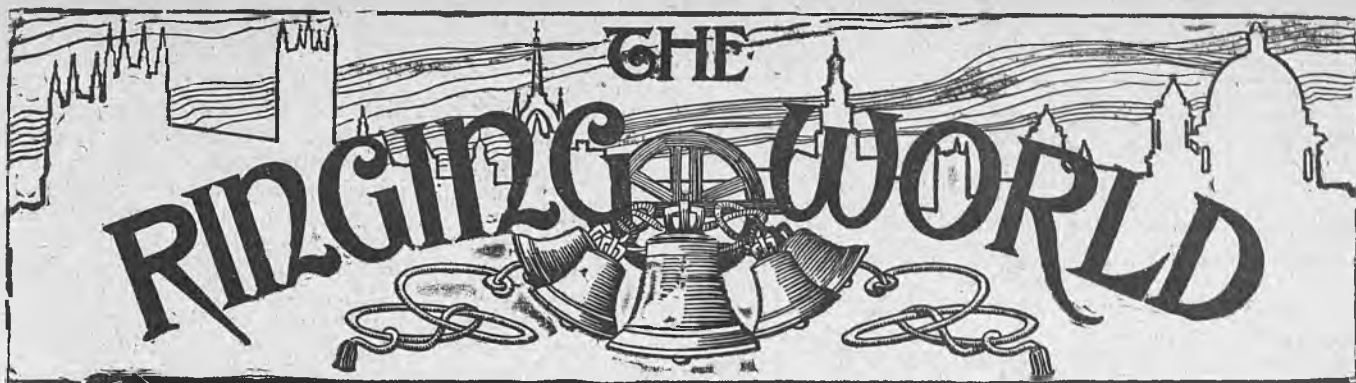




No. 1,540. Vol. XXXV.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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AN 'ADOPTION' SCHEME.

In furtherance of the proposal under which towers are invited to buy a copy of 'The Ringing World' each week to send to a member serving in His Majesty's Forces, a correspondent suggests that an 'adoption' scheme should be inaugurated, which would aim at sending a copy of the paper each week to ringers who would not otherwise obtain one. We shall obviously be only too glad to do all in our power to promote this proposal, which has the twofold purpose of keeping serving ringers in touch with what is going on in the Exercise and of giving valuable support to 'The Ringing World.' The plan, which has already been put forward, inviting towers to send copies to members of their own band who may be away with either of the Services, need in no way be interfered with under the proposal of our correspondent. Ringers serving their country will appreciate the thoughtfulness of their colleagues if they receive the paper direct from them—a weekly reminder that they are still in the thoughts of those who are left at home. There are, however, many ringers whose towers may be unable to extend this gift to their members, and in such cases the adoption scheme would fill the gaps, as well as providing for all those who desire it an opportunity of showing interest in serving ringers, just one of those gestures which mean so much and cost so little.

Our correspondent has suggested that under the adoption scheme we should select the recipients of the paper. We would gladly do that but for certain difficulties. We do not, for instance, know the names of all the ringers who are serving, or of those who are unable to purchase the paper on their own behalf, and therefore it would be impossible, we think, for us to make a satisfactory selection from among those who should participate in the scheme. We hope to hear the views of individual readers or towers who would like to join in. For our part we suggest that towers should announce that they are prepared to adopt one, two or more ringers, but that they should themselves choose the men to whom they would like the paper sent. There are, of course, many ringers with the Forces whose interest in ringing continues strong as ever, and who are still obtaining their copy of 'The Ringing World' regularly. Those whom it is most desired to bring into the scheme are those whose interest in the art is undiminished but whose circumstances are such that they are unable to continue to take the paper. Those are best known to the ringers of their own district, and they can best be selected by them. If ringers individually or collectively will join in this scheme we will do our utmost to further it, and

(Continued on page 458.)

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we would like to publish the names of the ringers and towers who adopt service members, but without giving the name or names of those to whom the paper is to be sent. The scheme, of course, refers more particularly to those who would have the paper sent through the post direct from this office, but we will willingly include in this roll the names of those who prefer to adopt a ringer and forward the paper themselves.

This scheme carries a step further the proposal made to members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, at the recent Wokingham meeting, and, quite apart from any help this may give to 'The Ringing World,' it is a proposal which may have a valuable influence in restoring the art when once more the ringing of church bells is possible. In this period of restriction, the great danger is loss of interest, especially among those most out of touch with the belfries, as serving ringers are. Anything that can be done to keep this interest alive in these difficult times should be done by all who have the survival of ringing at heart. To these service men there is at present little or nothing that can be offered, and their contact with ringing can now only be maintained through 'The Ringing World.' Some are unable to keep up that connection for reasons over which they have no control, and this 'adoption' scheme, therefore, is something that may help to re-establish the Exercise when the war is over.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 18, 1940, in Two Hours,

At 9, PEMBROKE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON... .. 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8

Composed by GEO. WILLIAMS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

Attested by Miss N. M. Askham.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being seven extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWARD COWPERTHWAITHE 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4
CYRIL CROSTHWAITHE... .. 5-6	

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand' by all the band.

A FALSE 'PEAL' OF TREBLE BOB,

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I regret to have to inform you that the composition of the peal of 5,056 Kent Treble Bob Major, which I conducted at Wath on Saturday, April 6th, 1940, is false. I, therefore, express my deep regret to all those who took part in it, and especially two of the band, for whom it was the first and only peal of Major.

DANIEL SMITH.

PEALS AT COALBROOKDALE.*

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am trying to get a complete list of peals rung on Coalbrookdale bells. They were opened July, 1854. The first peal I have any record of was rung on October 17th, 1859, Treble Bob Triples, 5,040 changes, all local ringers. I remember someone telling me that the late Samuel Spittle, of Dudley, took part in a peal at Coalbrookdale about that period, but I have never been able to trace anything. The next one I have a record of was rung on January 25th, 1890, Bob Triples, all locals. I am wondering if any of your readers can give me information as to any peals rung between 1854 and 1890. If so I shall be very grateful. I think I have got the list complete from January 25th, 1890, and I think I am not far out from October 17th, 1859.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS.

Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.

HANDBELL CLASSES FOR SCHOOLS.**AN OXFORD GUILD SUGGESTION.****Education Committee to be Approached.**

The Central Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held a quarterly meeting on September 14th at Stone. Fourteen members were present, and also a well-known representative of the N.U.T.S., who was a very welcome visitor, fresh from a solitary tower-snatching (?) raid in the Cotswolds.

The ringers were welcomed by the Rev. W. H. Wiggett, Vicar of Stone, who gave a very interesting and helpful address during the service, based on 'Four notes from the Book of Psalms.' His text was given out in a somewhat original manner, with the ringing of a lead of Bob Minimus on 1, 4, 6, 8 of a peal of handbells.

The hymns were accompanied by a viola player, which carried the thoughts of those present back to the good old days when every village church had its string band, before heavy-handed organists were suffered to creep in and drown the efforts of honest singers.

Tea was a picnic affair in the A.R.P. Wardens' room. Every man added to the common feast whatever seemed good in his own eyes in the way of food and drink, and the mixed talk of big bells, prodigious potatoes and bumper harvest prospects was punctuated by the telephone bell and raid warnings of many colours.

A short business meeting followed, presided over by the Rev. George Dixon, chairman of the branch, and supported by Mr. Frank Gibbard, secretary, and the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild.

Plans were discussed for the winter activities of the branch, and the next meeting was provisionally arranged to take place at Dinton, on the very appropriate date of December 14th—the King's birthday.

It was agreed to carry on as far as possible with weekly practices on tied bells.

The Chairman also made the interesting suggestion that now would be a suitable time to arrange for the instruction of school children in the art of handbell ringing, so that when the bells could once more be rung open, there would be a supply of recruits available who would have some knowledge of change ringing. He offered to arrange for such a class to be opened in his own school at Waddesdon.

Subject to the approval of the Education Committee, the class would take place during school hours.

The Deputy Master, in accepting an invitation to act as instructor to such a class when formed, remarked that a course of instruction in both handbell and tower-bell ringing was already in progress within the branch territory, at the Technical School for the Blind, which had been evacuated to Dorton. The boys here were taking very well to campanology. Many of them were learning to be piano tuners, and their keen ears and good sense of rhythm made them very apt pupils in handbell ringing.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Vicar of Stone for the kindly way in which he had welcomed the ringers to his parish, and to the chairman of the branch for conducting the service and the business meeting.

This branch holds four meetings a year, and since its formation twelve years ago, the Rev. George Dixon has missed only two meetings—surely a model example for all branch chairmen to follow!

The business was followed by handbell ringing, when two members of the branch had their first, very successful, attempt at ringing a pair in Grandsire. During the afternoon and evening 120's of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung on the tower bells with clappers lashed, a style of ringing which makes conducting a sinecure. Although the comment that Stone bells are notoriously wanting in resonance was too obvious to be avoided, the suggestion that the method rung on them ought to be 'stoney' was felt to be a quite unwarranted labouring of a hoary pun.

DEATH OF MR. A. H. GOAD.**A WELL-KNOWN EXETER RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur H. Goad, of St. Thomas', Exeter, who passed away in the Devon and Exeter Hospital on August 5th after a short illness. For many years he was one of the mainstays of St. Thomas' band and gave his services unsparingly to promote the art of change ringing.

He was not a great peal ringer, having rung about 20 peals, chiefly on the tenor. He was considered one of the best tenor ringers in the Devon Guild. He had been a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years.

At the funeral service in the Parish Church on August 8th, several members of the St. Thomas' band were present with ringers from other towers, and among the many wreaths was one from the St. Thomas' band. He leaves a widow and daughter in bereavement.

BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think bells hung on ball bearings do tend to go slower than bells hung on plain bearings. The reason, in my opinion, is the friction in ball bearings is less than in plain, and therefore the bells are rung higher, i.e., at the speed which suits the ringers best.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Olivers, Haslemere.

PRACTICE VERSUS THEORY.

Dear Sir,—I do not doubt that Mr. R. O. Street is right, but I am still in a difficulty. If the extra energy is taken up in overcoming friction, how can it be available for increasing the speed of the bell throughout its full journey? In actual practice much of the energy exerted by the ringer is expended in counteracting energy he has already exerted, i.e., in holding the bell or preventing it from running up too high or cutting it down to get a quicker blow. Do theoretic considerations actually affect the speed of ringing?

F. H. SMITH.

'COMMONSENSE IS NOT ALWAYS CORRECT.'

Dear Sir,—Mr. Brown uses a toboggan to convince me that I am wrong; I am endeavouring to return the compliment.

I assumed that a bell was given just sufficient speed to bring it to rest at the vertical, so we will suppose that a toboggan is given just enough speed to make it do a run of, say, 100 feet before it comes to rest; and to make the problem as easy as possible we will suppose the surface is level and uniform.

For a fairly smooth surface a small initial speed will be enough. Suppose we find by experiment that 5 feet per second is right. If friction is constant the speed will decrease uniformly and its average value will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per second and the time of the run will be 100 divided by $2\frac{1}{2}$, or 40 seconds.

If, however, the surface is much rougher, as in the case of a badly-going bell, a larger initial speed will be required. As an illustration, suppose it has to be 20 feet per second. The average speed will now be 10 feet per second and the time of the 100 foot run 10 seconds, or a quarter of what it was when the surface was much smoother.

Mr. Brown can take any figures he likes and use a slope instead of a horizontal, but provided the toboggan just comes to rest at the end of the run, the result will always be that the rougher the surface the shorter the time.

Thus what is commonsense is not always correct.

R. O. STREET.

HOW RINGERS AFFECT THE SPEED.

Dear Sir,—As I am now serving in H.M. Forces, and receiving 'The Ringing World' generally a week late, through postal disorganisation, I have been unable to read as punctually as usual the very interesting letters lately. I am particularly interested in the question of the speed of ringing peals, as I am one of the 'culprits' who thoroughly enjoy putting the footnote, 'Quickest peal on the bells.' At the same time, I also enjoy ringing a slow peal. There are two reasons for slow peals—one, the tenor and 7th men keep a steady beat with a clear and distinct blow over each other when dodging behind and on the front. The little bells respect this beat, with the result that an excellent peal of, say, 3.20 to 3.25 is rung. This is good. The other reason is because either the 7th and tenor men (or both) are notoriously 'slow' ringers. There are 'gaps' in the dodging, as they always take their own time and can't be hurried. The result is a ragged peal, with no beat or compass about it at all, and the time about ten minutes longer than is necessary. To my way of thinking, the really good tenor ringer is the one who, even though the little bells are ringing too fast and won't slow down and can still strike his bell with no semblance of a gap at all. Admittedly it is the tenor man's job to set the pace, but if the little bells won't hold up, he should be able to go with them.

If the tenor man is helped by a good 7th man, who 'cuts in' at backstroke, there is no reason at all why an excellent peal—the quickest on the bells—should not be rung. I have 'knocked off' as much as 15 minutes from the previous quickest time, and there were no complaints about the striking. The only thing is that to ring a quick peal the back bell men must work. And that seems to me to be the real reason why so many 'slow' peals are rung.

Anybody with a small experience of heavy bell ringing can ring a tenor to a peal, if he is allowed to take his own time, and this might be a matter of 15 to 20 minutes longer than was necessary. But I don't think there is very much credit in that if the small bells have to 'ring round' the back bells.

As regards ball bearings and plain bearings, give me the latter every time. There is far less tendency to 'over pull' on a plain bearing bell and much less to worry about.

With all good wishes for the future and hopes of a speedy 'back to belfry' movement.

Sig. A. P. CANNON.

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THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

SOME OF THEIR PEREGRINATIONS.

The procedure of the Rambling Ringers' Club was quite simple. They agreed to meet at a certain time at a tavern. After a drink or two they went to the belfry, rang a 720, or one or two six-scores of Doubles, and then returned to the tavern to finish the evening, sometimes with a supper, but, if not, with smoking, drinking, telling tales, handbell ringing and occasionally singing and dancing. As for getting permission to practise at the different churches, there seems to have been no more formality about that than merely asking for the keys. Once only they had trouble. It was at St. Peter-le-Poor in Broad Street, a church that has since disappeared, but then had a ring of five bells. The sexton was a very stout lady with a short temper and a sharp tongue. It is possible that Laughton may have interrupted her in some domestic duties. Anyhow, he met with a curt refusal, but he got his way by calling on the churchwarden and procuring from him the necessary leave; and, to punish the lady, he wrote a most unflattering description of her in his 'poem,' which I regret I cannot reproduce.

It is hardly requisite to go through the doings of the Ramblers in any detail. The first meeting was at St. Benet Fink on Thursday, November 29th, and then for ten weeks they did not miss a meeting on a Thursday. They did not meet on February 7th, but after that they continued weekly throughout the year. The interval was probably due to the fact that in that week an official attempt was made by the College Youths to ring a peal of Bob Major on the heavy eight bells at St. Mary-le-Bow. It was rung on Monday, February 11th, in four hours and three minutes. It was the heaviest peal of Major yet rung, and in that respect has never been beaten, although in the same steeple a peal of London Surprise has been rung singlehanded, with Mr. H. R. Newton at the tenor, and after that Mr. Charles Kippin turned the same bell in to a peal of Kent Treble Bob, the composition of which unfortunately turned out to be false. These two later peals were rung with Phelps's bell, which was about the same weight as the earlier one by Hodson.

Eleven men were needed for the 1734 peal. Spicer Dearmor and Trenell rang the tenor, Cundell and Mobbs the seventh, Annable conducted from the sixth, and the other men were Richardson, Pickard, Laughton, Watson and Ward. It was the best band the society could produce, and contained men belonging to every faction that then divided it. Laughton never again stood in a peal with Benjamin Annable.

Meanwhile he was pretty well satisfied with the Rambling Ringers. One Sunday he, Tom Clark, William Egles, William Nash, George Carbery and Trenell walked out to Newington, and at St. Mary's Church, which has since been pulled down, rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. It was not rung for the service. Afterwards they went to the Peacock and drank beer. They were joined by the sexton and his man, whom Laughton, in poetic vein, called Simple and Æsop. Simple, being an elderly man, was moved to expatiate on the doings of his youth, telling tall tales of the long peals he had rung, and the gentlemen ringers he used to consort with, until his man could stand it no longer, but roundly gave him the lie. Then the two old men started

to quarrel, and a desperate fight was toward had not some message come for Æsop, and so peace was restored.

As the summer drew on and the days lengthened, the Ramblers extended their journeys. They marched across the fields to Hackney, but, though the place itself delighted them, they found the bells hard to ring, since the ropes slipped the wheels.

They went westwards to the Abbey and rang 720 Plain Bob and 360 College Single there. So far they had confined themselves to five and six-bell towers, but now they aimed at bigger things. On Sunday, March 7th, eight of them walked over to Camberwell with the intention of ringing a peal of Bob Major, but they found the treble out of its bearings, and so came back by Lambeth, and at St. Mary's Church they rang 1,008 changes. Laughton says they rang the touch for their pleasure, which no doubt was perfectly true, but he would not have mentioned so obvious a thing had he not been under the impression that 'pleasure' rhymes with 'Bob Major.'

On Easter Tuesday the same band resolved to make another attempt. They met at the George in Houndsditch and walked to the Artichoke in Camberwell. Then they went to the steeple and proceeded to rehang the treble, and to do it they had to take the wheel off and, afterwards refix it. Then all the ropes were too low, and that had to be put right and the bearings oiled. That done, they went down to the belfry and tried to pull the bells up, but Trenell found something was wrong with the tenor, and when they came to look the gudgeon was loose in the stock. Nothing could be done, and so they went to St. Mary's, Bermondsey, where they rang 5,040 changes of Bob Major.

The band was Jeremiah Gilbert, Thomas Greenwood, Thomas Clark, Joseph Bennett, James Benson, William Laughton, John Hayward and John Trenell. No conductor is mentioned, but probably Laughton called the bobs.

Before the peal they called in at the Fox and Goose, and afterwards they went back to Houndsditch, where they had supper, and twenty-six of them sat down to it.

Rather less than a month later they rang another peal of Bob Major at St. Andrew's, Holborn. It was the second peal on the bells, and the first in which the 28 cwt. tenor had been rung singlehanded. They were not the same bells that are now in the steeple, but the remains of a ring of eight cast at Whitechapel in 1587 by Robert Mot and probably the first, and certainly one of the first, octaves erected in England. The band was the same as at Bermondsey except that Thomas Smallshaw rang the treble instead of Gilbert, and George Carbery replaced Joseph Bennett.

On May 16th the Ramblers visited St. Botolph's, Aldersgate, and Laughton is loud in his complaints of the bells and belfry. One thing he says strikes us nowadays rather curiously. There we no straps to put one's foot in—a very great inconvenience. Foot straps are very seldom used to-day even in ringing very heavy tenors; that they were used then for light rings of five shows how much harder the bells sometimes went and how much more pulling they required.

To Rotherhithe the Ramblers went by boat, rang a 720 of Plain Bob and an eighteen-score of Treble Bob, and then returned to Milk Alley to supper, after which

every man, according to custom, drank a dram, then told a tale or sang a song.

William Ibbot, of Islington, having died, they went there on June 7th to ring a muffled peal for him according to the method which they had decided was most suitable. Ibbot was not a Rambler, but an old acquaintance, a wheelwright and a very civil person. Laughton takes the opportunity of moralising on the subject of muffled peals. It is the last respect, says he, that a ringer can pay to a ringer, and so it would be a pity to neglect it. Most ringers when they die expect it, and besides, there are many people who like the solemn sound and will come miles to hear a funeral peal.

It used to be the custom in many parts of England that the bells of the parish church should never be rung even on one of the great festivals if there was a person lying dead in the parish. An instance of this is related by Laughton, for he and his friends went to Greenwich on a Sunday afternoon, but they could not ring because two burials were to take place there that night; so they went on to St. Nicholas', Deptford, but found the bells in bad repair.

On Sunday, August 11th, eighteen of them walked down to Mitcham in Surrey. They stopped at the Stag's Head and had dinner in the garden under the fruit trees. After dinner, they drank brandy and smoked, while some of them rang a course of Caters on the handbells, and then a party went to the church and rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise. They paid their reckoning and were getting ready to start for home when Gilbert declared he was not going without another drink. That agreed pretty well with the general sentiment, so they finished the day there. It so chanced that a brazier

came in, and after a while he and Laughton proceeded to toss up for drinks. A shilling was spun, but on coming down it rolled beneath a rail, so that the tinker queried the fairness of the cast, whereupon Laughton in the most truculent mood threatened to beat him and knock off his head if he did not pay, which he thought prudent to do without further words, 'otherwise,' says Laughton, 'I'd have surely milled him, unless two or three had not held him from me.'

When at last they started for home they were all pretty well far gone 'in liquor,' and they did not reach town without incident.

RINGING DURING AN AIR RAID.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sending you a report of what is, I believe, the first quarter-peal to be rung in an air raid. It was rung on September 21st in Brasted belfry, and as this is, under normal circumstances, soundproof, the first indication the ringers had of the raid was not the siren, but the noise of fighting planes overhead; nevertheless, they carried on, and special praise is due to the conductor, aged 14, who was calling her first quarter-peal of Major, and to the ringer of the tenors, who has been ringing handbells only since the ban. The band was as follows: Miss M. J. F. Richardson 1-2, Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Miss B. M. Richardson 5-6, F. W. Garner 7-8. Rung in 38 minutes; tenor size 14 in D.

Two 720's of Plain Bob Minor have also been rung recently, the first, on August 7th, in 17 minutes, tenor size 15 in C: Miss M. J. F. Richardson 1-2, Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Miss C. J. Richardson 5-6. This was Miss C. Richardson's first 720; she is just 11 years old. Another member, F. W. Garner, rang his first 720 on August 12th with the following band: Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 1-2, Miss B. M. Richardson 3-4, F. W. Garner 5-6.

The clappers of the 4th and 5th at Brasted have been removed in order to give practice to beginners, and P. N. Bond, the local 'parashot,' has copied 'O.P.Q.'s' friend Bill, and has become quite proficient at ringing skeleton touches of Bob Minor on the 4th.

The band have also found another war-time occupation, namely, 'plane' hunting, a sport made possible by the activities of the R.A.F.

(Miss) BRENDA M. RICHARDSON.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal at Highweek, Devon, on September 15th, leaves the conductor, Mr. C. R. Lilley, with only two dates out of the 366 which go to make up the calendar on which he has not rung a peal.

The Rev. A. S. Roberts, curate of St. Aldhelm's, Edmonton, has been appointed by the Bishop of Truro priest-in-charge of the Conventional District of Carbis Bay, near St. Ives, Cornwall. He began his duties at Carbis Bay on Sunday, September 15th. The Church of St. Anta and All Saints at Carbis Bay was built about ten years ago, when an anonymous gift of £7,000 was made for the purpose. The church is not yet complete. So far the chancel, lady chapel, transept, vestries and a little more than the two lower stages of the tower have been built. The nave has yet to be built and the upper stage of the tower completed.

The Conventional District of Carbis Bay was formed out of a part of the parish of Lelant, the Parish Church of which is about a mile distant and contains a ring of six bells.

On September 21st, 1880, Mr. Edwin Shepherd, Ringing Master and churchwarden at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The ring of eight at Braughing in Hertfordshire was opened on September 25th, 1745, and on September 30th, 1746, the local men rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. Here in 1779 a famous long peal of Bob Major (12,240 changes) was rung. As the peal board says:—

'It was long each man did stand with zeal

And ardent union performed the peal.'

One of the problems which the early composers of Stedman Caters tackled was to produce a peal with the full 60 courses with the big bells in the bittums and the treble fixed in second's place. In 1844 Henry W. Haley composed 7,025 changes and called the peal at All Saints', Poplar. This had 60 full courses between two singles. Next year John Cox composed 6,701 without singles, in which there were 60 course ends, but one of the courses was incomplete. He called the peal at St. James', Bermondsey, on September 25th, 1845. A controversy then arose respecting the merits of the two rival compositions. We know now that the peal both men aimed at is an impossible one.

On September 27th, 1913, Mr. W. H. Barber called at Gosforth, Northumberland, a peal in a method called Dublin Complex Major. It has several interesting and novel features. The treble is a plain hunt and the bobs are made as in Treble Bob with what is called a 'lengthening lead.' So far only one other method, Double Coslany Court Major, has been rung on this plan.

The first Surprise peal in Scotland was London Surprise Major, rung on September 27th, 1924, at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh.

To-day is the fiftieth anniversary of three peals. On Saturday, September 27th, 1890, the College Youths rang Stedman Triples at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green. Isaac G. Shade conducted and the band included M. A. Wood, James Pettitt and the younger Henry Haley.

The St. Michael's Juniors of Gloucester rang Grandsire Caters at Painswick. Among the band were E. B. James, H. L. James, Ernest Bishop, of Swindon, and R. J. Wilkins. William J. Sevier conducted. Many of our readers will remember him as something of a 'character.' Among other things he was a prophet.

Arthur R. Aldham called Holt's Ten-part at Nuneaton, with Robert Christian, of Yarmouth, at the second, and Mr. J. H. Swinfield at the fourth.

Fifty years ago A. Percival Heywood (afterwards Sir Arthur) was publishing his 'Investigations into the Construction of peals of Stedman Triples,' and the Editor of 'The Bell News' was collecting subscriptions towards his projected republishing of the 'Tintinnalogia,' the book that everybody then thought was written by Fabian Stedman.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

LEAVES THE CONVALESCENT HOME.

We have received a letter from Mr. James George and learn with pleasure that he has now been able to leave the convalescent home, and is now living at 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, which will be his home in future.

He wishes to thank the secretaries of the various associations and the many other ringers who have sent him letters of sympathy in his serious operation. These letters have been so numerous that it has been impossible to reply to each individually.

Though naturally Mr. George feels the loss of his leg, he has made a marvellous recovery, and his many friends will unite in wishing him many more years in which he can take an interest in ringing, even if it must perforce be outside the belfry.

HANDBELLS AT BURBAGE.

Since the restriction on church bells, handbell practices on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings have been held at Burbage, Leicestershire, and on Sunday, September 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung by A. Jordon 1-2, A. Ballard (conductor) 3-4, W. Clough 5-6. It was the first quarter-peal of Doubles by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6. Any ringers stationed in the district will be welcomed at these meetings, which are held at Stedman, 128, Sketchley Road, Burbage, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, and on Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock.

CATTISTOCK BELLS DESTROYED. FAMOUS DORSET CARILLON TOWER BURNT OUT.

Fire has destroyed the famous carillon at Cattistock Church, Dorsetshire. The church remains standing, and is not seriously damaged, but the tower was almost gutted, and the enormous clock, as well as the bells, has been lost.



CATTISTOCK CHURCH.

The fire was first noticed early on Sunday afternoon, September 15th, when smoke was seen coming from the belfry. When the alarm was given the local fire party turned out and got to work with hose connected with a hydrant, but they had difficulty in getting the water to a sufficient height to reach the fire. Dorchester Fire Brigade had also been called, and on their arrival they pumped water on to the fire from a river about a quarter of a mile from the church.

The flames by this time had obtained a very firm hold and the whole of the woodwork inside the belfry was burning fiercely. By erecting a ladder on the vestry roof the Dorchester firemen were able to direct a jet of water into the belfry and get the blaze under control. Afterwards they were able to tackle the fire from inside the belfry and finally to extinguish the flames.

The only portion of the woodwork inside the belfry remaining is the first floor, from which ringing takes place.

So intense was the heat inside the tower that the 35 bells were cracked and partly melted.

While the blaze was at its height church ornaments from the altar, books and chairs were removed for safety. The Rector also had some of the furniture removed from the nearby Rectory, as serious cracks appeared in the structure of the tower and it was feared the walls might collapse.

(Continued in next column.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. WESTERN DIVISION'S WALL CLIMB. Developing the Social Side.

History was again made when the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held their quarterly meeting at Bingley on Saturday, September 14th. Owing to the ban on the ringing of church bells, a ramble was arranged over the heights above Bingley, passing through the St. Ives Estate and round by the 'Druids Altar.' The two dozen members and friends who attended enjoyed this new event, and, excepting for a shower, the weather was delightfully fresh.

Considerable interest was aroused by the old Manor House, but the condition of the lawns showed clearly that the Greenkeeping Research members, who had a station on the estate, apparently had not applied their efforts near at home.

The only hitch in the proceedings occurred when nearing the summit. The way was blocked by a huge 10ft. wall, the gate in which was securely padlocked. All pockets were turned out, but without avail—no suitable key could be found. For a moment the situation appeared hopeless, but when the ladies saw the evergreen Bradford veteran, Mr. George Titterton, aged 85, scaling the wall like a youth of 18, they were not to be outdone. If Hitler could have seen the determination of the ladies in overcoming this obstacle he would have further cause to meditate upon the peculiar insanity of the English, who know not the meaning of defeat.

The scene on the other side of the wall fully merited the efforts of climbing, for this is one of the highest spots above Bingley and commands an excellent view of the Airedale Valley. It was then that the hikers could appreciate the rugged Yorkshire countryside.

The descent was made in record time and all were ready for a well-prepared tea. Following this, a short business meeting was held in the Church House, presided over by the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson), supported by Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A. (president of the association).

In opening the meeting, the Chairman spoke of their pleasure in coming once again to Bingley, which recalled some of the 'good old times' before the present building became a 'Church House.' It was even then a sanctuary for ringers, where they were able to obtain very stimulating encouragement for their art.

Canon Marshall proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing them the use of the Church House and welcoming them once more to Bingley. He said all were greatly indebted to their very able guide, Mr. Hickerigill, for the excellent ramble which had been arranged over the beautiful countryside. Now that they were unable to ring the tower bells, he was pleased to see such a nice attendance for this new departure and was sure it was an afternoon well spent. Besides enjoying the pure fresh air, they had also learnt how to help young and old to climb over big walls.—The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherwood and carried.

Mr. Hickerigill, in replying, said it had been a pleasure to him to take the party round, and if they had enjoyed it as much as he himself had done, he was quite satisfied. He would be only too delighted to do the same again whenever the opportunity occurred. He expressed regret that the Vicar was unable to be present, but promised to convey the meeting's thanks to him.

The Chairman said that owing to the 'black-out' conditions and other difficult problems, it was thought inadvisable to hold the usual December meeting. It was, therefore, decided that the next divisional meeting should be the annual meeting in 1941, and that a suitable venue should be arranged by the committee.

Canon Marshall mentioned that the general committee of the association had arranged a social gathering to be held at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on October 12th, at 4.30 in the afternoon. They felt that as the tower bells could not be rung they ought to make more use of the social side of ringing—a side which had perhaps been rather neglected. This was to be a quite informal affair, and he hoped that as many as possible would take the opportunity of being present and renewing old acquaintances. A notice would be issued in the Press shortly.

This concluded the business, and handbells and billiards were enjoyed until the company gradually broke up to catch their various trains and buses. The towers represented during the day were Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bingley, Bramley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Keighley, Pudsey and Shipley.

THE FIRE AT CATTISTOCK.

(Continued from previous column.)

Cattistock bells formed the first carillon set up in this country. It was introduced by the Rev. H. Keith Barnes, who was Rector from 1863 to 1875. The bells were actually installed between 1876 and 1899. There were 35 in all, eight of them being hung for ringing. The first 33 to be provided were cast by Severin van Aerschodt, of Louvain, Belgium. The other two were cast by Felix van Aerschodt in 1899. The tenor was 19 cwt. and the total weight of the carillon 4 tons 17½ cwt.

Periodically recitals were given at Cattistock by Josef Denyn, the celebrated carillonneur of Malines, and were the occasion of the gathering of large audiences in the village. On these visits M. Denyn would reset the mechanical carillon connected with the clock to play a series of fresh airs.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL MISTAKE.

VIEWS OF A LINCOLNSHIRE VICAR.

There is frequently recurring evidence that, whatever use church bells might be as a means of alarm in case of air invasion, their continued total silence in other respects is unnecessary. The 'Daily Telegraph' continues to give prominence to this view, and under the heading 'Still Silent Belfries—A Psychological Mistake,' published the following letter from a Spalding Vicar, the Rev. Lancelot Smith. It is the more notable from the fact that St. John the Baptist's Church, Spalding, has no peal of bells. He wrote:—

Sir,—It was good to hear from our Prime Minister that, to add cheer in the black-out of winter, the question of brighter streets was to be considered. It is to be hoped that the order which has bolted the belfry door may also be reviewed.

Many of the clergy both in town and village in recent months have met with the remark, 'How I do miss the bells.' It is a sentiment by no means voiced only by churchgoers; more often than not by those who just 'feel' Sunday when they hear the bells.

Perhaps a greater loss has been the bell which daily calls to prayer in those services which the Book of Common Prayer each day provides, and to which might be added the mid-day bell which at the beginning of this war (as throughout the last) had become a general custom. Though few can respond in person to the call of these bells on week-days, many can and do respond in spirit.

By all means let us sound our bells to warn in an hour of special danger with a clash and clanging none can possibly mistake, but equally unmistakable are the bells which call to worship and prayer. Silent steeples are a psychological mistake.

WISDOM OF THE BAN.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Mr. Oldham must have written his letter to 'The Ringing World' in a somewhat disturbed mood, for, as members make associations, he is blaming every member for taking matters calmly. As the Central Council represent the associations (with whom he feels aggrieved), I am quite content to leave the question under discussion with the executive of that body, in the fullest confidence, and would ask Mr. Oldham to do the same.

In the district in which I live we have siren warnings night and day, together with the aftermath of hurtling bombs and shrapnel, dealing death and also destruction of property, and naturally creating a feeling of unrest, through lack of sleep, to many people. Would he suggest that the bells be rung under such conditions? When the ban was imposed many ringers and clergy were quite naturally perturbed, but we have been spared to see the wisdom of the Ministry's action. So, Mr. Oldham, don't worry about associations 'justifying their existence'; they are doing that already by cheerfully obeying the present law, for when victory comes (and, please God, it will not be delayed) ringers will be found to ring the bells with a long pull and a willing pull in the dear homeland. By obeying the law we shall be doing our part in helping to save our churches and bells from destruction and, maybe, even the lives of ringers.

'AN ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.'

Somewhere in England.

THE SAFETY OF RINGING RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I suggest that ringers living in safe areas should offer facilities to any association secretaries or other ringers who have ancient or valuable records that they would like kept in safe places for the duration of the war? Perhaps those ringers who would like to do such a service would send their names and addresses to 'The Ringing World.' I think there are many in this district who will offer their services in the interests of our noble art, and I pray God it will not be long before we are called upon to ring for peace once again.

If I can be of any service to any ringer in any way I shall be only too pleased to do so, if they will communicate with me at the address below.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' every success and all ringers safe keeping.

D. H. BENNETT.

2, Council Houses, Broullys, Talgarth, Breck.

A.A. SHELL HITS ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

An anti-aircraft shell recently came through the wall of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church. It pierced the 2ft. wall, made a hole in the ceiling of the portico, struck the pavement, and then bounced back into the middle of the portico where firemen retrieved it. The portico damage was small and has now been repaired.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The members of the Ancient Society of College Youths were fortunate enough to be able to hold the meeting on Saturday afternoon, and in the enforced absence of the Master, Mr. H. Langdon was elected to the chair.

There was about an hour's ringing on the apparatus at St. Lawrence's and a touch on the handbells afterwards. Warning went as the members were on the way home.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BUSY WESTERN BRANCH SECRETARY TO CARRY ON.

The postponed meeting of the Western Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Claines on Saturday, September 14th, and, considering the present circumstances, was a very successful one. Twenty-five members were present from Claines, St. John's, Worcester Cathedral, Upton-on-Severn, Crowle, Dodderhill, Ombersley, Kempsey, Suckley, Grimley and Hallow, as well as a visitor from Kidderminster.

The service was held in church at 4.15 p.m. and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. H. G. Clinch), who, in the course of his address, remarked that as in olden days trumpets were sounded on joyous occasions, and for the alarm in times of war, it ought not to be beyond the wit of man to enable the bells to be used in these modern times for church services and to herald the approach of the enemy.

The service was followed by tea, arranged by the Vicar and served by lady helpers. The Vicar presided over the business meeting and opened it by giving a welcome to all.

Mr. E. Cubberley reported that the last quarterly peal, which should have been rung at Kempsey, had not been attempted, owing to the prevailing circumstances.

Mr. S. T. Holt proposed that as church bellringing was banned, the quarterly peals should be rung on handbells, and Mr. T. W. Lewis suggested that Mr. S. T. Holt should try to arrange practices and the quarterly peal. Mr. C. Camm seconded the proposal and it was carried.

The secretary stated that owing to pressure of work he could not devote as much time as he would like to the secretaryship, and if the members thought it desirable he was quite willing to relinquish the job.

Mr. G. E. Large proposed that he should carry on, and this was carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda elicited an interesting and amusing discussion, and after much debate it was agreed that the next meeting should be held at All Saints', Worcester, and the arrangements left to the officers, who would until then remain in office.

Mr. S. T. Holt appealed to all to keep in touch, to get as much handbell ringing as possible and to teach others, so that when times became normal there would be capable members to carry on. He said that no doubt the Central Council would do all in its power to get the ban on church bellringing lifted. One thing he feared was that using the bells as a warning would induce the enemy to treat churches as military objectives. He ended by appealing to all ringers to support 'The Ringing World,' which, in his opinion, was more interesting than ever, and said that if unfortunately it had to cease publication, it was doubtful whether there would ever be another paper printed exclusively for ringers.

Mr. S. T. Holt proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the ladies who waited at tea, and to those who so kindly provided it. The Vicar again expressed his pleasure at meeting the ringers, and remarked that he was convinced that it was quite right to try to carry on.

DEATH OF MR. JONATHAN PRESTON.

ORIGINAL MEMBER OF ERDINGTON COMPANY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Jonathan Preston, of Erdington, Birmingham, which took place on Thursday, September 19th.

Mr. Preston had not enjoyed good health for some considerable time, and recently acting on medical advice, went to Rhyl for a rest and change of air. Unfortunately he had a relapse and passed away quite suddenly in hospital.

He was laid to rest on Saturday last in a grave as near as possible to the tower in which he had rung for so many years. Four of his old colleagues acted as bearers, and, in addition to ringers connected with Erdington Parish Church, a number of others attended the funeral, including Councillor A. Paddon Smith (vice-president) and Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), representing the St. Martin's Guild. Mr. W. Davies represented the Aston ringers and Mr. W. G. Anker the Sutton Coldfield ringers. Mr. Leach, of the Sutton Coldfield branch of the British Legion, of which Mr. Preston was a member, was also present.

The service was conducted by a former Vicar of Erdington, Canon Swindell, who paid a personal tribute to the memory of Mr. Preston. In the course of his remarks, he referred to the fact that the bells were installed 36 years ago, and that Mr. Preston was a member of the original band and was appointed hon. secretary. He (Canon Swindell) always enjoyed his company, whether in the belfry or in his study at the rectory, and he was sure that all present believed that although they were laying his body in the grave his spirit would be with them in the tower he loved and served so faithfully and would live on eternally.

Mr. Preston was elected a member of the St. Martin's Guild in 1905 and had held the office of auditor since 1927. He was an active member of the Guild and his genial presence will be sadly missed.

Floral tributes were sent by the Erdington Parish Church ringers, the Aston Parish Church ringers, and St. Martin's Guild.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

HANDBELL RINGING TO BE ENCOURAGED.

The September meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Felkirk. Tingles were rung on handbells during the afternoon in the old Schoolroom, which stands in the churchyard. The members attended a service, conducted by the Vicar, the Right Rev. J. H. Dickenson.

Tea was afterwards served in the Schoolroom, and the business meeting followed, with the Vicar in the chair. After the usual business had been transacted, including the election of one new member (Kenneth Bryant, of Felkirk), a proposal was put forward to arrange a handbell ringing contest, the idea being to induce more of the members to take up handbell ringing and thus encourage this interesting form of ringing.

It was eventually decided to arrange this contest in the afternoon of the annual meeting of the society, which is to be held at Barnsley in January. The method to be rung will be any Minor method, and it may be rung either single or double handed or mixed, but will be confined to members within the society's radius.

It was also decided to arrange the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 12th.

Mr. Moxon (Sandal) moved and Mr. Gill (Wath) seconded a vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address at the service and for presiding at the meeting, also to all who had helped to make the meeting a success.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was pleased to welcome the ringers once more and hoped it would not be long before they would come again. He also hoped that the church bells would soon be heard again.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and in social intercourse. The towers represented were Hoylandswaine, Wath, Sandal and a good muster of the local company. The attendance was rather small, but under the existing circumstances was as much as could be expected. It was a happy little gathering and was without a doubt worth while.

ADVENTURES OF A 'TOWER SNATCHER.'

FINDING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES.

It is reported, on good authority, that a certain member of the N.U.T.S., on hearing of a ringing meeting with lashed bells in the Central Bucks area the other day, succeeded in getting a week's holiday on the strength of it, and set off on the preceding Sunday to be in plenty of time. Owing, however, to the lack of signposts and certain irregularities in the maps which he carried for which this person in famous, he eventually arrived at the village in question with only half an hour to spare before the meeting was due to begin.

Right from the first day he pedalled up to every church he saw with the idea that in the end he must strike the right one. It was hopeless to ask, for few of the folk he met seemed to have heard of Buckinghamshire, let alone the tiny speck on the map that was the real goal.

All enquiries as to present whereabouts seemed to bring such replies as Stratfield Say, Hurstbourne Tarrent, Littleton Drew, Cow Honeybourne and Wyre Fiddle, not to mention Guiting Power, a couple of Slaughters, a couple of Swells (an Upper and Lower of each) and a few Rollrights.

Finally, when the destination was eventually reached, the poor wanderer was very nearly hauled off to the local lock-up by one of the largest and most muscular women in the county, for daring to take the very necessary photo of the tower. This good person was quite convinced that this suspicious looking stranger, in the garb of an overgrown schoolboy, was nothing less than a fifth columnist taking photos of churches to send to Hitler, so that the Fuehrer could make a point of bombing them. However, the visitor eventually managed to prove his innocence to some extent, but not until the lady had informed him in no uncertain voice that she didn't think it ought to be allowed, and that anyway she hadn't let her son take his camera to the zoo in case he took something he hadn't ought to!

We understand, too, that the ringer in question was in no doubt about whether the tower should count as 'one in the bag' or not, and by all accounts he is prepared to take the matter to court if this addition to his list is contested. He suggests that other members follow his example, and he wouldn't contest a 'silent' peal rung with silent bells, provided there were several silent witnesses there. Anyway there were no means about bad striking, which is more than can be said about the all important first touch at some new towers that have been 'wiped off the map'! (especially when the first is a rise in peal).

When the time came for the party to break up after a very enjoyable meeting, at which voices and handbells had been by no means silent or idle, the enthusiast was able to obtain genuine information on a real short cut home, and instead of doing about 400 miles and taking six days over it, he was able to get back in 30 miles. On the way he had to introduce, as usual, an extra short cut of his own which led over a very rough track on a very lonely common, but as he had by then become an accustomed star gazer, it all came out right in the end, and he was able to go home and do the necessary booking up in the well-thumbed Tower Book.

R. D.

TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

THE DEATH KNELL IN NORTH DEVON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The death bell, or knell, is far from being obsolete in the country districts of North Devon, where, I am glad to say, tradition dies hard. In my native village and in many more in the locality a knell is always tolled as soon as the sexton has been informed of the death of a parishioner. In some places—South Molton, I remember, is one—the number of strokes tolled equals the dead person's age.

In this connection the story is told of a certain vicar who, during one Lent, preached a series of sermons on the rather surprising text 'Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever.' One evening he was returning home after a day with the hounds, and as he came in sight of the tower of his church heard the unmistakable sound of a knell proceeding therefrom. There was no serious illness in the village as far as he knew, and he could only suppose that some dreadful accident had overtaken one of his flock. Spurring on his tired mare, he hurried down the hill to the churchyard gate, where he met the sexton coming away. 'Whoever is it that has died, John?' he enquired anxiously. 'Peter's wife's mother, sir!' came the prompt reply.

Another widespread custom in that part of the world is the ringing of the eight o'clock bell on Sunday mornings, and a warning bell of some kind one hour before morning and evening service. At my home each bell was chimed three times, beginning with the treble. Ringing for service began half an hour later, and it is, therefore, quite likely that this was meant as a summons to the ringers.

If ever the curfew was rung in those remote districts (which I doubt, since country dwellers have no need to be told when to go to bed) it has died out, but one tower where Mr. Trollope may be interested to know it still survives is Newbury, where, with a fine disregard for such man-made devices as Summer Time, it was rung at nine o'clock (I think) by the sun all the year round.

In your issue of September 6th the astonishing opinion was expressed that nobody ought to write doggerel verses about ringing. Surely your contributor can never have heard those delightful verses which are sung every year on March 4th at Appleton? I wonder whether you could possibly resurrect and reprint some very good lines recounting one of the record peals of the College Youths. The only lines I can remember are, I think, about Matthew Wood, and run:—

'And who was he who rang the sixth with so much ease and grace?
From the treble to the tenor he was never out of place.'

My old friend, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, recited these, and many more, to me a year or two ago, and perhaps he could produce them for the benefit of your readers. If he will permit me to say so, I am sure that all who have ever had the pleasure of ringing with him will agree that the above lines might well have been written about himself.

Shipley, Yorks.

E. J. TAYLOR.

ORDINATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—About a year ago it was my pleasure to be able to announce through your columns that two ringers were to be ordained deacons. Now the time has come for these men to be shouldered with the full responsibilities of priesthood. Their ordination to this higher office took place on Sunday at Bristol Cathedral.

The ringers referred to are the Rev. K. C. Davis, of All Hallows', Easton, Bristol, and the Rev. M. Melville, of St. Paul's, Swindon, both of whom have by now made themselves well known to fellow ringers in their respective districts. Besides conscientiously carrying out their clerical duties, we can confidently look to them, in common with the other ringing clergy, to uphold the cause of their unseen friends in the tower whenever these more humble members of the church are in need of a voice of authority on their behalf.

R. DARVILL.

St. Albans.

CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

A STORY FROM MR. GIFFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following story was told me by my old friend, Mr. Gifford.

They were going for a peal of Cambridge Surprise on one of their tours and he and a well-known Oxford ringer (I forget his name, but he was the composer of the long peal of Cambridge with the tenors parted) were listening outside. After the bells had been going for well over two hours they went into a public-house and stayed there for some time.

When they came out the bells were still ringing, and he thought that they would soon be coming round, but his friend pricked up his ears and exclaimed, 'Why, they are ringing the first part again. They must have broken down while we were in there.' 'Are you sure?' asked Mr. Gifford. 'Certain,' replied his friend, 'so they went and put back the dinner that had been ordered and all ended well.'

E. BANKES JAMES.

The ringer referred to by Mr. James was, we believe, Edwin Hims.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

WILLIAM SHIPWAY. AUTHOR AND COMPOSER.

Next Sunday is the one hundred and eightieth anniversary of the birth of William Shipway, which took place on September 29th, 1760, in the city of Bath. He was apprenticed to a Mr. Handcock, a cabinet maker, who also held the office of sexton to the Abbey Church, which gave Shipway access to the steeple. There he formed the acquaintance of the ringers and soon became much attached to the art itself. The band was sufficiently skilled to be able to ring Treble Bob Royal, but they did not progress so rapidly as the novice wished, and he left Bath for London, hoping to get in touch with one of the famous companies of that city.

He reached the Metropolis on July 29th, 1785, and almost at once joined the Society of Junior Cumberlands, the company George Gross had formed when he quarrelled with his old friends of the 'ancient' Cumberlands society.

With the Junior Cumberlands Shipway rang six peals, including Reeves' 8,448 of Kent Treble Bob Major, the first known peal in the Kent variation in London, and 5,440 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, a performance which, however, appears to have been false in some way or other.

When the band of the Junior Cumberlands was broken up through quarrels, Shipway went to the 'ancient' society, and with them took part in many notable peals. They included the second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung and two others in the same method, 6,334 changes of Stedman Cinques, the then record length; 5,220 Double Norwich Court Bob Royal; 7,104 Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark, and the same length at Christ Church, Spitalfields; and 5,112 Grandsire Maximus at Southwark.

INSTRUCTOR AT QUEX PARK.

When John Powell Powell built his tower at Quex Park and installed a ring of twelve bells, he got Shipway to go and live at Birlington and act as instructor to his band, but after a while home sickness and boredom overcame him and he returned to London.

William Shipway holds a distinguished place as a composer. His best work was done in long peals of Treble Bob Major with the tenors parted, and in methods like London and Superlative Surprise. He was the first man to compose a true peal of Cambridge Surprise, but he had to part the tenors. In Grandsire he produced a five-part peal with all triple changes. It was an adaptation of Holt's Ten-part and had a sixth place bob in each part. In Stedman Triples he composed a half-peal on the 'proper' plan, that is with never more than two consecutive calls, and later on peals on the multi-bob plan.

It was as the author of a text book on ringing that Shipway most earned fame. The 'Clavis' had been published in 1788, and Shipway set himself the task of producing a better book. In many ways he succeeded, and, taking it on the whole, his work was the best book on ringing until Jasper Snowden wrote. It is only fair, however, to say that without the 'Clavis,' Shipway's book could hardly have appeared, and as a writer he was not in any way the equal of the older authors. He had, however, a methodical mind and he selected and presented his methods and peals in the best way for his purpose.

He divided his methods into twelve systems, and each system contained the single, reverse and double variations of a method. It was a notable attempt to introduce proper classification into scientific ringing, but it may perhaps be doubted whether it was worth while. Single and Reverse Norwich Court Bob Major and Royal for instance, or Double Union Triples, Caters and Cinques, are methods nobody has ever wanted to ring, nor are they ever likely to be of any use. The space they and other methods take up in the book could have been better filled with other matter. Shipway, however, did give us Double Norwich Caters, an excellent method, perhaps the very best possible on nine bells, and one which has never received the practice it deserves.

Shipway tried to introduce what he considered the even bell equivalent of Stedman's Principle, but the absence of a covering tenor, which alone makes the music of Stedman tolerable, is a defect without any compensation.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN NOTATION.

One improvement introduced by the book has been of lasting benefit. 'To facilitate the knowledge of peals given by course-ends,' he says, 'I have placed dashes under letters and figures denoting the place where the bobs are made in each course; the want of which has been so much felt by persons having the "Clavis" who were not thoroughly acquainted with course-ends.'

Shipway's 'Campanalogia' had a great influence in maintaining and developing change ringing, but was not a source of financial profit to its author. Instead he is said to have lost £50 by it. Later on he published a broadsheet of peals of Stedman Triples, the cost of which no doubt Powell met. Whether or no a copy of this broadsheet still exists we do not know, and we should be glad to hear if any of our readers know of the existence of one. Jasper Snowden gave an account of its contents in his history of Stedman.

For some years Shipway was beadle to the Society of Cumberland Youths, succeeding the younger George Gross when the latter quarrelled with the company and went over to the College Youths. In after years Shipway himself joined the rival society. He died in 1842 at the age of 82.

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.

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NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — North-East Division. — Hello, everybody! This is the district secretary calling you to a district meeting to be held at Ardleigh on Saturday, Sept. 28th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by a light tea, kindly provided by the Vicar. Ringing will have to be done on handbells, but, never mind, come along and try your skill. Remember this is as much for the single-handed ringing folk as those who have acquired the skill to ring two. Let it be a social gathering as well. It is sincerely hoped that all who can will come and then we can hear your views about such gatherings in the future. There is a good rail and bus service.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Saturday, September 28th. Service at 4 p.m., business immediately after. As the business is important will as many as possible turn up.—W. H. Shuker, T. Wilson, Hon. Secretaries.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Shinver (D.v.) on Saturday, Sept. 28th, 3 p.m. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting for election of officers, etc., when outstanding subscriptions should also be paid. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. and after meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells, etc., in the Church Institute from 3 p.m. Business meeting to follow tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Will all those interested please note that the meeting proposed to be held at Merstham on September 28th has been postponed.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Gen. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A business meeting to discuss the future proceedings will be held in the School-room at Hinton-on-the-Green at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28th. It is hoped that all towers in the branch will be represented.—J. E. Newman, The Cross, Hinton-on-the-Green.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28th, at St. Peter's (City). The Parish Hall will be open for handbell practice from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please give your loyal support. All welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton and Loughborough Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Ibstock on Saturday, September 28th. Handbells in the church from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting and further handbell ringing. Rectory grounds open to visitors.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock, Leicester.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—A meeting will be held at Raunds on Saturday, September 28th. Handbell ringing from 5 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Business meeting at 6 p.m. prompt, to be followed by handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Barton Seagrave on Saturday, October 5th. Handbells. Service 4.30. Tea (and sugar) after. Please notify me if you are coming.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C. If possible, there will be ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry at 3 p.m. for about an hour preceding the meeting, and handbell ringing after the meeting.—A. B. Peck.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, October 5th, at 3.30 p.m. Social talk, handbells and business. Election of officers, etc. Please make special effort to attend. Members of H.M. Forces welcome.—Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On account of the Snowdon dinner being postponed, a meat tea (2s. 6d. per head) is being arranged to take place at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, at 4.30 p.m. prompt, on Saturday, October 12th, followed by a social evening until 9 p.m. Tower secretaries are asked to make these

arrangements as widely known as possible, and let me know how many of their members intend to be present not later than Saturday, October 5th. The committee hope that all members who are able will come, as it is more necessary than ever that the interest and life of the association should be maintained through these difficult times.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—It is hoped that the society will be able to continue its activities during the forthcoming year. Attention will have to be concentrated on handbells, of course, but silent practices at New College will be resumed if permission can be obtained for the removal of the clappers. Any ringers coming up next term are asked to get into touch with either J. E. Spice, New College (Master), or W. Leese, St. John's College (secretary).—J. E. Spice.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Will members of this society who are serving in H.M. Forces kindly send their names, rank, etc., to the hon. secretary? Perhaps the local captain of bands may know of ringers who will not see this notice, in which case I shall be glad if they will be good enough to forward me the desired information.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The Rev. A. S. Roberts has removed from Edmonton to Restormel, Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR SERVICE.

At Halesworth Parish Church on Sunday, September 8th, courses of Grandsire Triples were rung for morning service by Granville C. Bixby 1-2, Miss Olive L. Ashbrook 3-4, Frederick C. Lambert 5-6, Harold W. Rogers, S.-Sgt., R.A.O.C., 7-8. First courses in the method by the ringers of 1-2.

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