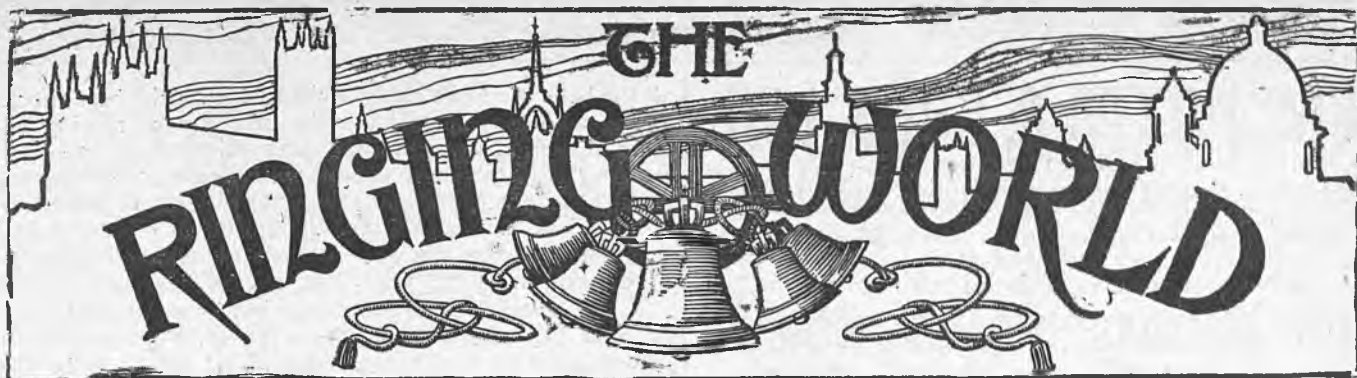




No. 1,525. Vol. XXXV.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST PEAL.

Had circumstances been different, many ringers would have been looking forward to hearing at no distant date the great peal of bells that is to be installed in Liverpool's new Cathedral, but the war has put off this historic event for an indefinite time. The bells, however, are now all in being; and some day will find their home in the massive tower which is rising towards completion. They stand now at the scene of their birth, the Whitechapel Foundry, a testimony to the generosity and forethought of one of Liverpool's sons, and a triumph for the bell founders' art. This peal of bells is the largest ever cast for ringing, surpassing in size anything ever before conceived for the purpose, and offering new scope for the skill of those who will be called upon to ring them. That their use in the new Cathedral is likely to be unduly delayed is a matter of deep regret, not only from the ringers' point of view, but from the point of view of the church itself. The opening of the bells would mark the completion of another great stage in the progress of this vast undertaking, and a year ago the consummation seemed within early reach. Now, however, there can be no certainty when the bells will be hung, and Liverpool must wait for their tones. It is, however, only in the minds of impatient man that disappointment will be felt. After all, the bells are not for a day or a year; they are for the centuries, and this war will cause but a passing delay which, in the light of history, is an infinitesimal portion of time.

But the bells are ready whenever the tower can receive them, and it is a satisfaction to know that this great Cathedral is to be equipped with a peal worthy of the great inspiration that has led to the rise of this wonderful tribute to man's faith in God. The sound of the bells as they can now be heard in the foundry at once fills the listener with a sense of their noble tones—something deeply impressive alike in depth and harmony. What they will sound like when ringing over the city of Liverpool from their lofty tower can only at present be imagined, and many will wait with the keenest anticipation and interest for the day when this massive peal will respond to the hands of ringers. The ringing of them, turning full circle, will, however, be a task for men of wide experience in heavy-bell ringing. As a balanced peal, St. Paul's Cathedral is the heaviest that we have had up to the present. They are no playthings; they are a job for ringers with a training on big bells. But the tenor at Liverpool is a ton heavier than that at St. Paul's, and the eleventh is only about six hundredweight less. Even the small bells—small, that is, in proportion, for the treble is nearly half a ton—will require men of experience to handle them if

(Continued on page 278.)

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

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all the bells are to be rung in changes with the best effect. Those who may later have the privilege of ringing on them may rest assured that everything that the bell hangers' skill can do to ensure their efficient 'go' will be done, but, that notwithstanding, the ringing of them will be work for a trained band. That such a company may be got together in due time is a matter which the Lancashire Association will doubtless well consider.

In the completion of the tower and its equipment there is to be, in addition to the Bartlett peal, a great bourdon bell of fourteen and a half tons. This bell is to be the gift of the generous benefactors who are giving the tower, Lord Vestey and his brother, Sir Edmund Vestey, and there is a desire that this bell shall also be cast in the near future. Its founding was to have taken place at White-chapel, but circumstances arising from the war have made it impossible. By a happy arrangement, however, the work is to be done at Loughborough, so that in the completion of this gigantic bell undertaking, the greatest ever carried out at an English church, the two world-famous firms of Mears and Stainbank and John Taylor and Co., will be associated.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

MANCHESTER, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 5, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, GORTON,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT Treble	JOHN HASSELL 5
ALAN J. BROWN 2	FRANK REYNOLDS 6
JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 3	EDWARD F. MAWBY 7
WILLIAM H. SHUKER 4	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... Tenor

Composed by C. K. LEWIS. Conducted by F. REYNOLDS.

HANDBELL PEAL.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF W. C. MEDLER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, one of St. Clement's and two of Plain Bobs.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER 3-4
ERIC DURRANT 5-6	

Conducted by E. DURRANT.

First handbell peal in four methods by all and for the association.

5,248 BOB MAJOR.

The composition of the 5,248 Bob Major by Mr. C. K. Lewis, rung, it is believed, for the first time, at Gorton Unitarian Church on June 5th, is as follows:—

23456 5th 4th B H

35264 — 3

42536 S — 3

Seven times repeated, calling last three homes in fourth and eighth parts B.S.B.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

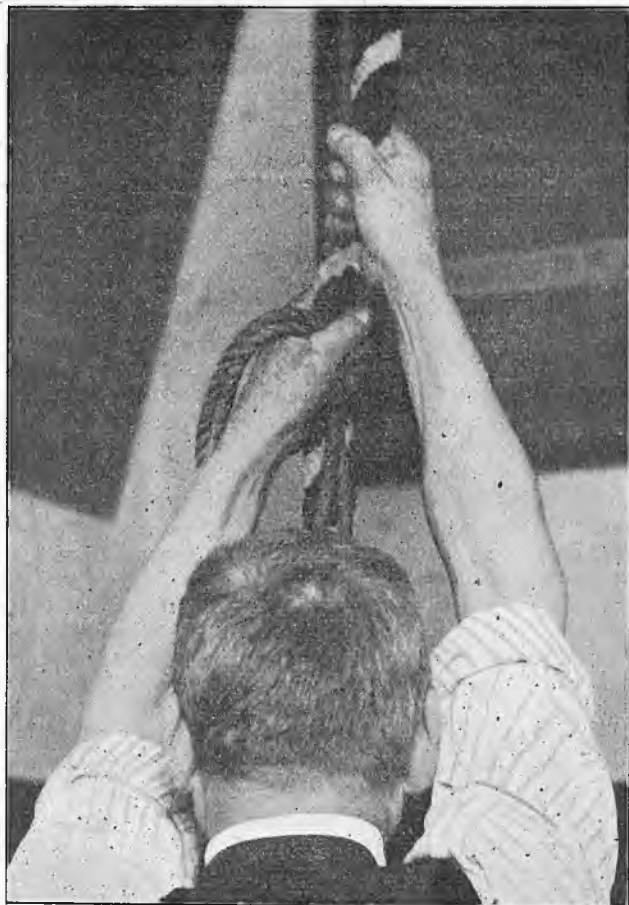
STREATHAM.—At St. Leonard's Church on Sunday, June 9th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Croft (first quarter-peal in the method) 1, C. A. Button 2, E. L. Miles 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 6, J. W. Chapman 7, S. Gardner 8. Rung as a thanksgiving for the evacuation of our troops from Dunkirk.

BROUGHTON, STAFFS.—On Saturday, June 8th, on the occasion of a wedding, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,264 changes: F. Price 1, W. Lycett 2, T. Price 3, W. J. Chester 4, A. M. Hickman 5, T. Tudor 6, E. V. Rodenhurst 7, W. Weatherby (conductor) 8.

FOR BEGINNERS.**THE RIGHT AND WRONG WAY TO HANDLE A BELL.**

In view of the considerable number of beginners now being introduced into the belfry to fill the gaps caused by the absence of so many ringers on other duties, we propose to publish a series of articles on the elementary stages of ringing. We begin, however, this week with the important first step on how to handle a bell. We hope this series will be appreciated as a complement to the more advanced articles on the science of ringing which we have recently printed.

The writer of an article in our last issue called attention to the necessity, in teaching beginners, of insisting on good ringing before any attempts are made at change ringing. We can go further and say that it is most essential that the beginner should not be allowed to attempt round ringing until he can handle his bell properly.



This photograph, reproduced by courtesy of the Central Council, shows the proper way to hold the rope end and sally at handstroke.

As one goes about the country one sees many 'awkward ringers'—ringers who do not know how to hold their rope correctly, and therefore have not proper control over their bells, with the result that they are indifferent strikers. Indeed, their bad handling may spoil what otherwise would be some perfectly good ringing.

There is a story told of one 'ringing parson,' a notoriously bad striker, who never could handle his bell properly. He once took part in a peal, and his striking, as a result of his bad handling and his lack of 'ear' for his bell, was atrocious. Afterwards, one of the other

ringers was asked how the parson got on, and his reply was, 'Awful. He only made one good blow, and that was when he missed the sally.' That is an example of the way **not** to ring.

The first aim of a beginner should be to hold his rope properly. Both at rope-end (that is, backstroke) and sally (the handstroke), the hands should be raised as high above the head as possible. It gives the best control, and, of course, the longest and, therefore, the most effective pull. Many ringers at handstroke grasp the sally at a spot which does not permit their hands going much above their nose, or even their chin, and their hands go up very little higher at backstroke.

You go into towers and find that all the ropes are low. You can be sure that, unless it happens to have been caused by a sudden spell of dry weather, which has resulted in the ropes stretching badly, it is because the ringers of that tower do not raise their hands high enough in grasping the ropes. The hands should go well above the head at both strokes, and steeplekeepers and those responsible for instructing beginners, should see that ropes are so adjusted that this is made more or less obligatory on the learner. A rope is not too high, if, when the bell is set at handstroke, the bottom of the sally reaches no lower than the ringer's eyes.

And then there is a right and a wrong way of grasping the rope. The hands should always be close together when holding either the rope end or sally. If they are wide apart it means not only an ungainly and slovenly style, but loss of power, because the lower hand cannot 'pull its weight' or, ought we to say, its full distance. Those few extra inches with that one hand make all the difference to effective control.

Then there is the actual grip on the rope. Both the sally and the rope end should, in turn, be gripped with all the fingers of both hands. Often one sees at handstroke the rope grasped only by the thumb and two fingers of the hand holding the rope end, the other fingers being gripped round the tail of the rope, as if the ringer were afraid of dropping it. Do not get into that habit; or, if you have acquired it, get out of it at once.

The ideal way is to hold the end of the rope in the crutch between the thumb and forefinger and let it come on the side of the sally next to the ringer. In that way the fullest possible use can be made of the hand. Indeed, if you ring in many places in the North of England, where there is a tuft, like a short sally, on the end of the rope, you will find any other way both difficult and uncomfortable. Where, however, there is only a double rope at the end, some ringers—and many good ones among them—grasp both the rope end and sally together. But try, if you can, to get the rope end each time under the thumb only. The proper way to hold the rope and sally at handstroke is shown in the accompanying illustration, from the Central Council's helpful little book, 'Hints for Instructors and Beginners,' which contains some of the best advice it is possible to obtain on how to ring a bell.

When the learner starts to ring, he should stand close under the rope with heels almost together, he should pull the rope straight down, keeping his hands close to the body and letting them go as far down as possible. Unless the pull is straight down, and as far as possible, there will be a loss of power.

If the learner gets a good start and acquires a good style, half the preliminary battle is won.

BELL RINGING IN THE MIDDLE AGES. SOME CIVIC USES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

During the later Middle Ages, and especially during the two centuries just before the Reformation, church bells played a very important part in the ecclesiastical and social life of the people of England. They were rung before the many daily services in the parish and other churches, and at the processions at High Mass. They were knolled for deaths and rung for funerals and obits, and in times of tempest and pestilence. At morning, noontide, and night they marked the beginning and ending of the hours of labour. They sounded the alarm when fire broke out; and they summoned the people when those in authority needed to call a meeting for civil or parochial purposes.

In towns like London, or Norwich, or Bristol, or York, where there were many churches and those close together, there must have been an almost continual sound of bells from early morning to late at night, and we can scarcely wonder that monasteries which were close to parish churches raised objections when, in addition to all this, the ringers began to ring at untimely hours 'without evident necessity' for no reason except their own pleasure and enjoyment.

It was the custom whenever any great person, such as the king, the queen, the prince, or the bishop visited the parish or passed by on his journeys that the bells were rung. This custom has lasted down to modern times, but there was this difference that, whereas now we ring because the intention is to show honour and respect to the visitor, then the ringing was looked upon as a right which the visitor expected as his due, and the omission of which would be noticed and resented; and not only resented, but punished by censure or fine.

John Foxe, the author of the 'Book of Martyrs,' relates that Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, 'passing by the high street of London did not only look and wait for the ringing of bells for a triumph, but took great snuff and did suspend all such churches in London (not only with the steeples and bells, but also with the organs), so many as did not receive his coming with the music of bells.'

Foxe was an extreme Protestant and gives this as an example of the arrogance of the pre-Reformation bishops, but the text of Arundel's order has survived and it is interesting as showing how a man in his position looked on the matter.

'Thomas by the permission of God, etc., to our well beloved Thomas Wilton, our somner sworn, health, grace, and blessing.

'The comeliness of our holy Church of Canterbury over which we bear rule, deserveth and requireth that while we pass through the province of the same our church, having our cross carried before us, every parish church in their times ought and are bounden in token of special reverence that they bear to us, to ring their bells, which notwithstanding, yea, on Tuesday last past, when we betwixt eight and nine of the clock before dinner passed openly on foot as it were through the midst of the City of London with our cross carried before us, divers churches whose names are here beneath noted, showed towards us willingly, though they certainly knew of our coming, unreverence rather than reverence and the duty that they owe to our Church of Canterbury, ringing not at all at our coming. Wherefore we, being very willing to revenge this injury for the honour of our spouse as we are bounden, command you by our authority to put all these churches under our indictment, suspending God's holy organs and instruments of the same, which we also suspend by the tenor of these presents till the ministers of the aforesaid churches be able hereafter to attain of us the benefit of more plentiful grace.'

There is, perhaps, more in this incident than appears on the surface. Arundel was not only Archbishop of Canterbury; he was one of the leading statesmen of the

reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV., and at times held the office of Chancellor. He was a leader of one of the two parties which were bitterly opposed to each other and had many enemies. Perhaps the refusal to ring for him had some political significance.

This incident was by no means unique. Hugh Latimer, in one of his sermons, said that he had heard of a bishop that went on a visitation and when the bishop should have been rung into the town the great bell's clapper was fallen down so that the bishop could not be rung into the town. 'There was a great matter made for this and the chief of the parish were much blamed for it. The bishop was somewhat quick with them and signified that he was much offended.'

The ringing of bells was a recognition of the authority and jurisdiction of the bishop, and this led to many disputes between diocesan bishops and abbeys which claimed exemption from episcopal control.

Such a dispute broke out between the Bishop of Worcester and the Prior of the Cathedral. The bishop claimed that when he made a formal visit to his Cathedral to hold an ordination or to discharge other of his episcopal functions, the bells should be rung in his honour. The prior and the convent refused to do so, apparently because they would not recognise that the bishop had any right to interfere in the arrangements and services of the church.

The matter was referred to the decision of Archbishop Arundel, who directed that when on certain specified occasions the bishop visited the cathedral 'the prior and the convent and their successors for the time being shall ring solemnly against his coming, without all contradiction or any reclaiming hereafter to be made against the same.'

St. Albans Abbey was the most important monastic establishment in England. The abbot was a peer of the realm and owed no allegiance to any bishop. But the Archbishop of Canterbury was the first man in the country after the king, and he claimed the right to be greeted with bell ringing wherever he went in his province.

When Archbishop Henry Chichele, who succeeded Arundel, passed by St. Albans and no bells were rung in his honour a nice point of precedence and etiquette was raised, which led to a long dispute.

The matter was settled by a compromise. The Abbot met the Archbishop and, after discussion, consented of grace and gentleness to pay him all reverence and honour when he passed by, so that it might not be prejudiced to the abbey's exemptions, and nothing was attempted to the violation of its privileges.

The Archbishop had claimed the ringing of bells as reverence due to him 'as well of common custom as of old use,' 'as also being due of everyone being within the compass of our province'; but though the Abbot consented to ring, it was stipulated that 'it might not be taken for duty hereafter.'

All these incidents took place in pre-Reformation days, but the ecclesiastical changes of the sixteenth century made no difference to these ringing customs. Not only the king and royal persons but the bishops also still expected as of right to have the bells rung when they visited any parish. In 1634 the parish of St. Christopher, Stocks, London, was fined 17/4 for not ringing when the bishop went by.

There are many entries in old parish accounts showing that fines were levied for not ringing for the visits of

royal personages, and consequently the large amount of ringing which was done when the king or queen passed by is no sign of loyalty. It is possible to trace practically every journey made by Queen Elizabeth to and from London by the entries in the parish accounts of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields recording the payments to the ringers.

When the bells were not rung an official would place seals on the doors of the offending church and they might not be opened until a fine was paid.

In 1548 the churchwardens of St. Margaret's, Westminster, paid to the 'kings amner when he would have sealed up the church doors at the departure of the King's Majesty, because the bells were not rung,' the sum of two shillings and sixpence.

Henry Machyn, a citizen of London, recorded in his diary, under the date 1563, that 'in the mornyng ther was sett on dyver churche dorres because that he [a harbinger of the queen] said that they dyd not ryng when that the quen went to Grenwyche and that they should not open the chyrche dors tyll that he had a nobell on every churche by the water syde from Tempull bare to the Towre, but he cold gett no thyng yett.'

It was the custom in many parishes to make the clerk responsible for the ringing and if any fine fell on the parish through neglect in the matter he had to bear it.

The last instance that I know of a parish being fined for not ringing when the king went by was at Twickenham in 1647 and the circumstances are rather remarkable. The Civil War was over. Charles I. had been defeated and handed over by the Scots to the English Parliament. He was now a prisoner at Hampton Court, but had obtained permission to visit his younger children

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF THE REV. C. L. KENNAWAY.

A FOUNDER OF THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Charles Lewis Kennaway, which took place at Spettisbury, Dorset, in his 93rd year. Mr. Kennaway was ordained in 1871 and for five years was curate at Canford Magna, Dorset. In 1876 he became Rector of Garboldisham, Norfolk, remaining there until 1914, when he returned to Dorset as Vicar of Tarrant Crawford. This he resigned in 1937, after 66 years of active work for the Church.

Mr. Kennaway was one of the founders of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and in 1903 took part in a 5,000 of Minor on his own bells at Garboldisham. In 1902 he was elected to succeed the late Rev. H. Earle Bulwer as hon. secretary and treasurer of the association, and remained in office until 1913.

Very shortly after election he realised the work involved was far too heavy to add to his many and varied interests in other spheres, but at the urgent desire of the committee he consented to remain the titular head of affairs, and the actual work was undertaken by Mr. Charles E. Borrett. Mr. Kennaway attended all gatherings of the association, and members will recall the urbane and genial atmosphere he radiated at such times—he was a great Christian gentleman and much beloved.

AMERICAN ENTHUSIASTS WANT HANDBELLS.

The students at Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A., who have formed a bell-ringers' society, are now anxious to obtain a secondhand set of handbells upon which to practise. Up to the present they have been using bells originally intended for sheep and cows. These they tuned and fitted with wire handles, but, writes Mr. R. W. Putney, the sexton, 'they leave much to be desired.' Any ringer in England who has an octave of handbells for disposal should write to Mr. Putney, whose address is Box 1367, Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the meantime, these American enthusiasts are studying 'Rope-sight' and 'Grandsire,' which they have recently added to their ringing library, and they have also received copies of 'Church Bells of the Deanery of Bicester' and 'Church Bells of Berkshire,' kindly sent to them by Mr. Frederick Sharpe.

BELL RINGING IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

(Continued from previous column.)

at Syon Park, Isleworth. It was as a closely guarded prisoner that he passed Twickenham; nevertheless the parish was fined because they did not ring in his honour. A few months later he was beheaded outside the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

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BELL ROPES, MUFFLES &c.

FUTURE USE OF CHURCH BELLS. POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION.

At the moment of going to press we learn that the War Office and the Ministry of Home Security have under consideration the question of the future use of Church bells, and an important announcement may be made almost immediately.

The matter has arisen owing to the latest developments of the war situation, and ringers should watch carefully for official announcements and, of course, observe any instructions that are given.

Up to Tuesday evening no official action had been taken to vary the Noises Order, issued last October, which left the use of Church bells for their customary purposes outside the restrictions.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Pte. Kenneth Thacker, assistant hon. secretary of the North Staffordshire and District Association and one of its representatives on the Central Council, was among those safely evacuated from Dunkirk.

The meeting of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, which was to have been held last Saturday at Gawsworth, was cancelled at short notice, owing to bereavement of the Rector (the Rev. A. T. S. Stephens), who was notified that his son had been killed in action.

Lieut. Donald Paddon Smith, elder son of Mr. A. Paddon Smith, vice-president of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, has been promoted captain in the Royal Engineers. Both he and his younger brother Norman are at the moment with the B.E.F. in France.

Mr. F. G. Cole extends his sincere thanks to all the ringing friends who wrote expressing their sympathy in his recent bereavement.

A correspondent recently asked how French words like Caters and Cinques came to be used in so English a thing as change ringing. According to the Oxford Dictionary, in the year 1708 the words Cinques, Quatres, Treys and Duces were used for the numbers on discs and cards.

On June 12th, 1815, the Birmingham men rang 5,040 changes of Grandsire Maximus at St. Martin's. It was the second ever rung and the first outside London. Grandsire on even numbers has been condemned by the Central Council and is not practised to-day, but it had a considerable amount of popularity at one time, especially in Birmingham, where a number of peals of Major, Royal and Maximus were rung.

The first peal of Stedman Caters on handbells was rung on June 14th, 1851, by a band of the College Youths, consisting of John Cox, G. E. Ferris, William Cooter, Matthew Wood and James Dwight, with Cox as conductor. The composition was afterwards found to be false and so the honour of ringing the first true peal in the method went to the Cumberlands, to which society Cox had reverted.

Mr. Albert Walker reminds us that the 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells was rung on May 31st, 1898, not in 1888, as recently stated in Belfry Gossip. 'I was the referee,' writes Mr. Walker, 'and a good peal it was.'

We thank Mr. W. T. Lack, of Great Staughton, for his suggestion. He will see that, by a coincidence, we had already planned to publish a series of articles for beginners, the first of which appears in this issue.

RINGING IN ALDERSHOT COMMAND.

ARMY AUTHORITIES' ACTION.

Owing to an order received by the Vicar of Crondall from Army authorities the previous day that church bells in the Aldershot Command were to cease ringing, the meeting arranged for last Saturday by the Farnham District, Guildford Diocesan Guild, had to be cancelled. Notices were sent out immediately to all district towers and any who had notified their intention to be present, but the district secretary apologises to any ringers who may have visited Crondall and been disappointed. The 'cease ringing' order has not been confirmed and ringing is still taking place at most towers in the Aldershot Command.

VISIT TO WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY.

Ten members from the All Saints', Isleworth, band, together with ringers and friends from Hersham Parish Church, visited the bell foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank at Whitechapel on Saturday, May 25th.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Hughes, to whom thanks are offered, the visitors were able to see the magnificent peal of bells cast for the new Liverpool Cathedral. They heard the tone of several of them, including the tenor.

There were many other most interesting things to be seen, with years of history behind them, including a handbell lathe over 150 years old.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL'S GREAT PEAL OF BELLS.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST RING.

Founders' Splendid Achievement.

The thirteen bells to be hung for ringing in Liverpool Cathedral have all now been cast and tuned, and constitute the greatest peal of bells in the world. The tower in which they will eventually find a home is nearing completion, but the present situation is likely to delay the finishing of the work, and the hoped-for hanging of the bells some time during this year is now, unfortunately, out of the question.

The bells, as our readers know, have been cast at the famous Whitechapel Foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, but soon they will be removed elsewhere. Where they are to be kept in security against possible damage by enemy action has not at the moment been finally settled, but they are a valuable possession, the security of which must obviously be specially safeguarded.

IN THE FOUNDRY.

Nothing on so large a scale for a ring of bells has ever before been attempted, but the result is a triumph for the bell founder's art. Twelve bells stand on their crowns in one of the shops at the foundry, while the tenor is hung up on a temporary structure in one corner, 'out of the way,' for these bells, ranged round the floor, take up a vast amount of room, even when standing almost lip to lip.

A year ago last December the tenor was cast, and since then, one by one, the peal has been completed, until nearly seventeen tons of copper and tin have been run into their shapes. Now they stand, the finished product, unequalled in the world. And they really are a prodigious peal. The treble is bigger than many present-day tenors, while the tenor, of course, is something which looks altogether too big to be rung by man power. It is almost 5ft. high and has a diameter of 6ft. 4in.

This great bell weighs over 82 cwt., a ton more than the tenor of St. Paul's Cathedral, and half a ton more than Exeter, and is in note A flat. Some further idea of its immense size may be gained from the fact that while it will be well 'tucked-up' in the stock, its wheel will be over 9ft. in diameter.

The addition of a thirteenth bell, a sharp second, will provide a useful peal of eight, with a tenor of just under 25 cwt. in E flat.

In the long history of the Whitechapel Foundry there has been no finer ring of bells turned out in quality, any more than there has been in weight. In the foundry the effect when they are tapped round is not only pleasing and perfect, but, in their deep richness, the bells are solemnly impressive. The tones of the bells when struck individually are bright and pure, with no unpleasant waverings such as sometimes can be heard when critically listening to the hum of a bell. The result when they are rung from the Cathedral tower should be a crowning triumph for the founders. Apart from their tuning, the bells are fine examples of the founder's art, a group of excellent castings whose perfection can be seen right down to the finish of the lettering in the inscriptions, which stand out in clean cut beautifully designed Roman capitals.

The bells are being provided by a bequest of the late Mr. Thomas Bartlett, a Liverpool merchant, who died in 1912, and the gift is recorded on the tenor. The bells will be known as the 'Bartlett peal.'

NOVEL BELL FRAME.

The great tower which surmounts the Cathedral is now a dominating feature of the city. It is not yet completed, but has risen considerably beyond the stage, 235ft. from the ground, where the bells are to be hung. The tower is being erected by the generosity of Lord Vestey and his brother, Sir Edmund Vestey, and some idea of its massive proportions may be gained from the fact that it will rise to a height of over 300ft. and its internal measurement is 73ft. square.

The bells are to be hung in an entirely novel 'frame.' To carry the great weight of swinging metal, of course, requires a structure of enormous strength, on account of the heavy horizontal and vertical forces that are exerted when the bells are rung. The design and construction of a suitable frame to carry the bells presented a problem partly on account of the unusual span of the tower and partly because of the location. Iron and steel were considered unsuitable, because of the effects of corrosion and the frequent painting which would be necessary. Timber was discarded because of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary large sections sufficiently seasoned. It was therefore decided to use reinforced concrete—an entirely new departure—and, because of the ample space available, to adopt a radial frame, in which each of the 13 bells swings to the centre. This not only successfully distributes the horizontal forces, but has the added advantage of enabling the ropes to fall plumb from the wheels to the ringing chamber below in a perfect circle of minimum diameter.

The reinforced concrete stanchions on which the bells will be carried will form part of one enormous unit extending across the high tower and built up from the floor of the ringing chamber. These stanchions are to be 7ft. in height, and will vary in thickness with the weight of the individual bells they have to carry, from 6in. for the trebles to 12in. for the tenors. They gain lateral support from 'tails,' which,

from the full height of the stanchion, run back 10ft. to nothing. Each, in fact, is a solid wedge carrying the thrust from the bearings to floor. To overcome the poor acoustic properties of concrete, which detract from the effect of the sound in the ringing room, the foundation of the frame is to be placed on insulating material, and the ringing space of the floor below is to be enclosed by wood partitions, making a spacious apartment, but one more convenient and comfortable for the ringers than would be the whole expanse of the great interior of the tower.

The height of the ringing chamber will be 21ft. Over this will be an intervening space of 10ft., while the height from the floor above to the top of the frame will be 7ft., so that the length of rope will be just under 40ft. In the space in the centre of the radial frame a bourdon bell, also the gift of Lord Vestey and his brother, is to be placed. It will be approximately 14½ tons in weight with a diameter of 9ft. 6in., and the note will be D flat.

Owing to circumstances which have arisen from the war, it will not actually be possible to cast the great Bourdon at Whitechapel as was originally intended. Instead, it is to be cast at Loughborough in the works of Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., another world-famous firm of bell founders, but it is satisfactory to note that Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the makers of the Bartlett peal, are to be associated with Messrs. Taylor in the work. It is hoped to cast the Bourdon this summer.

DETAILS OF THE BELLS.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, we are able to give the following information concerning the Bartlett peal—

TREBLE.—Diameter 2ft. 9in., weight 9 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. Note E flat. Inscription round the shoulder:

Thou art my God and I will Thank Thee
Thou art my God and I will Praise Thee

In the waist:

The Senior Verger Joseph Henry Harrod named me
BEDE

SHARP SECOND.—Diameter 2ft. 10in.; weight 9 cwt. 2 qr. 1 lb.; note D.

Shoulder inscription:

Every day will I give thanks unto Thee

In waist:

The Organist Walter Henry Goss Custard Mus.Bac. F.R.C.O.
and the Choral Conductor Edgar Cyril Robinson Mus.Bac.
F.R.C.O. named me

DAVID

SECOND.—Diameter 2ft. 11in.; weight 9 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb.; note D flat.

Shoulder:

Let the Heavens Rejoice and let the Earth be Glad

Waist:

The Clerk of the Works, Owen Pittaway, and the Foreman,
William Benjamin Meredith, named me

PAUL

THIRD.—Diameter 3ft.; weight 10 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.; note C.

Shoulder:

Thy way is in the sea and Thy paths in the great waters

Waist:

The Builders Dudley Morrison Norman Morrison William Lionel
Wade and John Turton named me

CHAD

FOURTH.—Diameter 3ft. 2in.; weight 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.; note B flat.

Shoulder:

Rejoice in the Lord O ye righteous

Waist:

The Architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott Knt. R.A. named me

GILBERT

FIFTH.—Diameter 3ft. 4in.; weight 12 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.; note A flat.

Shoulder:

Ascribe unto the Lord Worship and Power

Waist:

The Secretaries to the Cathedral Committee Horace Milner
Alderson Smith and Vere Egerton Cotton C.B.E. T.D. named me

GUTHLAG

SIXTH.—Diameter 3ft. 6in.; weight 14 cwt. 0 qr. 2 lb.; note G.

Shoulder:

Be joyful all ye that are true of heart.

Waist:

The Treasurers of the Cathedral Committee Sir Charles Henry
Morton Knt. and Harold Carleton Walker named me

MICHAEL

SEVENTH.—Diameter 3ft. 10in.; weight 18 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.; note F.

Shoulder:

Sing we merrily unto God our strength

Waist:

The Vice-Chairman of the Cathedral Executive Committee
Henry Sutton Timmis named me

NICHOLAS

(Continued on next page.)

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT MEETINGS.

A SUGGESTED REMEDY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I call the attention of your correspondent, R.S.V.P., and other members of the Notts District of the M.C.A. who are interested, to the joint meeting to be held at Sawley on June 22nd (as advertised in this issue).

This tower is actually in the Nottingham District, and no doubt much assistance could be given if only the members who are interested would attend.

It would be an opportunity for them to arrange another meeting, at which the present difficulty could be straightened out, for I feel certain that if a new secretary was elected who was keen and who had the time available to do the work required, the district would again pull its weight in the association.

I do not wish to reflect on what has been done in the past by Mr. Gobey, for I quite realise the amount of work required to run a district of this size.

A. E. ROWLEY.

THANKS TO MR. GOBEY.

Sir,—I seldom answer anyone who uses a non-de-plume, considering that more often than not they have not the conviction of their criticisms.

With regard to Notts District, I may say the local secretary has thought well to resign owing to now being engaged on work that forbids Saturday afternoons' freedom. All books, registers, etc., are now with me at St. Margaret's, Leicester, and if R.S.V.P. (whoever he may be) is willing to fulfil those duties he accuses the late secretary of neglecting, now is the opportune moment. If he will write to me, I promise to bring his name forward to the local committee and am quite sure his promised energies will be welcomed and esteemed.

May I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Gobey for his good work over many years both as secretary and as conductor of many fine peal performances. In the latter I often had the good fortune to join, and no critics can beat us in our Spliced Treble; Bob peals, however much they try, whether in length or as to striking. The General Committee of the M.C.A. join me in these thanks.

ERNEST MORRIS, Gen. Hon. Sec., M.C.A.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL BELLS—Cont. from previous page.
EIGHTH.—Diameter 4ft. 3in.; weight 24 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb.; note E flat.
Shoulder:

All Thy works praise Thee O Lord

Waist:

The Chairman of the Cathedral Executive Committee Alan Cecil Tod O.B.E. D.L. T.D. named me

MARTIN

NINTH.—Diameter 4ft. 9in.; weight 34 cwt. 0 qr. 11 lb.; note D flat.
Shoulder:

My Praise is of Thee in the great Congregation

Waist:

The Vice President of the Cathedral Committee Sir Frederick Norton Radcliffe K.C.V.O. LL.D. named me

PETER

TENTH.—Diameter 5ft.; weight 39 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.; note C.
Shoulder:

O come let us sing unto the Lord

Waist:

The President of the Cathedral Committee Edward George Villiers 17th Earl of Derby K.G. G.C.B. G.C.V.O. C.B. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster and Chancellor of Liverpool University named me

OSWALD

ELEVENTH.—Diameter 5ft. 7in.; weight 55 cwt. 0 qr. 1 lb.; note B flat.
Shoulder:

Hear my prayer O Lord and let my crying come unto Thee

Waist:

The Very Rev The Dean of Liverpool Frederick William Dwelly M.A. D.D. and the Residentiary Canons The Rev James Stanley Bezzant M.A. B.D. Chancellor The Rev Thomas Arthur Edward Davey M.A. Treasurer The Rt Rev Herbert Gresford Jones M.A. D.D. Bishop of Warrington and the Rev John Thomas Mitchell M.A. B.D. named me

JAMES

TENOR.—Diameter 6ft. 4in.; weight 82 cwt. 0 qr. 11 lb.; note A flat.
Round the shoulder:

THOU ART THE KING OF GLORY O CHRIST

In the waist on one side:

THOMAS BARTLETT

WHO DIED 4TH SEPT 1912 BY HIS WILL
LEFT MONEY TO PROVIDE THIS RING OF
THIRTEEN BELLS WHICH WERE CAST BY
MEARS & STAINBANK AT WHITECHAPEL
1938 & 1939

On the other side:

THE LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL
THE RT REV ALBERT AUGUSTUS DAVID D.D.
NAMED ME
EMMANUEL

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BRANCH SECRETARY'S LONG SERVICE.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on June 1st, when, despite all the inconveniences the war has brought upon ringers, the attendance was very satisfactory. About 45 members attended from Bradwell, Chicheley, Buckingham, Drayton Parslow, Newport Pagnell, Stoke Goldington and Newton Longville, with visitors from the Peterborough Guild and the Bedford Association.

Ringling took place both before and after the service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. L. Milne). Tea was served in the Schoolroom, followed by the business meeting, at which the Rev. J. Taylor, chairman of the branch, presided. The secretary (Mr. W. Sear) presented his report on the financial position of the branch, which showed £16 9s. 8d. in hand and £10 invested, making a total of £26 9s. 8d., which was considered very satisfactory.

The Rev. J. P. Taylor was again elected chairman of the branch. Mr. W. Sear asked the meeting to accept his resignation as secretary. They all knew he had intended to resign at the last annual meeting, but by the wish of the members he agreed to carry on for another year, which completed his 25 years in office. Now the time had come for them to accept his resignation, not because he had lost interest, but because he could not devote the necessary time. If he might have the privilege and pleasure, he would propose Mr. R. Howson, of Newport Pagnell, as secretary, as he felt sure that they would have in him a man who would carry on the duties quite as well as the speaker had done. He knew that he was keenly interested, and if only the members would give him their support in the future, as they had always done in the past, the branch would continue to flourish.

The proposition was carried.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert made a special effort to attend, but could not stay to the meeting owing to the train service being very late, but before leaving he addressed the meeting in his usual manner and asked for loyalty to be maintained and for members to attend the annual festival at Oxford.

Votes of thanks to the preacher and the ladies for providing tea concluded the meeting.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A WARM WELCOME AT SOUTH KIRKBY.

At the June meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at South Kirkby, on Saturday, 14 members were present from Badsworth, Burgwallis, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Wath and the local company. Ringing did not begin until about 3.15 p.m., due no doubt to the fact that everyone was working at top pressure.

At half-past five the ringers were entertained to tea in the Church Rooms as the guests of the parish, and at the business meeting which followed, the Vicar (the Rev. L. Sibellas) took the chair. The usual routine business was soon disposed of, and as the society's contest is to be held in July, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath on Saturday, August 10th.

The secretary thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome and hospitality given. It was a great encouragement, as it was the first time the society had had the pleasure of meeting the Vicar.—The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to welcome the ringers and assured them that they would be welcome at any time. He said he was very interested in bells and hoped some day to add two more in the tower to complete the octave.

Touples of Minor and Triples were rung on the handbells, and it was very pleasing to see Mr. A. Panther, of Wath, take part, as it was the first meeting he had been able to attend since his operation.

Further ringing followed on the tower bells until half-past eight, the methods rung being Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, and Plain and Treble Bob Minor.

The Vicar and his curate spent some time in the tower before and after tea, and showed a keen interest in the ringing. Both have begun to learn how to handle a bell.

YOUNG RINGERS IN SUSSEX.

JOINT MEETING AT ROTHERFIELD.

A joint meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Rotherfield on Saturday last, when upwards of 30 members attended. Some very good ringing was heard during the afternoon and evening, and a very pleasing feature was the number of young members who came to ring rounds.

At 6.30 a service was held, at which the Rector (the Rev. H. E. Collins) welcomed the ringers and gave an excellent address. A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to 11s. 2d. A short business meeting was held in the tower, with Mr. F. H. Dallaway in the chair. A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. H. Stalham and carried.

The bells were kept going till after 8 o'clock, the ringing ranging from rounds to Surprise.

DEATH OF AN OLD LANCASHIRE RINGER.

On June 5th, Samuel Holt, an old member of the Lancashire Association, was laid to rest in Middleton Churchyard. He had joined the association in 1897 and rang 71 peals. At the funeral ringers attended from Oldham, Milnrow, Ashton, Manchester Cathedral and Middleton. Handbells were rung over the grave and the tower bells afterwards to Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples.

BEN HOBBS.**FAREWELL TO A GOOD COMPANION.**

A short paragraph in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' chronicled the death of Benjamin Hobbs, of Eastbourne. His passing has broken another of the living links with the foundation of the Sussex Association; has made another gap among the friends of my youth. I feel I cannot let him pass on without paying my tribute to one of the stoutest hearts, the sturdiest souls, the kindest hands that ever entered a belfry.

Ben Hobbs was not a great ringer as some people judge great ringers. He was just one of that big and happy company that we call average ringers, caring nothing for high-falutin' methods, content to be just a good ringer of Grandsire and Stedman, of Plain Bob and Treble Bob, modest, reliable—and always a good friend.

The passing of Ben Hobbs recalls a chapter in my ringing career which is full of happy memories. His home was at Waldron, a village in the heart of rural Sussex, and when I first came to know him he lived with his parents and other members of his family in a little wayside cottage a mile and a half, maybe, from the church. Waldron soon after became frequently a Mecca for one or two of us. Fourteen miles we would cycle on a Saturday afternoon over roads built of chalk and Sussex flint. Those were the days before motor-cars or tarred roads, before even pneumatic tyres were in general use on bicycles. It was sometimes heavy going—but always worth it.

We visitors helped to make up the band for peal attempts—always Grandsire and always a failure. The fact was that not one of us knew anything about conducting, the first serious trip was fatal. On some occasions we would ring quite a long time; on most others not so long; but failure never damped our ambition or our enthusiasm, and for us Waldron was always Waldron. The reason for our non-success on one occasion, I remember, was puzzling. The conductor, who was trying to call Parker's Twelve-Part, to make sure he would not forget it, put the calling on a slip of paper which he pinned on the wall—and he constantly referred to it. We tried several times that evening, but were always wrong at what should have been the part-end—the 'landing place' the conductor was able to recognise. We couldn't hold an inquest, because we were all equal in our ignorance, but the next time we met the conductor blandly remarked that he had found the cause of the failure. He had omitted to put down on his paper the last call in the part.

But things like that didn't upset us. It was only another excuse to come again to Waldron, and there was always The Star to welcome us and where we could 'celebrate' our failure. And after The Star, the homes of the ringers to give us that prodigal hospitality which can be found among the villagers in the heart of England. It was to Ben Hobbs' home that I most often went—down those lonely lanes in the stygian darkness of the night, when the eyes of the townsman were useless, but which Ben and his like could traverse with the same sureness as in the broad daylight. We usually went in when everyone else was abed—I rose in the morning when everyone was astir; not late as things go, but what time Ben's mother had already completed her cooking preparations for Sunday's dinner. The pudding was already on and boiling, and there never were such beef steak puddings and luscious cherry tarts as she used to make.

In season, Ben would lead us on cherry or nutting expeditions, and we learned where apples grew, while at Christmas time we joined some of the happy families in their festivities. One Boxing night I well remember we went to Bert Read's house—Bert, by the way, was the local conductor and later married Ben's sister—and we indulged freely in home-made elderberry wine, made more potent by being 'mulled' because the night was cold. On that occasion we had travelled by train, but the station is two and a half miles away from Waldron at the best of times. That night it was a lot further. Not because we had had too much elderberry wine, but because, although we thought we could see the solitary oil lamp of the station in the distance, we did not seem to get any nearer. Some time later we discovered that the light was carried by a countryman finding his way home by the aid of his lantern.

Many amusing experiences befell us at Waldron, and I hope I may not be considered frivolous in writing thus when paying tribute to an old friend, for, could he read this, I am sure he would enjoy recalling some of the events in which he shared in those now distant years, events which made life a lot happier and more carefree than the experiences of to-day.

Ben Hobbs moved to Eastbourne and there later, while I lived in the same town, I met him almost weekly. We rang many peals together, principally of Grandsire and Plain Bob, and, in whatever it was, Ben always pulled his weight, in the best sense of the term. Afterwards our ways parted, and I saw little of him, and as the years passed business claimed more of his attention, for he went into the building trade on his own account—a highly creditable advance from a farm lad such as he was when he first started out in life. But his interest in ringing went on undiminished, and it was only ill-health at the close that kept him out of the belfry.

Nearly the last time I met him was in 1933, when he responded, wholeheartedly as ever, to an invitation to take part in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of my first peal, the band being made up (with one exception) of those with whom I had rung a peal in my first peal ringing year. It recalled the first peal which Ben and I had rung together in July, 1893—a bachelors' peal. Of that com-

(Continued in next column.)

THE HALESWORTH COMPANY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The claim made for the Halesworth company was that it is one of the earliest ringing societies in England, and that it celebrated its 400th anniversary last year.

Mr. Drake amplified and embellished this claim with the statement that in the forties of the last century the Charity Commissioners recognised the interest of the ringers in land which is now merged in other charity lands, but which had originally been left as an endowment for the ringers. 'Their words can be read in their report by anyone who has access to a good library,' wrote Mr. Drake. For 200 years the ringers have partaken every year of the 'bred and drynke' left by William Walpole in 1539, and there is a tradition that if they did not the legacy would be lost.

I have had an opportunity of consulting three or four authorities on the Halesworth charities, including a Government blue book published about 100 years ago, which gives a full list of all the charities existing at the time in the county of Suffolk (it mentions the Lavenham endowment for bell ropes).

From these authorities it is quite certain that there is no charity of any sort in Halesworth dating from the early 16th century and no endowment of ringers or ringing.

The clause in William Walpole's will definitely provides for the expenses of his funeral, consisting of money to be paid to the priests, clerks and ringers who took part in the ceremony, as well as for the alms which it was customary on such occasions to bestow on the poor. It does not provide for any endowment of future ringing.

The sum provided was 26s. 8d., which was roughly the amount that a skilled artisan could earn in a month (bell ropes without salices cost 2d. a pound). When the priests and the clerks had had their share, and alms had been distributed to the poor, it is impossible that enough money was left to buy land to provide an endowment for future ringers.

In the interests of historical truth, the claim that 'Halesworth possesses the oldest known body of ringers' cannot be allowed.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CHEDDLETON.**

On June 1st in beautiful weather a meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Cheddleton, when the following towers were represented: Stoke, Longton, Hanley, Kingsley, Leek, Norton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cheadle and Brown Edge.

A short service was held in the church, and at the tea which followed, the Vicar (the Rev. W. G. Burgess) gave the ringers a hearty welcome. He said it was a great gain to his ringers to be members of the association, for they were going forward with their ringing and teaching beginners to follow in their footsteps. In these dark days he thought that the association was doing the right thing by holding meetings, for many people are brooding and ringing was bound to cheer them up.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome he had given was proposed by Mr. W. Corfield, of Norton, and seconded by Mr. A. W. Hall, of Cheadle.

Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, of Norton, proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had so well attended to the needs of the tables.

The following methods were rung in the afternoon and evening: Oxford Minor, Kent Minor, Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge Surprise Minor and London Surprise Minor, as well as rounds for the young ringers.

EIGHTEEN HOURS' EXCURSION.

On Saturday, May 25th, the Thorington and district ringers visited the Saffron Walden area for their annual outing, calling at Manuden, Clavering, Chrishall, Elmdon (Ickleton, in Cambridge), Little Bury, Wendons Ambo and Newport. Dinner was partaken of at Ickleton and tea at Saffron Walden. The programme was arranged by the conductor of the company (Mr. Alan R. Andrews), with the help of Mr. L. Wright, hon. district secretary of the N.E. Division of the Essex Association, and the arrangements went off very well, to the great satisfaction of all. Amongst the company was the well-known Essex veteran from Great Bentley, Mr. W. J. Novard, who, despite his painful illness last winter, was in great fettle, and often had to lead the younger ones along to ensure punctuality.

Eighteen hours were spent on the excursion, which covered 160 odd miles. During the day the following methods were rung: London, Cambridge, Ipswich, York, Durham and Norwich Surprise, Oxford, Kent, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure and Burnaby Delight, Treble Bob, Court, Double Court, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob and Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Doubles.

A FAREWELL.

(Continued from previous column.)

pany, Bert Rann, young Jack Jay, Dick Hoather, Bob Dawe, Ted Merritt and now Ben Hobbs (all well remembered names in Sussex) have gone. Only Alf Turner, who shared in those glorious visits to Waldron, remains, and I am sure that he will join with me in this farewell to one of the last of our good companions of those early years.

J. S. G.

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.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting will be at Clay Cross (6 bells) on June 15th. Short service 5 p.m. Please arrange for own eatables. Cups of tea will be provided.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—In view of the present situation the meeting at Rettendon on June 15th has been postponed.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 15th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be served at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m. Charge, 1s. 6d. per head. Business meeting in the Church House immediately after tea. All ringers cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Newdigate on Saturday, June 15th. Service at 4.30, tea afterwards.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at All Saints', Ilkley, on Sat., June 15th. Bells (8, tenor 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.) available from 1 o'clock. Addingham bells (6) available all evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at Blue Bird Cafe 5 o'clock (1s. 9d.). Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting on Saturday, June 15th, at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Ringing from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Acting Southern District Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley (D.V.) on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m., service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and ringing until dusk.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Stretford, on Saturday, June 15th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Dorset Branch.—The meeting arranged to take place at Motcombe, on the 15th inst., has been cancelled.—Wm. Uphill, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Owing to the joint meeting at Lawley being postponed to June 22nd, the next district meeting will be at Ibstock on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. All members and friends cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Business meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, June 18th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at Bexley, Kent, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea (1s. 4d. per head) and business meeting at 5.15. Will all those who require tea, please notify Mr. H. A. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, Kent, not later than Monday, June 17th?—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at All Saints', Pontefract, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. per head, in All Saints' Church House at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. W. Peaker, Wesley House, 53, Northgate, Pontefract, by first post, Thursday, June 20th? Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—H. S. Borley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Stone, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Hodson, 43, Church Street, Stone, Staffs, not later than Monday, owing to catering being difficult?—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—North Midland District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter-at-Gowts, Lincoln, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.45. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but will anyone hoping to attend please let me know in case of cancellation?—A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Garsington (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4 p.m.—Tea 4.45 p.m. Tea can only be provided for those who send in their names to the district secretary by June 19th.—Miss M. R. Cross, Hon. Sec., The School House, Radley, Abingdon, Berks.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Braunston (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Usual arrangements. No sugar provided. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, June 19th.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton, Derby, Loughborough and Notts Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Sawley (near Long Eaton) on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Short service 4.30. Tea 1s. each for those who notify Mr. C. Hutchinson, 3, Wilmot Street, New Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts (others make own arrangements), at 5 p.m. All members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, W. Lancaster and A. E. Rowley, Joint Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Ratby and Groby). Bells (8) available during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, June 29th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and ringing. Numbers for tea by Tuesday, June 25th.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, June 29th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual shield six-bell contest will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, July 13th. Open to all. Entrance fee 6s. per band. All entries must reach me not later than June 29th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BIRTH.

CROOK.—On June 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Crook, jun., 23, Rawlyn Road, Bolton, Lancs, a son.

APARTMENTS.

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BRIGHTWELL, BERKSHIRE.—On June 6th, 1940 changes of Doubles, consisting of 240 each of April Day, St. Simon's, Oxford Singles and St. Nicholas', 360 each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob and 280 of Grandsire: F. C. Castell 1, E. V. Naish 2, J. R. Pease 3, O. G. Barnard (conductor) 4, C. J. Castell 5, F. Brooker 6. Arranged as a compliment to the Very Rev. W. R. Inge, K.C.V.O., late Dean of St. Paul's, who is living in retirement in the parish, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

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COUNTY BELL HISTORIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—One reads with interest and pleasure of what has been and is being done in this side of our art. It is, of course, quite distinct from mere ringing, but ringers would do well and would profit immensely if they would only interest themselves in the subject.

To write up a complete county history is a tremendous task, and I congratulate the writers mentioned in your recent announcements. Much more needs to be done, for there are many counties and dioceses not yet touched, and many others where bell histories already published are now quite out of date.

In the latter instance the late Thomas North's 'Church Bells of Leicestershire'—although an elaborate and fine work—is quite out of date and full of inaccuracies. This man was a cripple who had to rely on other folk for transcriptions and copies of bell inscriptions and legends, marks, stops, etc.; consequently, while the bulk are more or less correct, many are hopelessly wrong.

I have always been interested in this side of our art, and many years ago set about revising and correcting North's 'Leicestershire' up to date. I have personally visited the majority of the towers and have (in MS.) a complete history and inscription of every church bell in Leicester Diocese, right up to date. Some years ago I approached the local Archaeological Society with a view to printing this, but while congratulating me on what they termed 'a colossal work of immense value,' they were unable to undertake publication owing to cost, especially of reproducing the many kinds of stops, crosses, marks and types of lettering which I give. I did, however, give a lecture before the society on the subject. My work covers four large volumes of MS., but it is doubtful if and when it may be published.

While engaged on this work, I formed the desire and ambition to ring a peal of 5,000 changes and over at every church in Leicestershire with five bells and over. Up to the moment I have succeeded in attaining this in 121 towers in the Leicester Diocese, all of which—save one—are in the county. There are only four or five towers now left to conquer and a similar number where the bells are unringable.

ERNEST MORRIS.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SWINDON BRANCH MEMBERS' APATHY.

On Saturday last a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Bishopstone, which was poorly attended by members, but a good number of visitors were present from the Oxford and Salisbury Guilds and one visitor from Bath.

The ring of eight bells was available during the afternoon and evening, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold meetings at Brinkworth, Blunsdon and South Marston in July, August and September respectively (D.V.). The Swindon Branch is one of the few which carry on monthly meetings, and the majority of the members show their appreciation by stopping away and leaving everything to the faithful few to carry on.

The secretary writes that he does not arrange towers and teas for his own especial benefit, and it is hoped that this will catch the eye of those members who say, 'Oh, there'll be enough without me.' They should keep open the second Saturday in each month!

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