THE RINGING WORLD

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RAISE THE STANDARD OF STRIKING.

War's effects upon ringing are felt in many ways. Some of the restrictions compelled by the emergency are being slowly overcome, but the difficulties of man power are likely to increase rather than diminish. National service, in one form or another, is taking men from the belfry, and many bands are already sadly depleted. There is, however, every reason why those who are left should increase their efforts to fill the gaps by enlisting recruits, and it is possible that, when nearly everyone is anxious to do something to help, not only in the national cause, but also in social and other services, it may be easier now to get fresh people interested than it is in normal times, when counter pleasures of less useful character claim more attention. But however badly a band may be hit by the call for men in other and more important spheres, there is never reason for giving up the attempt to improve the standard of ringing by practising to raise the level of striking.

The loss of ringers from a belfry may hold up progress in method ringing, but there need be no slackening of effort to improve what is even more important than the ability to ring a method, and that is the skill to strike a bell properly. There is some truth in the allegation that striking is often sacrificed to method ringing, and ringers are all too frequently encouraged to take up advanced method ringing before they are able to put a bell accurately in its place in rounds. The fallacious argument is used that if a man learns to ring a method, the striking will come with practice. But very frequently it doesn't. The ringer has to put into ringing the method what he ought to be putting into his striking, and the result is that many a good method ringer continues throughout his career to be an indifferent striker. Not enough attention is paid to the importance of good striking. Bad striking may be due to a variety of causes, but to none, we believe, more than to too much impatience to push the young ringer into change ringing before he is adequately equipped. Incompetent instruction, inefficient handling, inability to use ears as well as eyes, are all causes of poor ringing, but the erroneous idea of pushing beginners as quickly as possible into change ringing is responsible for more bad striking than perhaps anything else.

The remedy is to devote more time to putting a polish on the beginner as a striker, and leaving method ringing to take care of itself for the time being, instead of pushing the scientific side to the detriment of the manual. In days gone by it was often complained that beginners were left to sit on the belfry form, while their elders had their

(Continued on page 726.)

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CASPAR

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change-ringing practice. It may be that in some such cases the beginners' enthusiasm waned, but where it was strong enough to survive a better ringer was almost certainly the result. What practice he got was all put into his striking and, in the long run, he was made a better ringer, as a striker, than many of the beginners who to-day are either pushed on too fast or who, eager to catch up with the rest, endeavour to run before they can walk.

These thoughts lead to the suggestion that, now that method ringing is necessarily limited in many towers, more attention should be paid to cultivating good striking. And if this is a step to be encouraged at local practices, it is certainly equally essential at meetings and combined practices. The desire to provide opportunities for method advancement should not be allowed to override the importance of good striking for, after all, good striking is the essence of church bellringing. Bad striking can be an intolerable nuisance to the public, as well as an irritation to good ringers, but it takes only one indifferent hand in a company to spoil the efforts of all the rest. Ringers are often over-sensitive to the correction of faults in their striking, and it needs a good deal of tact, sometimes, to tell a man of his failing without giving offence. It is in this matter that the true leader proves himself, but the risk of offending a bad ringer's susceptibilities is no reason why in touch or peal his persistent faults should not be pointed out; and the practice that is provided at meetings ought always to have as its aim the general improvement of striking as well as the advance of method ringing. A touch of Grandsire well struck is better than a course of London badly rung and, we believe, far more enjoyable to the man who is a really good ringer in any method. If nothing else can be done during these restrictive days, there is no reason why, wherever ringing is possible, some definite effort should not be made to raise the standard of striking.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ST. ALBANS DISTRICT.

In spite of the disadvantage of prevailing conditions, a successful meeting was held at St. Albans on Saturday, November 25th, when about 30 ringers had a pull on the bells at the Cathedral and St. Peter's Church, and afterwards at St. Peter's attended a ringers' service where a course on handbells was rung as a concluding voluntary.

Tea arrangements proved to be very satisfactory, to the relief of the district secretary (Mr. H. V. Frost).

At the business meeting the president of the association (Mr. A. Day) welcomed the members, and eight ringing members and nine probationers were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting again in St. Albans, on the second Saturday in February, when the General Committee would be meeting.

The secretary's report and financial statement were adopted. The secretary was re-elected, with Mr. A. Day as assistant secretary to take over the duties if necessary.

Mr. H. J. Hazell was elected to serve on the committee in place of Mr. G. E. Debenham, who was unable to stand for re-election.

A vote of thanks to all concerned was voiced by Mr. A. Lawrence, and ringing on handbells and the bells of St. Peter's concluded an enjoyable meeting.

RAMPTON NEW BELLS.

AN INVITATION FROM THE RECTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be glad to supply tea and biscuits or buns at the Rectory at 4 o'clock for any visiting teams, to whom the bells would be available (subject to local police regulations if any) on any weekday or on Saturday. Bells available from 2 o'clock onwards. We are not blacked out, and there is plenty of moonlight. However, as we are Fen country and near East Anglia, we don't ring after dark except Angelus at 6.

THOMAS L. HAVERS, Rector.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, November 25, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

*ROBERT BLOND ... ...*Treble*		BERTRAM BROWN... 5	
*KEITH WHITE 2		WILLIAM LAMBELL 6	
WALTER WEBB 3		ALFRED WEBB 7	
*HARRY BISHOP 4		WILLIAM GOODENOUGH ...*Tenor*	

Conducted by ALFRED WEBB.

* First peal of Stedman. First peal in the method ever rung by a band comprising all Hagbourne ringers.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
(ROCHDALE BRANCH.)
On Saturday, December 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

WORCESTER ARRANGEMENT. Tenor 18⅝ cwt.

*ALLAN WITHNELL ... ...*Treble*		†JOHN H. C. MASSEY 5	
*JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 2		*SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... 6	
*HARRY BYROM 3		†HAROLD HAMER... 7	
†STEPHEN LL. PARRY 4		*IVAN KAY ... ...*Tenor*	

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by H. HAMER.

* First peal of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major. † First peal in the Worcester Arrangement. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal on the bells without bobs.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 2, 1939, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.

GEORGE SPERRING ... ...*Treble*		JAMES SWINDLEY 5	
HARRY LEWIS 2		JOHN W. GRIFFITHS 7	
ROBERT SPERRING 3		HARRY PYE 6	
FRED HARTMAN 4		PERCY SWINDLEY ... ...*Tenor*	

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by PERCY SWINDLEY.

Rung as a welcome to the new Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev. Douglas Henry Crick.

SIX BELL PEAL.

LOUGHBOROUGH.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 6½ cwt.

REGINALD M. HILL ... ...*Treble*		C. RAYMOND HILL 4	
SIDNEY HARRISON 2		GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 5	
ERNEST MORRIS 3		JOHN H. HILL ... ...*Tenor*	

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

Witness: Mr. Josiah Morris, who sat in the belfry throughout.
The conductor's 800th peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, November 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes
AT THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY PARVIS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor size 15 in C.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 1-2		ERNEST MORRIS 5-6	
*EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 3-4		JAMES GEORGE 7-8	

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* 50th peal of Stedman Triples. Specially arranged to mark the 86th birthday of Mr. James George, which occurred on Nov. 27th. The above was his 1,280th peal.

'SWEET BELLS JANGLED.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is, I fear, rather characteristic of Mr. Drake to read into another man's writings something which is not there, and on it to try and build up a far-fetched argument.

For instance, Shakespeare did not make Ophelia talk about bells being badly tuned. Her lament was to 'see that noble and most sovereign reason' (Hamlet's) 'out of tune and harsh.' The simile—'like sweet bells jangled'—is a parenthetical addition in the true Shakespearian manner, to extend and fortify the idea.

That, at least, is what most editors have thought is the correct reading of the passage; but no one knows what, exactly, Shakespeare wrote. The first folio (1623) has 'jangled out of tune,' 'tune' being used in the common sense of 'melody.' The second quarto (1604), which is the earliest book giving the play substantially as it is printed to-day, has 'jangled out of time.' In both these the allusion is definitely to badly struck bells.

Jangle is a very old English word, which, for many hundred years, has been used in connection with bells, and did not (as Mr. Drake asserts) take on a new meaning with the introduction of change ringing. As early as 1494 a writer speaks of the 'changelyng of bells'; and another in 1581 said that 'the Belles from the Turretis make a wonderful janglyng.'

I did not suggest that they were ringing changes at Halesworth in 1539. I did not say that foreign bells are not in tune. (I said I believed that none of them are tuned to the musical scale unless they are in carillons.) I did not say that Shakespeare heard change ringing (Hamlet was first printed in 1603 and Plain Bob Doubles was not rung until about 1640). I did not say that I knew 'exactly what was in the minds of Bishop Grandison and Martin Bucer,' and I did not say that 'drinking connected with ringing *always* took place in the belfry.'

The statement I made, more than once, which Mr. Drake has flatly contradicted, is that from the fifteenth century onwards English bells were cast and tuned to a musical scale, and rung in orderly rounds. And from this round ringing change ringing was developed in the early years of the seventeenth century.

For this statement there is ample evidence; and even were there no direct evidence, it is difficult to see how a thing like change ringing could be developed out of such ringing as there is on the Continent and with such bells as are in the churches there.

In Shakespeare's time ringing was a very popular sport in England, and especially in London. The style of ringing then practised survived unaltered in places down to living memory, and the men who about the year 1600 witnessed the first performance of Hamlet knew what 'sweet bells jangled' meant just as much as did the Cornish folk of 50 years ago.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

P.S.—Mr. Drake says that 'until changes were rung no one would think of ringing rounds. They would be too objectionable!' John Milton evidently did not think so, as witness the lines from 'L'Allegro':—

'When the merry bells ring round
And the jocund rebecks sound.'

Milton had perhaps as good an ear for music as Mr. Drake. His brother was a ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths, and I should like to think that he himself had a nodding acquaintance with the art in his young days at Queen's College, Cambridge, where there were some who practised it in its elementary stages.

BRISTOL CITY MEETINGS.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS.

Despite the fact that the weather conditions were anything but encouraging, nearly forty ringers attended the annual meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at St. Peter's on November 18th. Soon after three o'clock the eight bells were in full swing, and although the methods were not outstanding, there was varied practice from 'rounds and Queen's' to an unsuccessful attempt at Cambridge Major.

A short service was very kindly conducted by the Rev. S. Loveday, and tea followed in the Parish Hall. Visitors from Cirencester, Bath and other districts attended, in spite of the curtailed bus services, but unfortunately several were compelled to leave early rather than face a long and dreary walk home.

Mr. P. C. Williams (treasurer of the association) took the chair for the election of officers.

Mr. D. G. Clift succeeded Mr. H. Burt as chairman for the ensuing year (the latter having completed four years in office). It was decided to elect a vice-chairman, and Mr. T. Harris was appointed.

After the secretary and the representative on the Management Committee had been re-elected, future meetings were discussed.

It was decided to visit St. Michael's for the December monthly meeting, followed by St. Stephen's and St. Thomas' for the January and February meetings respectively.

Under 'any other business,' it was agreed to leave in abeyance the question of paying the subscriptions of those who had been called upon for military service until the next quarterly meeting.

To conclude the day, several ringers remained for a handbell practice, which passed away the rest of an enjoyable afternoon.

WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

SYMMETRY IN METHODS.

We have seen that by means of Extremes and R. Court Shunts fifteen Major methods are produced. These are the first fifteen given in the Central Council Collection of Plain Major Methods, and the whole group is a valuable one, not only because it is one of the main bases on which hundreds of other methods are founded, but also because the methods themselves are eminently suitable for ringing in the belfry.

It is quite likely that some of our readers may think that all this talk about ' shunts ' and how methods are constructed, although perhaps interesting enough to ' experts,' is of no use to practical ringers. If so, they make a mistake.

In his admirable articles on handbell ringing, Mr. Woolley showed us how you can simplify the ringing of two handbells to the more complex methods if you take note of the position of the places and the accompanying dodging. We shall not, we hope, be thought to be trespassing on his ground if we point out that the task can be still more simplified if you know the effect the place-making has on the Coursing Order of the bells, or, in other words, how the method is constructed. And in tower bellringing the knowledge is not less useful.

But before we go on to consider some points in practical ringing we must notice two methods, both of them old ones, which are not included among the fifteen, although they are constructed by similar means.

The first is the one which Shipway gives in his book on Double Court Bob Major.

Double Court Minor is one of the very best of the six-bell methods. It was practised from early times, and it was natural enough that men should try and extend it to eight bells.

But when they did so, opinions differed as to what is the correct Major extension, and more than one method was practised and called Court Bob Major. Two of them became popular and were rung to peals. The Norwich men rang 5,040 changes of Court Bob Major at St. Michael's Coslany in 1742, and the College Youths rang 5,040 changes of Court Bob Major at St. Lawrence Jewry in 1735. The names were the same, but the methods were quite different, so in the course of time, to distinguish them, men called one Norwich Court and the other London Court.

When Shipway wrote his book, he, as he tells us, gave the matter the most careful examination and, rejecting both as correct extensions, introduced a third which he called Double Court Bob Major.

This is how he produced it. The bell which the treble turns from the lead, makes the Court Places in 3-4 up, and follows the treble up behind. 21436587
At the half-lead end, the bells are in natural Coursing Order with the treble between the 3rd and 5th. 24135678
42316587
24361857

The bell which the treble turns from behind makes the Court Places in 5-6 down, and follows the treble down to the lead.

As in the lead there are two R. Court Shunts, one in each half, the lead-end is the same as that of the second lead of Bob Major, viz., 5738264. 86745213
68475123
86741532
87614523

By this means Shipway produced a true double method in which the bells work from the back in the same manner as they do from the front, one which he believed reproduced the characteristic work of Double Court Minor, and one which, since the Coursing Order of the bells is not broken, will give excellent music.

He thought that he had produced something entirely new, but, as it happened, a very similar method had already been rung.

In the accounts of London Church Bells, which have recently appeared in our columns, reference was made to peals of Eastern Bob Major, Eastern Bob Royal, and Double Eastern Bob Major rung at Shoreditch, St. Sepulchre's, and Westminster in 1747, 1750 and 1752, by the Eastern Scholars.

In Eastern Bob Major and Royal the bell which is coursing in front of the treble makes the Court Places in 3-4 up. No places are made when the treble is hunting down, but at the lead-end the Extreme Shunt is made.

In Double Eastern Bob Major, the same places are made, and in addition the Extreme Shunt is made when the treble is behind, and the bell coursing in front of the treble makes the Court Places in 5-6 down.

A century later, Henry Hubbard rediscovered this method and printed it in his ' Campanalogia ' under the names of Yorkshire Court Major and Double Yorkshire Court.

Here again you have a method which produces excellent music. Nevertheless neither it nor Shipway's Double Court is to-day considered a ' regular ' method. Why?

The Eastern Scholars thought a lot of their method, when they had rung it, and declared that it was ' unparalleled for music,' but when they showed it to Benjamin Annable he laughed at it, and said it was ' lop-sided.' To-day we say the same thing, only we use a Greek word instead of old Ben's Anglo-Saxon, and call it ' unsymmetrical.'

But why should an unsymmetrical method not be rung? This is a question which is hard to answer. Thirty years ago the matter was hotly debated, and one school of experts, led by C. D. P. Davies, poured scorn on the whole thing. What's wrong with a method like Union Triples? they asked, and nobody, so far as we know, could give a really satisfactory answer. Nevertheless, the Exercise has tacitly settled the question, and to-day only symmetrical methods are rung.

It is quite easy to see why symmetry is a necessary quality in some cases. Hubbard gave the six-bell variation of Yorkshire Court in his book, and it was widely rung and included in peals. But what people did not realise for many years was that, owing to the lack of symmetry in the method, no true 720 is possible; and so all the peals which included it, and they were many, were false. With the ' Standard ' calling, for instance, you get the two lead-ends—23564 and 46532. Write out the two leads in full and see what happens.

In a similar way you will find that in very many, perhaps the majority, of unsymmetrical methods, true peals are not possible.

But you can get true peals of Eastern Bob and of the method Shipway called Double Court, so this objection does not apply to them. Nevertheless, there is an objection, as Annable saw two hundred years ago. Perhaps it lies in the fact that symmetry is one of those great qualities like truth and beauty on which all good things are based. But we must not go into that now

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN LONDON RINGER.

FORMER DISTRICT MASTER OF THE L.C.A.

Mr. Harry Mance, late Master of the Southern District of the London County Association and a member of the Surrey Association, passed away after two weeks' illness at his residence at West Norwood on Monday, November 27th.

Born at Horsham, Sussex, in 1873, he became a ringer at the Parish Church there when 16 years of age. He came to London in 1905 and lived in Battersea, where he took up ringing at St. Mary's Church. Later he joined the St. Luke's, Chelsea, band and was Master of that society for a number of years. About four years ago for business reasons he went to reside at West Norwood. He then joined the St Leonard's, Streatham, band.

He held office as District Master of the London County Association for a good number of years, retiring in 1937, owing to health and business reasons. His general demeanour was always quiet and unassuming. He was a great help to young ringers and was respected by all. He was a conductor of no mean ability and called a good many peals, but there is no record of how many he rang.

At the funeral, which took place at Streatham Cemetery, Magdalen Road, Wandsworth, on Saturday last, many ringers were present, including Mr. T. H. Taffender, Master, and Miss O. L. Ashbrook, assistant secretary of the London County Association. The handbell ringing over the grave consisted of three whole pulls of rounds with intervals three times, followed by a course of Grandsire Triples: O. L. Ashbrook 1-2, H. G. Miles 3-4, T. H. Taffender 5-6, J. W. Chapman 7-8.

In the evening half-muffled ringing took place at St. Leonard's, Streatham, touches in various methods being rung by his brother members of the local band and others.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter to mourn their loss. The two sons, H. H. Mance and B. Mance, are also ringers.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING AT WOODFORD.

A meeting of the Northern District of the London County Association was held at Woodford on November 18th, and, despite the present conditions and inclement weather, the 20 ringers who turned up were rewarded with some good ringing in methods from Grandsire to London Surprise Major. Tea was served in the Parish Hall, followed by a short business meeting.

A very pleasant hour on the handbells brought the day to a close with the thanks of the district to the Vicar of Woodford, the Rev. T. J. Ison, and Mr. C. R. Morss for making the necessary arrangements.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MACCLESFIELD BRANCH OVERCOMES WAR-TIME HANDICAP.

The Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild has been able to resume quarterly meetings. The September meeting had to be postponed owing to the national emergency, but on November 18th a meeting was held at St. James', Sutton. Although the attendance was not so good as would have been the case in normal times, the meeting did not lack anything in enthusiasm.

On the handy and harmonious ring of six the early arrivals were induced to 'experiment,' and courses of Plain Bob and St. Simon's Doubles were successfully accomplished, much to the amusement of certain members. After this preliminary effort the gathering was considerably augmented, and the bells were kept going almost continuously until about 5.30 p.m. The methods rung were a goodly assortment—variety being the spice of life, not to mention ringing meetings—and catered for the expert and also the struggling apprentice. Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were followed by Plain Bob Minor, and eventually Cambridge and London Surprise Minor were rung. Mention should also be made of a 'touch' of Spliced Treble Bob Minor, which was indeed a joy to at least one member of the company.

After the bells had been brought to rest the Guild service followed, conducted by the Vicar of St. James' (the Rev. E. G. M. Evans), at the end of which arrangements were made to satisfy the demands of the inner man and full justice was done to the repast waiting for the party.

At the business meeting which followed immediately afterwards, the Rev. E. C. M. Evans, who acted as chairman, and the Rev. S. J. Sharples were elected honorary members of the Guild.

A resolution was passed unanimously that the secretary should forward a letter of good wishes to the Rev. N. A. Vesey, former president of the Macclesfield Branch, who had left the town to take up an appointment in Bridlington.

The general meeting of the branch was arranged to take place the second Saturday in January, 1940.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the use of the bells, for conducting the service and acting as chairman, also to the local company and especially to Mr. Taylor for having everything in readiness, and to the ladies who had prepared tea, concluded the business.

Further use could not be made of the tower bells, but the handbells were brought into service and courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Caters were rung by the fireside. Eventually the last remaining members found that time will wait for no man and departed upon their various ways, thus bringing to an end a very enjoyable day.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The war-time derangement of the postal services and the necessity of getting the copies of 'The Ringing World' into the hands of the publishers earlier on Thursday make it absolutely essential that all contributions to our columns, and particularly all notices, should be in our hands by MONDAY in each week. We cannot guarantee the insertion in the following issue of anything received later.

We hope that secretaries will send us prompt reports of their meetings, and we shall welcome any items of news relating to ringers and ringing, but they must reach us early.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. James George has received so many letters of congratulation upon his 86th birthday (including one from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham) that he finds it impossible to reply to them individually. He desires to thank sincerely all those who have sent him such kindly messages. A peal of Stedman Triples on handbells, specially arranged at Leicester on November 30th in his honour, and in which he took part, was rung in 2 hours and 25 minutes.

To-day is the anniversary of a peal of Stedman Caters rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths at All Saints', Fulham, in 1883. The number of changes was 11,111, which at the time was the record length in the method, beating the 10,047 rung at Aston by the St. Martin's Society in 1859. Two of the Fulham band, Messrs. C. F. Winney and F. E. Dawe, are still alive.

On the same date in 1746 James Barham and his band rang 10,080 changes of Double Bob Major, which still remains the longest length in the method.

On December 9th, 1835, the Painswick men rang the then longest length of Treble Bob Maximus, 10,224 changes, beating one of 7,392 changes rung at Oldham in the previous year.

John Cox was born on December 9th, 1813.

On December 10th, 1881, the first peal was rung on the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral. The method was Stedman Cinques and the conductor was Henry W. Haley. Two men were at the tenor.

A handsome and well-restored tablet in the base of the tower at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, records the ringing of 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters by the Society of Junior Cumberlands on December 10th, 1793.

On December 10th, 1770, the Cumberlands rang at St. Magnus the Martyr 'the first peal ever completed' of 'Cumberlands' Caters real double with the bobs alternately behind as before.' This was the first peal of real Double Grandsire Caters.

A peal of Bob Major on handbells was rung on the Indian Ocean on December 10th, 1934.

The handbell peal of Bob Major at Headingley in which Canon Marshall took part was rung on Saturday, November 25th, not Saturday, November 4th, as published in last week's 'Ringing World.'

The number of changes in the peal of Grandsire Caters rung at Worsley on November 18th was 5,021, not 5,120 as stated in our issue of November 24th.

On December 7th, 1889, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Caldicot, the first peal on the bells. It was intended to ring the jubilee peal this week, but owing to the war the attempt is postponed indefinitely.

The Rev. H. T. Wisdom, of Worthing, has been appointed assistant priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton, and takes up his duties on the first day of the new year. He will be an acquisition to the Exercise in the town. His new address is 25, Hampstead Road, Brighton 5.

MESSRS. JOHN TAYLOR AND CO.'S CALENDAR.

Messrs. John Taylor and Co. inform us that, owing to difficulties consequent on the war, they have to discontinue temporarily the issue of their annual calendar and none will be published for the year 1940.

Messrs Taylor's calendar, with its fine photographs of famous bell towers, is prized by very many ringers, who will look forward to its re-issue in happier times.

ACCIDENT TO MR. W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

The many friends of Mr. Walter W. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, will be sorry to hear that he met with an accident while at work last week. As a result he is laid up with a severely strained back, and it will be several weeks before he is well enough to enter the belfry again.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LOUGHBOROUGH FOUNDRY.

Owing to the prevailing war conditions, the second quarterly meeting of the Midland Counties Association, fixed to take place at Newark in September, had to be cancelled. However, it was felt that a general meeting should take place, but as no suitable tower in the Nottingham district was available, Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. very kindly granted permission for the use of the ten bells in their bell foundry campanile at Loughborough, and the meeting was held on Saturday, November 25th. Despite the difficulties of travel and the very inclement weather, quite a large number of members and friends turned up, some 30 or more representatives from Derby, Spondon, Hinckley, Leicester, Syston, Cotgrave, Belgrave, Burton, Overseale, Nottingham, Sawley and other places being present and making good use of the bells during the afternoon.

The committee met in the Foundry House at 4 p.m. and carried through their routine business. The general meeting was held in the belfry room an hour later, and in the absence of the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert), the vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) took the chair. He was supported by the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. E. White) and hon. secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris).

The Chairman spoke of the unusual circumstances under which they had assembled, but stressed the fact that they must not let present conditions curtail their activities in the art. Especially was it up to all of them to keep the bells going for Sunday services. That was most essential, and even though peal ringing (which, at the best, was but a 'side issue') was curtailed, service ringing should take first place. Mr. Harrison welcomed such a good gathering, and trusted all would enjoy their visit, despite the fact that local catering could not be carried out this time as hitherto. Everyone, however, could get refreshments at cafes quite comfortably if desired.

New members proposed since the last quarterly meeting, viz., 10 ringing, five rejoined, two life and five honorary, were duly elected.

The hon. secretary mentioned that M.C.A. badges were available and he trusted all members would now purchase these from local secretaries and so help to clear the initial cost of production.

The question of the subscriptions of members now serving in H.M. Forces (as distinct from local A.R.P. duties) was discussed, and Mr. C. Hutchence proposed and Mr. Geoffrey Harrison seconded that any such members should be exempt from paying their subscriptions while on active service away from home.

Mr. W. E. White proposed and Mr. P. H. Swinfield seconded that a list of these members be compiled and printed in the next annual report.

Will local secretaries and members, therefore, please note this and send full details to the general hon. secretary, where possible giving name of unit and rank of the members now serving.

After a discussion on the Nottingham District management, it was announced that the next general meeting would be held at Earl Shilton on Saturday, January 27th, 1940.

This concluded the business and the remainder of the afternoon was spent in further touches on the Bell Foundry bells.

BURTON DISTRICT OVERCOME THE BLACK OUT CONDITIONS.

A good gathering was held at St. John's, Newhall, on Saturday last, when members from the following towers met for the district meeting: Burton (St. Paul's), Ashby, Repton, Measham, Netherseale, Overseale, Ticknall, Derby, Melbourne and the local company.

The co-operation of the police having been sought and obtained, full advantage was taken of the privilege, and the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Goffin) kindly acted as listener in case of any air raid warning being given.

It was unfortunate, owing to the black-out making travelling difficult, that one or two were unable to stay for tea, which was served in the Church Room, and it was noted that food rationing was not in evidence, for the ladies had prepared an excellent tea for a very modest charge.

The Vicar was voted to the chair for the short meeting, and it was proposed that the annual district meeting be held at Measham on January 6th, 1940, and as the tower can easily be fitted to comply with lighting restrictions, ringing may continue until a late hour.

The secretary asked that names and particulars of all members joining the Forces should be sent to him so that they may be placed on record in the association's yearly report.

The Vicar, in reply to a vote of thanks, said that it was a pleasure to welcome the members to Newhall, and although his remarks were rather belated, he assured the ringers they were very sincere. He would always be ready to place Newhall bells at their disposal if conditions in times that lay ahead made it difficult to arrange meetings at certain towers, adding that if food control was then in force, suitable provision would be arranged for tea.

The tower was revisited and touches in the following methods were brought round: Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Single Court and Double Oxford Bob Minor, with plenty of opportunities for the recruits in Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

WAR-TIME RINGING.

The position generally in the Guildford Diocese is that, with the exception of the Guildford towers, where ringing is prohibited, service ringing on Sundays (in the majority of cases in the morning only) seems to be general. At some towers, including Aldershot, Shalford, Horsham, Cranleigh, Leatherhead, Shere and Ewhurst, the ringing room has been blacked out and evening practices continue as usual. Where practices are suspended owing to blacking out difficulties, district officers and members of the committee are urged to organise combined practices for groups of towers on Saturday afternoons.

The officers are of opinion that it is not practicable to hold a dinner this season. It is not proposed to call the Executive Committee together to discuss the matter unless a majority of the members send in a written request for a meeting.

RINGING ARRANGEMENTS.

Stoke Poges: 10.15 to 11 a.m. and 2.15 to 3 p.m.
Burnham, Bucks: 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Practice, Tuesday, 7.30 p.m.
Fulham: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 5.15 to 6.15 p.m.
Acton: 1st Sunday, 2 to 3 p.m.
Rampton, Cambs: 9.30 to 10 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
Debenham: The tower is blacked out and the bells are available at any time up to 9 p.m. by arrangement. There is no regular practice meeting.
St. Alban's Cathedral: Practice Saturday afternoons, 4 to 5.30 p.m.

RINGERS' DUTY TO KEEP THE BELLS IN USE.

A LETTER FROM INDIA.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one of the ringers who have been called up for service, I have been much interested in your articles on ringing during war time and in the letters which it has given rise to.

There is, however, one aspect of the matter which has not received attention, but which is of great importance. In many places there is a strong element of hostility to ringing among a certain section of the population, as is well known to ringers. It is only because ringing has been continually kept going in such places that this hostile section has not been able to work its will in silencing the bells, and if, owing to the war, or any other reason, such towers once cease to operate actively, then the chance of reopening them to the Exercise later on will be practically nil.

I would put forward the plea that ringers who remain at home owe it as a plain duty to those who are called up for service to hand back their heritage of towers and bells unimpaired at the end of the war.

c/o Navy Office, Bombay, India. A. R. POYNTZ.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Wilson's letter in your issue of November 24th, the abstention from peal ringing noted and commended by the Central Council in 1915 was not 'total abstinence,' but a marked degree of restraint. Reference to back numbers of your paper at that period will show that reports of a few peals appeared regularly week by week. At the same time there is obvious reason for taking care that peals are not rung under such conditions as to jar upon the feelings of the public.

I quite agree that peal ringing on special occasions is to be encouraged. The present month affords notable opportunities. Besides the Christmas festival, Monday, 11th, will be the anniversary of the King's Accession, and Thursday, 14th, the King's birthday.

F. LL. EDWARDS.

CHURCH BELLS AND THE NOISE ORDER.

'THE RINGING WORLD' PRODUCED TO POLICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You will be pleased to know that we have commenced ringing again at St. Giles', Willenhall, on Sunday mornings 10.30 till 11; Sunday evenings 6 to 6.30; and practice, Tuesday, 8 p.m. A welcome to visitors.

Our Vicar, the Rev. C. E. Turner, informed me that he approached the police authorities on the subject, taking with him the copy of 'The Ringing World' of November 17th containing your letter to the Ministry of Home Security and the letter you received in reply. The Inspector of Police then made further inquiries, using the copy of 'The Ringing World,' and shortly afterwards we were informed that everything was in order and we could ring as usual when the black-out restrictions had been complied with.

C. WALLATER.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN OF SALEHURST BAND.

At Salehurst, Sussex, on Sunday, December 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to Mr. Trayton Booth, for over twenty years a respected member and captain of the local band, who passed peacefully away on November 26th: E. Avery 1, F. Morgan 2, J. G. Powell 3, G. King 4, W. H. Hoad (conductor) 5, A. E. Edwards 6, E. Mills 7, A. Smith 8.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. LEONARD'S, SHOREDITCH.

By J. Armiger Trollope.

In addition to the long peals of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, one or two other lengths of over six thousand changes were rung at St. Leonard's by the Cumberland Youths during the eighteenth century. Of these, perhaps the most interesting was one of 7,001 of Grandsire Caters on November 3rd, 1773. Although it is not definitely so stated, the composition was probably the one by George Gross, which is given in the 'Clavis.' It contains the sixty course ends with the big bells in the tittums, and is an excellent production. Gross seems to have been the first man to use short courses in Grandsire Caters, all the other peals being produced by 7-8's and 8-9's.

To get the required length and also, probably, to arrange the changes so that the bells could be brought round at hand, Gross started with eight courses with the big bells in the ordinary backstroke position, and John Reeves no doubt thought he had produced a much superior peal when he composed one with the same qualities in the same number of changes and only one long going-off course.

It was at St. Leonard's that Benjamin Annable rang his last peal, one of Bob Major in 1754. Although it is included in the present peal book of the College Youths, it was not really rung by members of that society. Half the band were then members of the Society of Eastern Scholars, and the performance was one link in a chain of circumstances which led to the ultimate break-up of both societies and the formation of that Society of College Youths which became the leading metropolitan company in the second half of the eighteenth century, absorbing all that was best in the older two.

After George Gross had quarrelled with the Cumberlands in 1782, he formed a new company which called themselves the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths. These men rang several peals at different towers, including Shoreditch, none of which are of particular interest. Then came the usual quarrel, and the best men among them drifted back to the old Society of Cumberlands. Among them was William Shipway.

Meanwhile the Ancient Society of College Youths had paid their famous visit to Norwich and brought back Stedman Caters and Cinques, which thenceforth became the most esteemed methods among London ringers.

In 1787, John Reeves called the first peal of Stedman Caters, at Horsleydown, for a band of the ancient Society of College Youths, and shortly afterwards that company broke up. Some of the band went to the other Society of College Youths, and helped to make up the band which rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques.

Reeves joined the Cumberlands, and on August 23rd, 1788, he called for them at Shoreditch the second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung. The figures of the composition are lost. The fourth was rung by William Shipway and the third by George Gross.

At the first sight we should imagine that this was the elder George Gross, who had broken with the junior Cumberlands and who was anxious to regain his former position in his old company. Neither the peal book nor the peal board is clear about the matter, but it is not at all likely that Gross would have stood in a peal with his rival as conductor, and, while the name book records the election of the younger Gross as a new member, it says nothing about the return of his father.

It was not until about six years later, when Reeves had left the society, that Gross got his chance. He then returned, was at once elected to his old office of beadle, and remained the leader of the company for the rest of his life.

After the Stedman Caters, the only peal rung at St. Leonard's for some years was by the College Youths, but with the return of Gross the Cumberlands once more scored peals there.

On December 13th, 1794, Gross called '5,200 changes of Cumberland Royal Treble Bob, the most that can be rung in 9 courses.' There is no direct evidence as to what method was rung, but there is little doubt that it was Reeves' nine-course peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal. Peals of Kent Treble-ten had already been rung at Leeds in Kent, and the method was printed in the 'Clavis' of 1788, where it is called New Treble Bob, a not very good name, which fortunately did not stick to it. The Cumberlands went on and rang peals of Kent Major and Maximus, but the method was not regularly practised in London until well on into the next century. The name Kent first appears in print in Shipway's book.

On November 12th, 1796, Shipway called a 'William' peal at Shoreditch. It was not the first name peal, for that had been rung a few years earlier when eight Georges, with George Gross as conductor, scored a peal of Treble Bob Major at St. Olave's, Southwark. In 1801 George Gross called a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal, and the peal book claims it as the 'first ever rung in that method.' The claim, however, is not a sound one, for the Norwich men had rung the first peal, and a mixed band, with John Noonan as conductor, rang the second peal at Spitalfields five weeks before the Shoreditch performance.

In 1802 Shipway called a peal of Imperial Place Caters, a method of which he was rather proud and which is produced without any dodging. As, however, the bells which turn and are turned by the treble lie still for three blows, its merits are not great.

The next interesting peal on the bells was in 1805, when the Cumberlands rang 6,129 changes of Stedman Caters at the time the longest length in the method. It was composed and conducted by the younger George Gross.

In 1807, on the opening day after the bells were increased to twelve, the Cumberlands rang 5,390 of Grandsire Cinques, and in 1809 6,000 of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. Then, during the following twenty years, there were ten or a dozen peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob on ten and twelve bells. The last was 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in February, 1830, and after that, silence for half a century.

The cause may have been that the bells were getting into a bad condition or that the tenor had become broken and unringable.

The Cumberlands, who for so long had made the tower their principal practice place, now abandoned the belfry and moved first of all to St. Mary-le-Bow, and shortly afterwards, when the College Youths left St. Martin-in-the-Fields for Southwark, to Trafalgar Square.

They took with them one or two of the boards from the belfry and re-erected them in their new home. One is that which records Reeves' peal of Stedman Caters. It has been restored and is now in excellent condition. The

other I was unable to read. Here we probably have the origin of the legend about the Duke of Cumberland's picture and its removal to St. Martin's.

The tenor was recast in 1875 by Blews, of Birmingham, and the bells put into some sort of repair, and in 1882 the College Youths ended the long break in peal ringing by scoring 5,000 changes of Stedman Cinques. Two years later the Cumberlands, mainly through the influence of Henry Dains, celebrated the centenary of Gross' long peal of Treble Bob Royal by ringing a five thousand. But they rang Kent and not Oxford, which had become almost a forgotten method except in East Anglia. In the same year the society rang a peal of Treble Twelve and one of Stedman Caters, and then, save for one peal in 1886, another silence fell on the bells until after they were restored in 1913.

The first peal after restoration was Stedman Cinques, conducted by Mr. Frank Bennett, and since then there has been a steady succession of performances in the belfry, most of them, naturally, by the Society of Cumberland Youths.

We should have imagined that a belfry with a long ringing history like that of Shoreditch would have a large collection of interesting peal boards, but in that respect St. Leonard's is somewhat disappointing. As stated above, two boards were taken to St. Martin's, and it is certain that some were destroyed during the long period of neglect. Fifty years ago two boards, recording Kent Treble Bob Royal rung in 1801 and Gross' long peal of Stedman Caters, were still in existence, but now they have disappeared.

The only old board still actually in the belfry records the peal of New Bob Triples rung in 1750, but two very fine tablets, recording the long peals of Treble Bob Royal by the College Youths and the Cumberlands, have been removed to the base of the tower, which forms the vestibule of the church. Both have been restored and are in good condition. Photographs and descriptions of them are given in the London County Council official Survey of London. The College Youths' record is in gilt letters on a black ground and enclosed in a carved wood frame, which was carefully restored by the instructors and pupils of the Shoreditch Technical School. The other is in gilt writing on a copper plate, with an elaborate carved and gilded frame. Hung where they now are, these most valuable and interesting records of the past are likely to be preserved for very many years.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT COLEMAN'S HATCH.

The East Grinstead and District Guild held another successful meeting last Saturday, when 17 members enjoyed ringing on the light octave at Coleman's Hatch.

The bells were kept going from 3 o'clock to 8, with a break for tea and meeting. The methods ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise. At tea the new Vicar was introduced and proved to be a jolly companion who joined in the usual leg-pulling with great gusto.

The next meeting was arranged for January 6th at Tunbridge Wells, and the annual meeting at East Grinstead in February.

ST. WOOLOS' CATHEDRAL, NEWPORT.

OPENING OF THE AUGMENTED RING OF TWELVE.

On Sunday, November 26th, the two new bells at St. Woolos', Newport, were dedicated by the Dean in the unavoidable absence of the Bishop.

The bells are a memorial to Dr. Egerton Williams and their cost as well as that of recasting three others was met by his generous bequest.

Last Saturday the belfry was open to ringers, and visitors from Taunton, Bath, Bristol and Hereford turned up, as well as many from Monmouth and Glamorganshire.

Ringing began shortly after 2 p.m. and continued until black-out time. Afterwards 42, including the Dean, Mr. Price, the churchwarden, and Mr. C. F. Johnston, of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, sat down to tea. The Dean welcomed the visitors and congratulated Mr. Johnston on the way the work was done and the perfect splice that had been made.

St. Woolos' now possesses the only ring of twelve in the Province of Wales. The tenor is 21¼ cwt. and the whole ring is a very handy one which will bear comparison with any other in the country of the same weight.

MR. ERNEST MORRIS' 800 PEALS.

After many disappointments, Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, has scored his 800th peal. The 799th was a splendidly struck peal of Stedman Triples on handbells, with Mr. James George at the tenors. He came three times all the way from Birmingham to Leicester, and after two failures was successful on his 86th birthday.

Mr. Morris' 800th peal was one of Grandsire Doubles at the bell tower of Loughborough Foundry. It was specially arranged for two brothers, Messrs. Reginald M. Hill and C. Raymond Hill. The former, who was 21 years old on December 4th, is in the Royal Navy and came home on leave for his birthday. On the same day his brother, who is 19 years old, left Leicester also to join the Navy, the band wishing him God-speed and a safe return.

Mr. Morris' peal list is a long and varied one, ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Maximus. Four hundred and eight were conducted by him and 52 were rung in hand. They were rung in 207 towers, 24 counties and for 23 societies. They include the record length of Cambridge Surprise Major (12,896 changes), the quickest tower-bell peals of Minor and Major, the Secretaries' peal of Stedman Cinques, the first 'Ernest' peal and peals by four sets of brothers, four fathers and sons, and five fathers and sons.

YATTENDON BELLS RESTORED.

COST BORNE BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION.

The ring of six bells at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Yattendon, Berks, has recently been rehung and the treble and tenor recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. Practically the whole cost of the restoration has been borne by voluntary subscription.

The treble bell, which bears the inscription, 'They owe their mirth to me,' was made by Lester and Pack and was the gift of Richard Welbourne, Esq., in 1756.

The second is dated 1657, the third 1925 and the fourth 1660.

The fifth is of local interest. It bears the inscription, 'Sancte Nicollai ora pro nobis,' and probably is of the 15th century, for it bears the early lion's head stop of the Wokingham foundry and cross composed of four fleurs-de-lys.

The tenor bears the date 1617 and the inscription 'Henry Knight made mee.'

The dedication service was performed by the Rev. H. C. Wilder, chairman of the Bradfield Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and the visiting ringers were from the Bucklebury tower under their foreman, Mr. W. Mathews.

A new band of ringers has been got together and shows great keenness. They are being introduced to the intricacies of change ringing by Mr. Ward, of Basildon, and one of the keenest recruits is the Rector, the Rev. A. F. G. Farmer.

WALTHAM ST. LAWRENCE, BERKS. — On Sunday, November 19th, for the marriage of Mr. William Palmer, the son of the parish clerk, 720 Minor, being 240 Plain Bob, 240 Kent Treble Bob and 240 Oxford Treble Bob: Stanley Darvill 1, Pte. A. Pearson (Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry) 2, J. Coope, sen. 3, V. Darvill 4, J. Darvill 5, T. Tilley (conductor) 6.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.—On November 4th, 720 of Bob Minor was rung at St. Mary Magdalene's Church by G. W. Brothwell (first 720) 1, Mrs. N. Chaddock 2, John H. Brothwell 3, G. Brothwell 4, Tom Brothwell 5, Norman Chaddock (conductor) 6.

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ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING AT MISTLEY.

A meeting of the North-Eastern District of the Essex Association was held at Mistley last Saturday and was attended by 22 members, 11 towers being represented. Ringing began soon after two o'clock and was kept up until half-past eight, a good number of methods being rung.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, who gave a very hearty welcome to the ringers present, saying that it was the second time during his incumbency that he had the pleasure of welcoming the association, and hoped he would be able to do so again under more pleasant conditions when he could extend some hospitality to those present. He complimented the members for getting together to ring the bells. It was a grand thing to tell the people that the bells were calling all to worship at their village church.

A collection was made during the service for the Bell Restoration Fund, which amounted to 8s.

After the service and more ringing, the company sat down to tea at the Thore Hotel. At the business meeting the Master (Mr. G. Waterman) apologised for the absence of the secretary, due to his being engaged on work of national importance. It was explained why the annual district meeting had been arranged to take place that day, for it was only after some considerable trouble that a tower could be obtained at all.

Mr. G. Waterman, of Harwich, was re-elected District Master for the next year, and Mr. L. Wright, of Mistley, was elected temporary secretary.

The next meeting was arranged to take place at Tendring at the end of April next.

A discussion followed regarding ringing members of H.M. Forces, and it was proposed by Mr. C. Ellis that all members serving in H.M. Forces should have their subscriptions paid for them, and this was carried.

After touches on the handbells a return was made to the tower for more ringing.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BOWDON, STOCKPORT AND MOTTRAM BRANCH.

The last meeting of the year was held at Hyde on Saturday, November 25th, when, despite terrible weather conditions and the 'black-out,' some 25 members and friends attended.

The bells were set going early in the afternoon, and touches in various methods were rung before service in church at 4.30. This was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. Victor Dawson, who also gave a very interesting address, basing his remarks on the inscriptions to be found on bells, and in particular one inscribed 'Serving the Lord.' He dwelt upon the wonderful inspiration which could be gained from the long line of ringers who have served the Church down the ages, and their devoted service in handing down to future generations the truths and that faith will always win through.

Tea followed in the Parish Hall under the guidance of the local ringers' wives, who, despite the difficulties of these days, had managed to provide an excellent repast.

After tea the usual business meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Vicar, who gave the ringers a warm welcome to Hyde. A discussion on the effects of the war on ringing, and the efforts we should make to combat them, showed agreement on the following points: (a) Service ringing to be maintained as far as possible. (b) Practices to be held where feasible. A scheme of Saturday afternoon practices is already in operation in six of the central towers of the branch. (c) Peal ringing to be limited to special occasions. (d) To forward a recommendation to the general secretary suggesting that members serving in the King's Forces should remain members of the Guild whether their subscriptions were paid or not. (e) Meetings to be held as usual, but instead of fixing the list for the year to work from meeting to meeting, having regard to the state of affairs at the time.

Reference was made to the passing to higher service of Messrs. Bert Davies, of Didsbury, and A. Wright, of Stockport. The revised rules of the Guild were submitted and approved.

Further ringing then took place till a late hour on handbells and tower bells, the methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

E. BERKS AND S. BUCKS BRANCH.

A cheerful afternoon was enjoyed by those who turned up at Cookham, various methods being successfully accomplished throughout. Then the tea. What a tea for a bob! We just couldn't eat everything up.

The handbells having been sorted out, a fair course of Grandsire Triples was rung, followed by a few tunes, but we could have done with one more to ring a touch.

Come to Burnham on December 16th, as there may be something doing on Boxing Day, if the secretary can get away from work.

A. D. B.

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 MONDAY.

'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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Wollaston on Saturday, December 9th. Buses from Stourbridge Town pass the church. Ringing from 3 to 4 p.m. Service and meeting after. Ringing 5.15 to 6.15 p.m. Election of officers, so please try and get there.—J. Lloyd, Ringing Master.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Weedon (six bells), on Saturday, December 9th.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at St. John's, Redhill, on Saturday, December 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. at the Parochial Hall, Brighton Road, followed by a business meeting and ringing again from 7 to 9 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. Hancock, Hon. Sec., Hillview, Eastbourne Road, Godstone.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Leyland, St. James', on Saturday, December 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. —Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—A meeting at York Town on Saturday, December 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Church Room 5.15 p.m. Nominations for officers for 1940 to be made at this meeting. —C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Marnhull on Saturday, December 9th. Bells ready at 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30.—Rev. W. Uphill, Hon. Sec., Stour Provost Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Stoke Goldington, on Saturday, December 9th, from 2 to 8 p.m. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 9th. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea at 4.30 p.m., with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Fox, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The fourth and last war-time meeting for 1939 will be held at Hinckley on Saturday, December 9th. Bells from 2 p.m. until dusk. A room is being reserved for the evening. Come early, all are welcome, especially friends from Warwickshire.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, December 9th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4 o'clock. Tea and meeting to follow.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

RICKMANSWORTH PARISH CHURCH.—Meeting for practice (Stedman Caters, Little Bob and Cambridge) on Saturday, December 9th, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.—J. Howard Freeborn.

CROWAN, CAMBORNE, CORNWALL.—The two new bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Truro at 2.30 on Saturday afternoon, December 16th. Peal augmented to a ring of eight by John Taylor and Co.

WATFORD, HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting (annual), Saturday, December 16th. Bells available from 2.30. Tea and business meeting in Old School about 5. Those requiring tea must let me know by Wednesday, December 13th, so that arrangements may be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Sacred Trinity, Salford, on Saturday afternoon, December 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting of the Crewe Branch will be held at Alsager (8 bells) on Saturday, December 16th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Please let me know if you intend to be present.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Alvaston, Derby, on December 16th (St. Luke's not being available). Tower 'blacked out,' so come and make use of this handy ring of six. All welcome. Bells available 2.30.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at Bishops Stortford on December 16th. Ringing from 2 p.m. until dusk. Tea and meeting to be arranged during ringing. —W. Wheeler, Dis. Sec., Mill Street, Harlow Common, Harlow, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice will be held at Burnham (8 bells) on Saturday, December 16th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. (send a postcard), and ringing after tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough. Phone, Slough 23260.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Taunton Deanery.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Taunton, on Saturday, December 16th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Further ringing until 7.30 p.m.—R. W. Hayward, 24, Fairwater Cottages, Taunton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Gloucester Branch will be held on Saturday, December 16th, at Barnwood. Bells (8) available from 2 to 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. A card for tea (free) will much oblige.—W. H. Harris, Branch Hon. Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A gathering in lieu of the postponed annual meeting will be held at the Crown Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, on Saturday, December 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Will those intending to be present please notify me on or before Tuesday, December 12th, in order that definite arrangements can be made for tea.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—A meeting of this District will be held at Kempston on Saturday, December 16th. Bells (6) ready from 2 till 5 p.m. Tea will be at 5 p.m., followed by handbell ringing. Please make an effort to attend. All ringers welcomed.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting will be held at Chatteris on Saturday, December 16th. —F. Warrington.

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ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's Church on Sunday, November 19th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal (1,480 changes) in 61 mins.: F. Kirk 1, H. Goodenough 2, G. E. Debenham 3, W. Ayre 4, *E. Gale 5, *H. Mason 6, †W. Arnold 7, F. Spicer 8, G. W. Debenham (conductor) 9, H. Frost 10. * First quarter-peal of Treble Ten † First quarter-peal of Treble Bob.

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