thomas Leech.
Edward Warner.

'Let the package for transportation be examined with particular care and the full value insured thereon.'

This bell was cast by Thomas Lester, and arrived at Philadelphia in 1752, and was hung up on trusses to try out its sound and it became cracked. It was recast by Pass and Stow, 'two ingenious workmen of Philadelphia.'

In recasting, the English bell was broken up and the same metal was used with the addition of an ounce and one-half of American copper to the pound of the old bell metal to make the bell less brittle. The same form and lettering were preserved with substitution of the names of the founders, the place and year of recasting.

The Liberty Bell was recast by Pass and Stow twice, the second time being satisfactory, and is the bell we know to-day. It was hung in the steeple of the State House, where it remained until 1781, when it was lowered to the brick tower and the steeple was taken down. It remained in this place until 1846, when it was placed on exhibition in Independence Hall.

On July 8th, 1776, the bell was rung to call together the people for the first public reading of the declaration of Independence, as it was rung for all public affairs. On September 18th, 1777, when the British Army was about to occupy Philadelphia, it was removed to Allentown Pa, and on June 27th, 1778, it was returned to the tower. On July 8th, 1835, it was being rung for the funeral of John Marshall, then Chief Justice of the United States, when it cracked again.

The bell is now preserved in Independence Hall, where it remains as a silent symbol not only of 'Liberty throughout all the land,' but throughout the world.

The particulars of the bell are as follows: Circumference around the lip, 12ft.; circumference around the crown, 7ft. 6in.; lip to the crown, 3ft.; height over the crown, 2ft. 3in.; thickness at lip, 3in.; thickness at crown, 1¼in.; weight, 2,080 lb.; length of clapper, 3ft. 2in.; cost, £60 14s. 5d.

The inscriptions, in capitals, on the bell are:—

'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. Lev. xxv. 10.' and

'By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in Philada. Pass and Stow, Philada. MDCCLIII.'

F. J. RUMENS.

Chicago.

'RINGING UP.'

(Continued from previous page.)

I don't think that is right. It is the team effort which counts, and so my rules for ringing up can be expressed thus:—

Treble: Keep a steady pace, have an eye on the rest as you go up. Never check your bell.

Light bells up to the 6th: Pack in close to the one in front at the start. Keep a steady pace, checks get worse as they are transmitted downwards. Open out gradually. No gaps, leaving a gap is as bad as striking on.

Seventh and tenor Get in close at the start until there is a swing on and then rise up to suit best those in front.

These are my ideas, suitable to a ring of eight with a 14 cwt. tenor.

When I see a tenor-man tugging away regardless of what the others are doing it reminds me of the squad of soldiers who were all out of step bar 'our Patrick.'

COCKNEY-LANC.

LEICESTERSHIRE'S KING'S NORTON.

FIRST PEAL OF TREBLE BOB IN 200 YEARS.

On November 6th, 1938, a band was successful with the first peal of Major on the bells of St. John the Baptist's Church, King's Norton, Leicestershire, and ever since that momentous day Arthur with the 'Big Heart' (Debo) has been taking strengthening medicine to enable him to turn the tenor in to a peal of Treble Bob.

His perseverance in getting a band together brought its reward on April 2nd, when an attempt for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was specially arranged as a birthday compliment to his mother. The personnel of the band, with the exception of the ringer of the 7th, was exactly the same as on November 6th last. Each one rang in the same position.

The day had been carefully planned, and, keeping to the programme, the party arrived first at Gaulby, which is parted from Norton by two or three fields, in good time for breakfast! New ropes had been brought along for three of the bells, and the 'gang' was soon in the bell chamber exchanging ropes and also quenching the thirst of the bearings with a long overdue dose of oil. The attempt for Minor, however, was short lived, the tenor rope breaking and coming down on 'Our Arthur.' This happened after the attempt had been in progress for about half an hour, and even during the first 720 one of the ringers suggested the bearings had been given 'glue' where oil would have done the job in half the time. However, this was unfortunate, as time was too short in which to make a further attempt.

Lunch was again very kindly provided at the Rectory by Mr. and Mrs. Davis and everyone fully appreciated such hospitality. Mr. Davis, who came to King's Norton and Gaulby in November last, had previously resided in Canada for 25 years. He is, however, a native of Leicestershire, having been born at Hinckley.

After lunch the party hiked their way to King's Norton and were soon again very busy in the bell chamber, and this time 'oil' was used.

From the commencement of the peal a good beat was found, and the way in which 'Ted' and 'Deb' turned in the tenors was a real tonic for any one of the band on the lighter end who was feeling nervy at the amount of rumbling caused by the bell frame up above.

It was not until 6 o'clock that the hand finished their 'labours,' and a real country fall was soon to be heard.

Mr. Ted Nourish very kindly invited the ringers to tea, for which further thanks were heartily accorded.

Conductor 'Walter' had remembered to bring handbells, and ringing was again in evidence after tea, and touches of Grandsire Triples, Caters and Stedman Triples were much appreciated by Mr. Nourish and friends.

Such days quickly pass and it was getting late when this plucky eight decided it was time to make tracks for home, happy in that they had achieved their object with the first peal of Treble Bob on bells nearly two centuries old. 'Here's to the next time,' and, according to 'Our Arthur,' arrangements are already well in hand for a further visit for new records.

A TEN-PART PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

BY D. J. FERGUSON.

	234567		563742		Part Ends
S	572634	1	425376	2	246375
	465372	1	634725	1	267453
	234765	1	*426357	3	275634
S	752634	1	654273	3	253746
	347265	2	476532	3	235476
	523647	1	324657	2	257364
	475362	2	763524	1	276543
	234675	1	247356	2	264735
	342675	4	632547	1	243657
	563742	1	*246375	3	234567

Repeated 9 times with a Holt's Bob Single instead of the last bob half-way and at the end.

An alternative calling, with the 7th as observation bell, can be obtained by beginning with the second column, the first call being the bob at 2. The Holt's Bob Single can be called at either (but not both) of the places marked * instead of a bob in the 5th and 10th parts in this variation. The first part end is 456237.

SOMERSET BEGINNERS' RAPID PROGRESS.

Shipham bellringers on March 30th passed their test for change ringing to enable them to become full members of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, by ringing 360 Grandsire, called by the Ringing Master, Mr. E. Avery. Great credit must be given to this band, as they only began learning in May, 1938. Their rapid progress is largely due to the practice and capable instruction given by Mr. G. Gilling, of Churchill, to whom the band gives its warmest thanks.

RESTORATION OF HAWARDEN BELLS.

INTERESTING HISTORY OF A CHESHIRE RING.

BY J. W. C.

The bells of Hawarden, the picturesque village famous as the home of W. E. Gladstone, have a history of more than passing interest. Moreover, it is a history which can be read with comparative ease because of the meticulous care with which the vestry and wardens' records have been kept, for, at more than one period, business concerning the bells occupies more space in the accounts than anything else.

The 14th century church has a central tower, and an inventory of 1563 records a peal of five bells and a 'little bell,' suggesting that the church was even in those days considered of some importance. With the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the bells were among the first of many items of church fabric to be set in order. The bells were evidently, in the opinion of the wardens at any rate, in such a state that recasting was desirable, and the accounts record £4 14s. 1d. as

'paid for our charges and assistance in goeing to Wiggon.'

The result of that journey was that Scott, of Wigan, was commissioned to recast the bells, and the work was immediately commenced. Whether Scott was pressed to return the bells as early as possible and so forwarded the first five available, or whether pressure of work caused some confusion in the foundry, it is hardly possible to ascertain, but certain it is that all Hawarden bells were not recast. Some years ago, two of them—as proved by their inscriptions—were discovered in the tower of the little moorland church of Ledsham in Yorkshire! Doubtless Scott wisely kept his own counsel in that matter!

However, five bells arrived at Hawarden in due course and were hung in the tower, the workmen being liberally treated.

Meate and drink and horse Meate	01	18	06
Paid to John Bradey for beere to ye ringers	00	01	00
Paid for drinke for them that helped with ye little bell	00	01	00

The weight of the tenor was 1,658 lbs.

It would appear from subsequent entries that the hanging was never very satisfactory, for each year brought a host of payments for repairs, and ropes seem to have been worn out at such a rate that finally an economist endeavoured to put a check to this constant drain on parish funds.

In 1712 it became necessary to recast the tenor. The Wigan foundry was now in the hands of Ralph Ashton, who had reopened it in 1703, two years after the death of William Scott. The wardens, however, decided on a change and consulted Gabriel Smith, of Congleton. There were several meetings between founder and wardens, and it was not until 1714 that agreement was finally reached, Smith contracting to recast the bell for £12, and the wardens made the journey to Congleton to see the casting carried out.

In 1735 the bells were rehung in a new frame. The name of the firm responsible for the job is not recorded, but the bellhanger's name is given as Wrigby, while Alderman Comberbach, of Chester, supplied the timber, and Mr. Cheswiss, a smith, made the new iron work necessary. The total cost was £48.

Five years later an event which brought great rejoicing to Hawarden brought disaster to the bells. Willet's 'Memoirs of Hawarden' (1822) gives an account of the affair. 'In the year 1740, on the birth of a son and heir to Sir John Glynne, Bart., the ringers, in their expression of joy, cracked some of the bells, the recasting of which cost £150. To defray the expense, the parishioners borrowed so much school money, for which they pay the master interest to this day.' Actually the money was borrowed from the Trustees of the Grammar School, and some £500 was paid in interest before the debt was discharged!

The work was done by Abel Rudhall, who recast the whole ring and added a treble. The transaction throws some light on costs of those days. Rudhall's price was £365 19s. 6d., but he agreed to allow one shilling per pound weight for the old metal, by which £262 was recovered.

The parishioners must have been delighted with the new ring of six, for Rudhall provided a fine example of his craft with a tenor of 13 cwt.

The church was badly damaged by fire in 1857, but the tower and bells miraculously escaped. Two years later, Mears and Stainbank rehung the bells in a new oak frame, and further repairs were executed in 1879. Since that date nothing save minor repairs has been done until recently, when considerable restoration work on tower and spire, as well as other parts of the church fabric, became necessary. The oak of the bell frame was found to be in perfectly sound condition and has been re-erected, quarter turned from its original position, in order to bring the tenors to the strongest side of the tower. New supporting beams of Australian brushbox have been provided and the frame strengthened by tie-bolts. The bells have been tuned, quarter turned and cleaned and hung with cannon-retaining headstocks on ball bearings. The tenor turns the scale at 12 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb.

On the advice of the founders, the louvres have been completely blocked up and new openings constructed at the base of the rebuilt spire by which the sound of the bells has been considerably enhanced. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank are deserving of congratulations on the

(Continued in next column.)

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

DEATH OF LAST ORIGINAL MEMBER OF COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Brown Edge on Saturday, April 1st, when 37 members attended from Burslem, Brown Edge, Cheadle, Draycott, Kidsgrove, Leek, Longton, Norton, Newcastle, Sutton, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolstanton.

The association was welcomed to Brown Edge by the Rev. T. D. Lawton, Vicar of Brown Edge, and Mr. T. Hurd thanked the Vicar and ringers for the way the meeting was prepared.

This was supported by Mr. E. Steele, while Mr. J. E. Wheeldon thanked the ladies for serving tea so well. He also congratulated the Brown Edge ringers upon the alterations they had carried out in the ringing chamber.

The company then stood in silence for a minute as a last mark of respect to Mr. G. W. Walker, of Norton, who was the last member of the committee who attended the inaugural meeting of the association in 1882.

The association was represented at the funeral by Messrs. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary), John E. Wheeldon (Ringing Master), Henry Carnwell (Kingsley), William Carter (Biddulph) and James Walley and William Corfield (Norton).

A 1742 RING.

(Continued from previous column.)

excellent way in which the work has been carried out. The opening 720, one of Bob Minor, was rung by Messrs. W. Thomas treble, R. Sperring 2, J. Hughes 3, C. Dryland 4, J. Morgan 5, J. W. Clarke tenor.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. W. Bell Jones, F.S.A., churchwarden of Hawarden, who kindly supplied details from the wardens' accounts, from which material this account has been built up.

Details of bells:—

Treble.—Peace and good neighbourhood. 6 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. Note D.
2nd.—Prosperity to all our benefactors. 6 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. C.
3rd.—Prosperity to this parish. 6 cwt. 3 qr. 22 lb. B flat.
4th.—I to the church the living Call and to the grave do summon all. 8 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb. A.
5th.—George Hope, Churchwarden; Thos. Fox, Sidesman. 8 cwt. 2 qr. 5 lb. G.
Tenor.—Abel Rudhall, of Gloucester, Cast us all. 12 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. F.

Founder's initials and date, 1742, are on each bell.

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NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-in-Coventry to-morrow (Saturday), April 15th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.15. Tea provided, followed by business meeting.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Retford to-morrow (Saturday), April 15th. Towers open: E. Retford (10), W. Retford (6), Ordsall (6), 2.30-4.15 and 6-9 p.m. Service in E. Retford Church 4.30. Tea 5. Meeting 5.30. All members are asked to endeavour to be present, but non-members will also be welcome. Please let me know if you will require tea. — R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Rotherfield (8 bells) on Saturday, April 15th. Tower open 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. Lewry, Rosemary, Old Lane, Crowborough. All welcome.—O. Sippetts and B. Saunders, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church (R.C.), Chorley (8 bells), on Saturday, April 15th. Tower open for ringing 2.30. All ringers welcome.—A. Blogg, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting of this branch will be held at Tackley on Saturday, April 15th next. Ringing 2.30 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.—W. Evetts, Sec., Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Washfield on Saturday, April 15th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cheltenham Branch.—A meeting will be held at Cowley, near Cheltenham on Saturday, April 15th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea, 5.30, by the invitation of C. Heber Percy, Esq., M.F.H., Cowley Manor. Should appreciate a note from those intending being present. — Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Moulton on Saturday, April 15th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, Saturday, April 15th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—Charles R. Raine, Hon. Sec., 21, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch. — The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Market Drayton (8 bells) on Saturday, April 15th. Ringing from 3 o'clock.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—A meeting will be held at Over, Cambs., on Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Please drop a card to say you are coming. — F. Warrington, Dis. Sec., Swavesey, Cambs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting of the Lincoln District will take place at Scothern (bells 6) on Saturday, April 15th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45 p.m. —Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next ringing meeting at Sapcote on Saturday, April 15th. Usual times. Send a card to Mr. C. Brown, Sharnford Road, Sapcote, near Leicester, if you want tea. At the last meeting one card only was received by the caterers. Play the game, please.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 15th, at Haslingden. Bells from 3 p.m. Anybody who cares to attend will be very welcome.—J. Porter, Hon. Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—The next meeting will be held to-morrow, April 15th, at St. John's, Leytonstone, E.11. Ringing 3 p.m.-4 p.m., followed by service, tea and meeting. Bells available till 8.30 p.m.—J. G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 81, Denbigh Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

SOMERLEYTON, NEAR LOWESTOFT.—The ring of six bells, rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Norwich on Sunday, April 16th, at 3 p.m.

ST. GILES-IN-THE-WOOD, TORRINGTON, DEVON.—The ring of six bells, restored by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Crediton on Wednesday, April 19th, at 7 p.m.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Practices for April: St. Giles', Cripplegate, 18th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, 20th; St. Magnus', 27th; *St. Paul's Cathedral, 25th. All at 7.30 p.m., except St. Andrew's, 8 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wednesday Afternoon Guild. — The next meeting will be held at Sunderland (two towers), on Wednesday, April 19th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. at St. Michael's. Tea at 5 p.m. Bells (8) available at 6 p.m. at St. Ignatius'. All are welcome.—Margaret A. P. Bertie, Hon. Sec., 17, Ridley Avenue, Chester-le-Street.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, April 22nd. Service at 4.45 p.m. Preacher, Rev. P. D. Ellis. High tea at the Express Dairy, Wormwood Street, at 5.30 p.m., at 1s. 3d. each. Business meeting after tea. Ringing arrangements as follows:—St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate (8) from 2.30 to 4.45 and after the meeting; St. Giles', Cripplegate (12) from 2.30 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Lawrence Jewry (8) from about 7.30 to 8.30 (one hour only); St. Olave's, Hart Street (8) from about 7.30 to 9 p.m. Please advise me, not later than Wednesday, April 19th, if you will require tea.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4. Larkswood 1959.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Beaconsfield on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea, at 1s. per head, for those who notify me not later than April 17th. —A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Cannock on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells at 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.45, with address by the Rev. J. F. Foster, A.K.C., Vicar. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word by Tuesday, 18th inst. — H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Burnley Parish Church on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited. Please make this a bumper meeting. — F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Quarterly meeting at All Saints', Hollingbourne (6 bells) on Saturday, April 22nd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5, followed by tea and business meeting in Parish Room. Tea has been arranged for 40 at 6d. per head, but members attending must notify me by Wednesday, April 19th. Frequent buses pass on main London-Folkestone road (10 minutes from village).—R. G. Rayfield, Hon. Dis. Sec., Downsview, Spring Lane, Ightham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual meeting of the Western Division will be held at Heene (Worthing) on Saturday, April 22nd. Tower open 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, price 1s., 5.15., at the Church Rooms. Half rail fares, maximum 1s. 6d., allowed to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held (D.V.) at Great Doddington (5 bells) on Saturday, April 22nd. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and usual proceedings. Will all those intending to go, please let me know early?—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Yateley on April 22nd. Bells available from 2.30. Service at 4. Tea and business meeting follows at Yateley Hall by the kind invitation of Miss de Winton Corry. Will all requiring tea please inform me by April 19th without fail?—J. G. Stilwell, Lea Cottage, Yateley, Camberley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Miles-Platting, Manchester, on Saturday, April 22nd. Tower open for ringing at 6 o'clock.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Netherseale on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance to try this handy peal. Splendid tea arrangements will be made for those who notify me by Thursday, April 20th. Visitors cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—The next meeting will be at All Saints', Maldon, on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. The bells at St. Mary's (6) will be available after tea. Please let me have numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, April 19th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wisbech Branch.—A meeting will be held at Denver on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Frome & Midsomer Norton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at High Littleton on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—E. H. Nash, Hon. Sec., The Talbot, Mells.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch. —The next quarterly meeting will be held at Barkstone on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at 5.15 p.m. Will those requiring tea please notify by Wednesday previous, the Rev. Thorold Eller, The Vicarage, Barkstone, Grantham? — C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Lincs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —A meeting of the Gainsborough District will be held at Willingham-by-Stow (excellent ring of 6, tenor 12¾ cwt.) on Saturday, April 22nd. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., at a small charge. A special invitation is extended to visitors. Please notify Mr. C. Hooton, Stedman House, Willingham, Gainsborough, for tea by previous Tuesday.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Maiden Newton on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and short business meeting. Cattistock bells (8) also available.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Grappenhall Branch. — The next branch meeting will be held at Frodsham on Saturday, April 22nd. Please advise me if requiring tea not later than the 20th.—John E. Ashcroft, Post Office, Grappenhall.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Carlton-in-Cleveland on Saturday, April 22nd. Tea will be provided at the Fox and Hounds Inn for those who notify me not later than Thursday, April 20th. All ringers are welcome.—J. Reed, Hon. Sec., 67, Hedley Street, Guisborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at the two six-bell towers in Lytham on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Morecambe on April 22nd, where the new ring of eight bells will be available from 3 p.m. All members and friends are warmly welcomed to come and try out the bells for themselves.—E. Swain, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Portsmouth District. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Curdridge on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., at the Reading Room. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 19th. All ringers welcome. — A. T. Greenwood, Hon. Sec., 6, Sheffield Road, Portsmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Harlow Town on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. All ringers welcome.—W. Wheeler, Hon. Dis. Sec., Mill Street, Harlow Common, Essex.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Hemmingford Grey on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Apologies to those who travelled to Hemmingford Grey on Saturday, March 18th. Meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute.—W. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Potton on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers will be welcome. Please come. I mean *you*.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD (Alton and Petersfield District) AND LADIES' GUILD (Southern District).—A meeting will be held at Blackmoor on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Business meeting follows. Kindly let me know numbers for tea by Wednesday, April 19th.—C. E. Bassett, 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—The next meeting is at Ibstock on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea arranged for those who notify me by Wednesday next. Reports are now to hand. Come and get yours. Buses every few minutes from Coalville (Marlborough Square).—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Southport on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells, at Christ Church, available from 2.30. Emmanuel, after tea. Tea will be free, for which please notify Mr. J. Ridyard, 16, Vaughan Road, Birkdale, Southport.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The quarterly meeting of the West Norfolk Branch will be held at North Creake on Saturday, April 22nd. Service at 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Please try and let me know if you are coming, as it is not so easy to cater in a small village as in a town.—W. J. Eldred, Hon. Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The next meeting will be held at New Mills on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. S. Hammond, 9, Meadowside, Newtown, New Mills.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS. — The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, April 22nd. Tower open 3 p.m. All ringers welcome.—I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Nottingham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Great Shefford on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., at 6d. each. All ringers welcome. Visitors please notify W. Alder, Church Road, Great Shefford, Berks, by Wednesday, April 19th, for tea.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Arniston, Manor Lane, Newbury.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division.—Annual meeting at Slaugham on Saturday, April 22nd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service and meeting to follow. Names for tea by April 19th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District. — Quarterly meeting at Gravesend on Saturday, April 22nd. Bells available at St. George's 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea will be taken at Co-operative Cafe (five minutes from church) at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea please advise me by not later than Wednesday, April 19th.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A mid-week meeting will be held at Hartfield (6) on Wednesday, April 26th. Tower open 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea should be sent to Mr. K. Garwood, 28, Brooklands Way, East Grinstead, Sussex—who is now organiser of the Guild's mid-week meetings—not later than April 24th. All are welcome. The usual monthly will be a joint meeting with the Sussex County Association (Northern Division) at Rotherfield, on Saturday, April 15th.—B. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Brighton on Saturday, April 29th. Service at St. Peter's, with address by the Vicar of Brighton, 4.30. Tea at the Pavilion Grill Room

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SATURDAY, APRIL 29th. BUSHEY HEATH (8 bells). Bells open from 3.30. Tea, Parish Hall, 5.30. Ringing after business meeting. Nearest station, Bushey. Bus service from all parts stops at church.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270. (Herts Association.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Alphege, Greenwich, on Saturday, April 29th. Further particulars next week.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at North Weald on Saturday, April 29th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Please let me have numbers for tea by Wednesday, April 26th.—J. H. Crampion, Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — North Norfolk Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Northrepps on Saturday, April 29th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in Church Room, but don't forget that postcard with names or numbers for tea by Tuesday, April 25th, to Henry Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, April 29th. The bells of the Cathedral (8) will be available from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., S. Nicolas' (10) from 3 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. and S. Nicolas' and Shalford (8) after the meeting. Service will be held in the Cathedral Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea (1s. each) in Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 5.15 p.m. Those who require tea *must* let me know by Tuesday, April 25th. Business meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Hall immediately after tea.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Guildford.

WORCESTER AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Evesham on Saturday, April 29th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Walker Hall. Numbers for tea by Tuesday previous to J. E. Newman, Hinton, Evesham.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln on Saturday, April 29th. Service in the Morning Chapel of the Cathedral at 3.15 p.m. Tea at 4.30 at the Co-operative Hall, Silver Street, at 1s. 6d. per head, followed by business meeting. Ringing at the Cathedral, St. Peter-at-Gowt's and St. Botolph's from 2 p.m., and in the evening. Also at St. Giles' (8) from 6 to 8 p.m. Those requiring tea please send their names without fail to Mr. G. Chester, 16, Carline Road, Lincoln, not later than Wed., April 26th.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.4.