THE RINGING WORLD

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LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR'S VINDICATION

The Lincolnshire rector who was imprisoned for having rung his church bells on a Sunday in June has had his conviction quashed by the Court of Quarter Sessions, and has been awarded costs. 'The Ringing World' has played no little part in securing this result. Without any knowledge of the clergyman concerned and only the briefest details of the evidence presented at the Police Court, the Editor, convinced that an injustice had been done, at once took the matter up with the Home Office, and as a result of this action the release of the rector was ordered after he had served twelve days of the sentence of four weeks' imprisonment passed upon him at Spilsby. What was obvious from the first was that, if the conviction was based upon the Control of Noises (Defence) Order of June 19th, there could have been no offence because the Order had not been made when the ringing took place. Further information, however, elicited the fact that the summons was based on the previous Order of last November, from which, by Home Office authority, bells were excepted, and as a result of which ringing went on throughout the length and breadth of the land until June 18th. Up to that time there had been no question about the lawful ringing of church bells, once the intention of the November Order was realised by the police, and what concerned us after the conviction of the Rev. R. G. C. Graham was the implied liability which all ringers had risked for the ringing they had engaged in in the previous seven months. That there may have been, as now appears, some feeling among the parishioners of Old Bolingbroke was unknown to us and in any case did not concern the issue. The freedom to chime the bell at Old Bolingbroke on Sunday, June 16th, was as important as the right to ring any peal of bells in any church on that day, and it was as a matter of principle that the Editor took the matter up with the Home Secretary. Those who read the report of the proceedings at Spilsby Police Court must have been impressed by the fact that while the summons was taken out under the old Order, the evidence appeared to be directed to obtaining a conviction under the new Order, for when the police witness was asked when the Order was made he said it was made 'a few days previously.' No one apparently took the opportunity of correcting the misstatement, but supposing it to have been correct, was not the sentence of four weeks' imprisonment for such an offence, against an Order supposed to have been made 'a few days previously' a monstrously vindictive one?

A copy of 'The Ringing World' of November 17th,

(Continued on page 482.)

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1939, containing the reply of the Home Office to the inquiry of the Editor, making clear the fact that church bells were not included in the Order of that time, was a convincing piece of evidence in deciding the appeal last week in favour of Mr. Graham. When the rector's counsel produced this copy of 'The Ringing World,' the opposing counsel said he would not further contest the appeal. In giving judgment the chairman of the Appeal Committee said the rector should neither have been prosecuted, convicted nor kept in prison. That is a pretty sweeping condemnation, but in view of the way in which the case was conducted in its first stages, it was not too strong. The mere quashing of the conviction, however, does not compensate the rector of Old Bolingbroke for the shock he must have suffered or the indignity inflicted upon him of being haled off to prison, without even having been given the chance of being legally represented on a charge which, while it probably appeared to him at most only a technical offence, was one which the magistrates dealt with as though he had jeopardised the safety of the realm. At any rate, the rector has been cleared of the aspersions, and 'The Ringing World' has been happy to have had a part in this vindication, not only in the interests of the Rev. R. G. C. Graham, but in the interests of ringing generally and the British love of justice.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 29, 1940, in One Hour and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

*MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4
†PTE. A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 5-6

Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

THE EXTREME.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Probably the extreme referred to by C. T. B. in his letter last week was the one shown in the chapter on Grandsire Doubles in Snowdon's book on Grandsire, in which the bell in the hunt lies a whole pull wrong behind, strikes one blow in fourth's, lies a whole pull right, strikes another blow in fourth's and lies a whole pull wrong. The bell that passes the treble in 3-4 lies one blow behind and goes down to make third's and then to lead. The bell that passes the treble in 2-3 makes third's place, and goes up to one blow behind, and then straight through to lead. The bell the treble turns from lead, makes second's place. C. E. BANHAM.

Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk.

24351
23415
32145
31254
13245
13425
31452
34125
43215
42351

Mr. W. T. Tucker, of Eastleigh, Hants, forwards the same information.

HANDBELL RINGING.

ALLESLEY.—At the Parish Church for harvest festival on Sunday morning, September 21st, courses of Grandsire Caters by C. H. Webb 1-2, Albert Walker (Birmingham) 3-4, Frank E. Pervin 5-6, Frank Perrens 7-8, John Taylor 9-10.

KERESLEY.—At the Parish Church for harvest festival on Sunday, October 6th, courses of Grandsire Caters by W. A. Stote 1-2, E. Stone 3-4, E. Sibley 5-6, C. H. Webb 7-8, A. R. Webb 9—10. For evening service: E. Sibley 1-2, E. Stone 3-4, Percy Stone 5-6, C. H. Webb 7-8, A. R. Webb 9-10. Thanks are due to the Allesley band, who are mainly responsible for the progress of the Keresley band in double-handed ringing.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION HOPED FOR NEXT YEAR.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, was held on Saturday last at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, the chair, in the absence of the Master (Alderman J. S. Pritchett), being occupied by Mr. Albert Walker, the vice-president. Apologies were received from the Master, who sent a cheery message of goodwill to the members, from Mr. F. E. Haynes, Ringing Master, and from Mr. W. C. Dowding.

The secretary referred to the death of Mr. Jonathan Preston, of Erdington, who was senior auditor and an active member of the Guild. On behalf of the officers and members he had written to Mrs. Preston expressing deep sympathy with her and her family in their bereavement. Mr. G. F. Swann expressed the tribute of the Erdington Parish Church ringers. He said that Jonathan Preston had been secretary in that belfry for 36 years and had always been most thorough in all he undertook. He personally had lost a very true friend and colleague. Those present stood for a moment in silence as a last mark of respect.

Mr. G. E. Fearn was unanimously elected as auditor in the place of Mr. Preston.

Mr. Ernest Stone, of Coventry, was elected a life member of the Guild.

The next item on the agenda was to consider the Henry Johnson Commemoration in 1941 and what form it should take. After some discussion it was agreed that this should be held on Saturday, March 1st, but final decision as to what form it should take to be left over until the next meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, being the annual, at headquarters on Saturday, January 4th, 1941.

The rest of the evening was devoted to social intercourse and handbell ringing. The latter was somewhat curtailed owing to another meeting taking place in the far end of the same room. Those acquainted with the size of the room will understand that this would be possible, and some really good tune ringing by Mr. Webb and his company from Coventry was thoroughly enjoyed and much appreciated. Change ringing on the handbells also took place, and the evening, although somewhat restricted, was very enjoyable.

SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL RINGING

ITS VALUE IN TEACHING A BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of September 6th, Mr. Hibbins suggests it would be interesting to know of any peals rung single-handed.

About 38 years ago there was rung in the belfry of St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds, by eight members of that band, a handbell peal of Bob Major, composed by J. R. Pritchard and conducted by Frederick Hunt. I had the privilege of ringing the 6th.

The account of this was not published in 'The Bell News' for the reason that the other local band, who were keen to ring the first handbell peal for the association, would have disputed it on the grounds that we had no umpire. The matter was left over until the annual meeting of the association, when it was decided that as eight members took part it was no more necessary to have an umpire than for a tower bell peal. The peal was therefore placed in the records.

It may be of interest to young ringers of to-day to know what led up to this performance, and at the risk of boring your readers I will narrate the circumstances. Forty-two years ago, the Rev. W. M. K. Warren, now the Master of the Bath and Wells Association, held a curacy at St. James' Church (now the Cathedral), Bury St. Edmunds. The tower of the church, the Norman Tower, contains a fine peal of ten, tenor 30 cwt. Mr. Warren found that the bells were rung only once a month for divine service. Being a ringer, he tried to remedy this, and formed a band to ring twice every Sunday. He got together about 14 youths, all in their middle 'teens, and, assisted by the late Arthur Osborne, started to teach them.

After many months' practice, often five evenings a week, we were able to ring the ten bells in call changes. Both the late James Motts and Mr. Charles Mee heard us ringing and gave us full marks for striking.

Soon after starting, handbell practice was decided on, but, having no handbells, we used the rope ends while collecting for a set of 17. Many practices were held in my home and within two years we had all rung a 720 of Bob Minor in hand. I mention this because I think a record was created by my youngest brother, who rang the treble to a 720 of Minor before he reached the age of seven.

In our enthusiasm to learn change ringing we regularly practised on the front six of the ten tower bells with the clappers tied. Most of us rang a 720 in this way before we attempted one with open clappers.

After four years of hard work we were able to ring Grandsire Triples and Bob Major for the services.

As will be gathered, we could never have progressed as we did without the use of call changes, handbell ringing and practice with the clappers tied. Were I teaching a new band I should use the same means, which I think could be used to advantage during these troublous times.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

Croydon.

BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

'A PARALLEL CASE.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—Here is a parallel case to that of Mr. Street's toboggan problem, but one that does not require, as that does, the use of integral calculus for its mathematical solution.

Two cars start from town A to go to town B, 10 miles off at the same moment. One travels a level road at a steady speed of 30 miles an hour, reaching its destination in 20 minutes. The second takes a route of the same mileage over a mountain 5 miles up and 5 miles down. Uphill it averages 20 miles an hour. To reach town B at the same time as the other car, if Mr. Street's reasoning is correct, it will need to descend the hill at an average of 40 miles an hour! I leave it at that.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

THE FIRST BELLS ON BALL BEARINGS.

Sir,—A good deal of correspondence about ball bearings has appeared in 'The Ringing World' in the last few weeks.

One thing I have been trying to get information on is this: the first bells that were fitted with ball bearings. If any of our readers can inform me upon this subject I shall be pleased to hear from them, through your valuable columns.

I claim that Hatfield Parish Church has this honour.

In 1910 the tenor in this tower was unringable, and I was asked to try it, but found it was so false and unringable for a peal and could only be rung for a very short time. The local motor engineers, Messrs. Waters and Son, were asked to do something to this bell. They lifted the bell from the frame and moulded a seating, and placed an ordinary ball race on the gudgeons. The bearings were protected by a strip of iron along the frame. No oil feeder was fitted, but grease was pressed from the side into the ball race.

These ball races were on for 28 years, and were removed in 1938 when our bells were rehung by Taylor and Co.

This method of hanging bells on ball bearings was a very crude business, but so satisfactory that the treble, sixth and seventh were fitted in the same way in 1910.

In 1916 the treble was going very badly, and with pulley blocks, which I obtained from Waters' garage, and with the help of Mr. Arthur Shepherd, one of our local ringers, we hauled the treble up out of the frame and found one ball had split in half. Being war time, nothing could be done about it. Mr. Shepherd was called back to his regiment the next day, leaving me with the treble hanging on the pulley blocks. I obtained another ball race, which I placed on the gudgeon, and placed the bell back in position; where it remained until 1938.

The condition of these ball races was not as one would expect, entirely worn out, although dirt and dust must have been pushed into the bearings with the grease and oil.

Therefore, we claim that Hatfield has the honour of being the first to have bells fitted with ball bearings.

A. LAWRENCE.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD WILLIAMSON.

WELL-KNOWN PYTCHLEY RINGER.

After a very short illness, the death occurred on September 24th at Pytchley, Northants, of Mr. Richard Williamson, a well-known and respected churchman and ringer, at the age of 85. Mr. Williamson was a keen churchman and during his long life had served the church in various capacities. He had been leader of the belfry and sexton for 30 years, choirman, member of the Parochial Church Council and sidesman. The last two offices he performed up to the time of his death.

His interests outside the church were no less varied, for he had been parish constable, fireman and ambulance worker, in addition to his business as village cobbler. Although not a peal ringer, Mr. Williamson was keenly interested in the belfry and had taught numerous learners the first steps in the 'noble art.' Always ready to give a helping hand, he had made up the band several times and ensured that the bells were rung for a 7 a.m. celebration.

He is survived by two sons, George and Reginald. The latter, like his father, has also been a leader of the local band. Another son, Richard, also an enthusiastic ringer, died whilst on active service during the last war.

At the funeral the ringers were represented by Messrs. G. S. F. Brown and S. Munton. An old ringing colleague, Mr. Ted Chapman, of Kettering, was also present.

RINGER AND CRICKETER.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES HEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Hey, of Armley, at the age of 73. He was one of a young band who learnt to ring at Burley somewhere about the year 1885. For the greater part of his life he lived at Armley, and in 1922 he became a regular member of the local band, when the old peal of six was augmented to eight.

Mr. Hey was better known as a cricketer than as a ringer, and played with much success for the old Leeds Albion C.C., North Leeds C.C. and finally the old Armley C.C.

THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

THE END OF THE CLUB.

At times the Ramblers visited St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. Lawrence Jewry, and St. Giles', Cripplegate, and rang Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and Treble Bob Major. It began to look as if they were going to settle down into a regular eight-bell band distinct from the older London companies; and that, no doubt, proved their undoing. For the older societies could not allow it to happen without the risk of suffering injury, and it is pretty sure that they took disciplinary measures. In what form we do not know, but evidently the Ramblers were given the sharp option of either dropping the club altogether, or being expelled from their societies. And with that the whole thing collapsed. It never had any real strength, for though Laughton boasts of the numbers that had attended the meetings, a large proportion of them, especially towards the end, came only to the suppers, and did no ringing.

They saved their faces very well. The last ringing meeting was on February 18th, 1735, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where they rang three courses of Oxford Treble Bob Major, or, as they called it, Union Bob, the first in the method on the bells. The final meeting was on Saturday, March 8th, at the Bell in Angel Alley, where, sixteen months before, the club had begun, and this was the fiftieth time it had met. Laughton gave them a supper of a shoulder of veal and two plum puddings, and they spent the night talking of what they had done, and reminding each other what fine fellows they were.

When Laughton wrote his panegyric he quite fairly represented the life of the club as a completed whole. We agreed, he tells his readers, to attempt a certain task. We performed it to the full. We met the round number of fifty times. And then, our job ended, we agreed to part. But just for the reason that the thing had been so great a success and still was a success, we can hardly believe it was given up voluntarily. Perhaps the pace was too hot for some of them; and behind we can see the shadow of Annable's personality. No doubt he was tired of Laughton and his ways, tired of the things he was saying about him in taverns and among ringers up and down the town; and he made up his mind to smash him once and for all.

But Laughton did not fall without an effort. There were men, old friends of his, among Annable's supporters. A peal was rung at St. Lawrence Jewry, on May 17th, and it looks as if it was intended as a reconciliation between the official College Youths and the erstwhile Ramblers. Laughton, it will be remembered, had the entrée to that belfry, and, we imagine, arranged the attempt. He and Trenell rang in it, and Pickhard, Hayward, Dearmor, Lucas, Mobbs and Spicer. But Annable refused to take part, and with that performance, Laughton drops out of the history of change ringing and we hear no more of him.

The method was Court Bob Major, the variation afterwards known as Double London Court; it was the first accomplished, and Richard Spicer called the bobs.

It was to justify himself that Laughton wrote his account. All through he is replying to criticisms and hitting back as hard as he can.

' 'Tis well known,' he says, ' that the first design of the club was not to affront any soul, but only intended as a little innocent diversion, to ring at a few different peals of bells, though some people [he means Annable and the College Youths] have taken it very " hainously " and been pleased to call names and endeavour to ridicule folks behind their backs.'

He will not cavil at any person in particular [he seems to have been afraid to mention Annable by name] but ' they that have been guilty of such good manners can take it to themselves.' There are some men whose nature is ' to huff and vapour and lord it over their com-

CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS,
Where the Ramblers rang Cambridge Surprise.

panions, call filthy names, and curse, and damn 'em.' Which is his reaction to Annable's sharp tongue, though probably not literally accurate. He comforts himself with the thought that ' such wretches look odious, that they are hated, despised, and in the end forsook,' wherein the wish was father to the thought.

But how different were the Ramblers! They never quarrelled. They abolished all sorts of discords and ill nature. Among them there was seen naught but peace and love. And a good deal more to the same effect.

The Rambling Ringers' Club was really a very unimportant incident in the story of the London Exercise and interests us mainly because of the light it throws on the more intimate doings of some of the ringers. The famous exploits about which Laughton boasts so much

do not amount to a great deal, even when judged by the standards of those days. Three peals of Bob Major; some touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Treble Bob; some 720's of College Single, Plain Bob, Court Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Morning Exercise, and Cambridge Surprise on six bells; and some six-scores of Grandsire, Plain, New Bob, St. Simon's and Cambridge Delight on five bells—these complete the tally. The Cambridge Surprise is the best item in the list, and this is the earliest account we have of its being practised, though there is little doubt that it had been rung for the last fifty years. Laughton himself was a composer of six-bell methods, but out of the five that are extant, only one will produce a true 720, so it was just as well that his friends did not ring them.

John Trenell had made his peace with Annable and the leading College Youths before the club broke up, and was received back again into favour. For the rest of his career he belonged to the society's regular band, and he took part in the last peal that Annable rang with the company. He did not ring in Laughton's Camberwell peal. John Hayward did. He was included in Laughton's condemnation and, like him, drops out of history, and is heard of no more.

Nor do we come across any further reference to Tom Clark, William Nash, Tom Greenwood, Benson, Bennett, Rippon or most of the other prominent Ramblers. That they gave up ringing with the break up of the club we can hardly suppose. There is reason to think that they formed the nucleus of a company, not connected with any of the known societies, which practised at Spitalfields, and, five or six years later, at Shoreditch,

(Continued in next column.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

DISTRICT MEETING IN AIR RAID SHELTER.

On Saturday, August 31st, six stalwarts and the district secretary, representing the bands at Bexley, Crayford, Chislehurst, Dartford and Erith, met in response to the advertised invitation to preserve the continuity of the Lewisham District's quarterly meetings. Five members, assisted by two visitors, enjoyed some handbell ringing during the afternoon in the Parish Room.

By arrangement with the clergy, the usual service was omitted, and the small company repaired to a well-known cafe for tea.

An air raid warning curtailed the stay in the refreshment room, and the remainder of the proceedings were carried out in a public air raid shelter.

An informal discussion resulted in a decision to try to arrange the annual district meeting for Saturday, October 26th, at 3.30 p.m., when necessary business will be transacted, followed by tea and handbell ringing for such members as care to remain.

It was felt that this was the best possible arrangement, as it would enable the affairs of the district to be carried on without necessitating members being abroad during black-out hours.

Eltham was chosen as a suitable rendezvous, the district secretary being instructed to obtain the use of a suitable room for the purpose if possible.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the Parish Room and for arranging for a service was passed, the secretary being charged with the duty of conveying this to the Rector by post.

A little later the 'raiders past' signal was sounded and released the members from their novel meeting place.

Members are asked to let the district secretary know during the coming week of their intentions in regard to the proposed meeting.

(Continued from previous column.)

and from their successors sprang the Society of Cumberland Youths. Jeremiah Gilbert and John Harrington were among the original members of that society, and we also find the names of Robert Green, Samuel Nash, John Costar and John Carbery, who probably were sons of men who had belonged to the Rambling Ringers' Club.

William Laughton himself, as I have said, dropped entirely ought of sight, and evidently he was dead or had given up ringing when the Society of Cumberland Youths was founded in 1747.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

In spite of the adverse conditions, the College Youths managed to hold their meeting last Saturday, though not without the interlude of an air raid warning. Eleven members turned up to enjoy themselves and keep the flag flying.

Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton, the late owner of Quex Park and the Waterloo Tower, left unsettled estate of £94,153. His estate is divided among his family.

Mr. Percy Williams, of Bristol, hon. treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, has recently undergone two operations in Bristol Royal Infirmary. His ringing friends will be pleased to learn that his recovery exceeds the expectations of his own doctor.

A few members of Bristol United Guilds still meet on Sundays, and the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association are co-ordinating with the Home Guard.

Fifty years ago next Monday the St. Peter Mancroft ringers at Norwich rang a peal of Grandsire Caters. Ringing in the city had been for many years at a low ebb, but this was an early sign of returning activity.

To-day is the thirtieth anniversary of the first peal on ten bells rung by parsons. It was 5,067 changes of Stedman Caters, rung at St. Mary's, Warwick, on October 11th, 1910. C. D. P. Davies rang the seventh and called one of his own compositions.

On October 12th, 1754, at Shoreditch, George Partrick called Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples with a band of Cumberlands. It was claimed as the first performance of the composition, but the claim is a doubtful one.

AN ADOPTION SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I suggest that the secretary or ringing master of every tower makes a collection from the remaining ringers, say, a weekly contribution, and forwards the amount on to you periodically together with the names and addresses of ringers serving with the Forces, and that you should send on the paper to *those only* who supported 'The Ringing World' before they left home.

As I had no ringers at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, who supported the paper, I have pleasure in sending herewith P.O. 10s. for you to deal with. JAMES GEORGE.

49, Anson Road, Wolverton, Bletchley, Bucks.

Contributions have also been promised from Frodsham, and by Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere) and Mr. E. Stitch (Port Talbot). Those who wish to take part in the scheme should send with their contributions the names and addresses of the ringers to whom they wish to have the paper sent.

HANDBELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Like your correspondent, C. D., I too have wondered how some difficulties in handbell ringing can be overcome, and so far as I can see there is no other way than finding out for oneself, partly by reading the articles you have been publishing and partly (and mostly) by continual practice.

If an expert handbell ringer did tell a recruit to keep his hands moving and not to think, and if he meant what he said, then he was either a fool or did not wish his pupil to know anything. I don't know much about handbell ringing, but I do know enough to say that that sort of thing will not get anyone very far.

I should not be surprised if your correspondent's real difficulty is that he expects to do in a short time what only a handful of the most expert handbell ringers can do after months and even years of hard work. He talks about a man ringing Stedman after he has rung a touch or two of the plain methods, and then wonders if he should go on to Superlative. By the time he has got so far as to begin to think about ringing Superlative double-handed, he won't want anybody to tell him how to do it. S. H. BROWN

THE FIRST RING OF EIGHT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We in Suffolk have always thought that we ha[illegible] first peal of eight bells ever hung in the country. Dr. J. J. Raven, who was a Suffolk man and one of the greatest authorities on bells that ever lived, says in his book that Horham were the earliest that he knew of. I have not got his book by me and I do not remember the date, but I think they go back to the year 1600 at least and perhaps before that. 'SUFFOLK RINGER.'

THE LATE MR. J. PRESTON.

We are asked to correct two errors in the report sent us of the funeral of the late Mr. J. Preston, of Erdington. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Erdington (the Rev. — Power) and not by Canon Swindell, and the bearers were provided by Messrs. John Jones and Sons, of Rhyl, who conveyed the deceased from that town and carried out all the funeral arrangements.

RECTOR'S CONVICTION QUASHED.

REV. R. G. C. GRAHAM WINS APPEAL.

'The Ringing World' Produced in Court.

At Lindsey Quarter Sessions, held at Lincoln, on Friday, the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, the 70-year-old Rector of Old Bolingbroke, appealed against the conviction and prison sentence passed upon him by the Spilsby magistrates for an alleged infringement of the Defence Regulations by ringing his church bell on Sunday, June 16th.

It will be remembered that the case was brought against Mr. Graham for ringing his church bell contrary to the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939, and he was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment.

It was stated at the Police Court hearing by P.C. Peck that on Sunday, June 16th, at 10.50 a.m., he heard the church bell ringing. He went to the belfry and saw the defendant sitting down and pulling the bell rope. Defendant stopped when he saw him. The witness inquired if he did not know that the Minister of Home Security had prohibited the ringing of church bells other than by military authority. The defendant replied that he did not know anything about it, but it would save him the trouble of ringing the bells. In the evening on the same day the witness stated the defendant gave out that he had received a letter from the Bishop of Lincoln prohibiting the ringing of the bells.

In reply to the chairman of the Bench, the witness said the defendant did not say when he received the letter. Asked when the Order was made, the witness said, 'A few days previously.'

The defendant told the magistrates that he said to the constable, 'I have no definite knowledge of this Order, but I have a letter from the Bishop saying that I shall receive notice in due course. I was not notified, and as I am deaf I cannot hear my wireless.'

To the Bench the Rector said, 'I do not plead guilty because I was ignorant that the Order had gone forth. I was waiting for the notice to be served on me. I went to the church and rang the bell for the usual service, not knowing that the Home Secretary had made an Order that bells were not to be rung.'

In reply to the chairman of the magistrates, the Rector said he did not receive definite instructions from the Bishop. He got the Bishop's letter on the Friday, but did not know of the law.

When sentencing the defendant, the Chairman said: 'We have given this case very careful consideration. It is the first of its kind. The defendant is in a position of great responsibility. In our opinion he had notice from his Bishop that the church bells were not to be rung and he rang them. Our opinion is that that ringing was intentional and deliberate. A fine would be inadequate in this case and we shall send you to prison for four weeks.'

EDITOR'S ACTION.

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' brought the case to the notice of the Home Secretary, on the assumption that the case had been dealt with under the new Noises Order of June 19th, 1940. He also communicated with the clerk to the magistrates, who then made the amazing revelation that the proceedings had been taken under the Order of October 31st, 1939, which the Home Office at the time had made clear did not apply to church bells. As a result of the approach to the Home Secretary, Mr. Graham was liberated after having served twelve days of his sentence.

Mr. Graham then lodged his appeal to Quarter Sessions.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins represented the police last Friday and laid their case before the Appeal Committee and called evidence.

Mr. Norman Winning appeared for the Rector and produced a copy of 'The Ringing World' of November 17th, 1939, in which appeared the letter from the Home Office in which it was stated 'it is intended that the use of church and chapel bells should be excepted from any restrictions by virtue of clause 1 (b) of the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2 Order), 1939.'

Mr. Jenkins said that in view of that apparently official ruling he would not further contest the appeal.

Judge T. W. Langman, who presided over the Court, said the magistrates had listened to evidence which was inadmissible and apparently had accepted hearsay evidence about the defence orders instead of examining them themselves.

The Judge, in confirming the appeal with costs, told Mr. Graham that he should never have been prosecuted, convicted or kept in prison for the 12 of the 28 days' sentence before being freed by the Home Secretary.

Mr. Graham was congratulated by the Bishop of Grimsby as he left the Court and later told a reporter that he was considering taking further proceedings. 'I am absolutely loyal,' he said, 'probably a good deal more loyal than the people who have been saying unkind things about me in the village. I had to carry on with this appeal to clear my name and prove that I had done nothing disloyal in ringing the bell that Sunday morning.'

NO DAMAGE TO BELLS IN BRISTOL.

From the last information which we received we are glad to be able to state that all the churches with bells in Bristol—and they are numerous—are safe in spite of many enemy visits to the city.

Members of the College Youths in Bristol are, however, deeply concerned at the damage done to London churches.

AIR INVASION WARNING.

WILL CHURCH BELLS BE USED?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There must be a good many ringers who have charge of bells and who are really anxious to know what they should do if the bells have to be rung as a warning. It is certain that the vicar will turn to us the first thing any order comes. So I, for one, fully appreciate what Mr. Barton is trying to do. But I cannot see what good his plan will be. So far as we know anything about the matter, the intention is to give an alarm if any enemy troops are landed by air. If they do come, any warning to be of any use must be made at once, and how could that be done if a motor-car has to be provided and half a dozen men fetched from different places, especially when no one would know where they are? By the time the ringers were collected and had got up into the belfry the invaders might be in possession of the town or village, or might be miles away, or more likely still might be put out of action by some of our men, who would not wait till they heard the church bells to know what to do with Jerries coming down out of planes.

I rather suspect that the authorities now know that the scheme will not work, and are not depending on it, otherwise they would surely have given us full instructions as to what we are to do. Most likely the matter has been settled in another way. I don't think that Hitler, for all his talk, really means to attempt to invade this country. He did intend some time ago, but now, thanks to our Navy and our airmen, he can see that the plan won't work. And if he can't come by sea he is not likely to drop a few men over here by air, just to be mopped up as they come down. The plan he used in Holland might have worked if England had been like Holland, but it isn't.

But it is a pity that what seems to have been a badly thought out idea by some people in the War Office should have deprived England of the sound of her bells. But never mind, we shall ring them for victory before so very long, and when that comes some of us don't intend to wait to see if the ban has been lifted.

L. W. BUNCE.

PUDSEY'S SCHEME.

Sir,—When I wrote my last letter on the subject of Pudsey's scheme for calling out the Home Guard, I did not for a moment think that it had been worked out by one of the ringers. I imagined it was a plan evolved by the leader of the H.G. himself, for who but an H.G. leader (I thought) would send a man to ring a bell to warn himself—— But I must refrain from going again all through that tangle of instructions which eventually led me to the Rose and Crown. No, it's not the Rose and Crown in Pudsey, but at any other name 'twould taste as sweet, as Shakespeare has it.

But to come back to Pudsey's bells and the H.G. I still don't know why the leader wants a bell rung to remind him to send a car for the ringers; although I can well understand the value of having a car to get the ringers to the church and take them back to wherever it is they meet on Thursday evenings—it would be giving away official secrets to mention the real name; the Home Guard might get there first.

Anyhow, I think Mr. Barton will forgive my saying that it doesn't need a band of ringers to make enough noise on the bells in these days to let the H.G., or anyone else for that matter, know that there is something afoot (or should it be in the air?). The verger's efforts ought to be enough to jangle a bell or two and so save the all too valuable time of the Home Guard in getting to their posts. That car for the ringers could, instead, do quite a useful bit of work picking up the Guards and taking them to their appointed places—unless it is that they first have to be given time to get into their uniforms and assemble in front of the Town Hall for inspection.

Don't imagine for a moment that I am poking fun at the Home Guard. I am one myself, but in our company we intend to get to our posts as quickly as we can and we don't intend to stand on the order of our getting. Our job, we have been told, is to round up the parachutists, but it seems to me that at Pudsey they are going to greet them with joy bells before bayonets. But, perhaps, I am mistaken after all, and the Pudsey boys will be up and at 'em just as quickly as the rest of us when, if ever, the times comes.

On the question of the use of bells as an air invasion warning there is still one thing that puzzles me. The Order which has prohibited the use of bells except for this purpose says that they may be rung only upon the instructions of the chief of police or a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces. From all I have heard, however, there are people in quite a lot of places, who are neither chiefs of police nor commissioned officers, who think they have a right to order the church bells to be rung, and on the face of it Pudsey is one of the places where this may be so. In my own district the platoon commander is the local schoolmaster and he has it firmly in his head that he is entitled to order the bells to be sounded. But he is neither a C. of P. nor a C.O. There might, it is true, be a lot of time lost if the Order is to be strictly complied with, but the use of the bells ought not to be at the whim of any Tom, Dick or Harry who happens to be a platoon commander. As you have pointed out so

(Continued on next page.)

THE BAN.

LETTER TO MINISTER OF HOME SECURITY.

The following letter has been sent to the Minister of Home Security by Mr. W. Challice, of Quantock, Watchet, Somerset, under date of September 22nd :—

Dear Sir,—At a bellringers' meeting in Somerset last week, the question was asked as to who was responsible for the ban on ringing the church bells, and we were informed that it was by the order of the Ministry of Home Security, and that the bells were only to be rung as a warning of impending invasion.

I should like to ask, if I may, a few questions on this subject. I believe when this order was made it was announced that the bells would only be rung by the military or police. Has it been taken into consideration that a certain amount of skill is required to ring a bell and that it would be extremely dangerous for anyone to try and ring a bell if he had never learnt to handle a rope?

A bell may be chimed, or swung to and fro, but this sound would not carry very far and skill is required to do even this, the bell, to sound its loudest, should be rung, that is swung round into an upside down position when the clapper strikes the bell with full force and makes most noise, but this can only be done by a ringer who has learnt to handle the bell.

Have any arrangements been made with the various towers for the bells to be rung when necessary, and how many bells are to be rung, one or as many as can be rung if the ringers can be found in time?

We have been advised many times that in case of invasion we should 'stay put' until we are told what to do, therefore is not the ringing of the bells going to do the opposite by giving an alarm, causing the people to go out to see what they can when it might be better, for the time being at any rate, to keep them in their homes so as not to hamper the military?

Arrangements can be made for the calling out of the Home Guard by telephone and cyclists from their homes or businesses. This would be a surer method than the bells, as they may not be heard indoors, especially if a wireless set is on at the time. If it is still necessary to keep this regulation in force for the duration of the war, could it not be called off for one day in the week so the bells could be rung for morning and evening service on Sundays? It could be announced in the Press that no notice need be taken if the bells are heard on Sundays.

To the average ringer, and I think many members of the general public will agree with him, it seems a great pity that the church bells should be silent instead of doing what they are intended to do, calling persons to worship, especially at a time like the present.

I ask you to give the matter further consideration.

A READER'S INDIGNATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Exactly how much longer are we, of the Exercise, to keep up this 'sit down, do nothing' attitude towards the present ban on ringing?

For three months now the silence has been in force, and what have we done about it? Nothing! Absolutely nothing. We, the inheritors of a centuries old art and tradition unmatched in the world have allowed it to be snatched from us at the whim of someone in Whitehall who has probably never seen a bell, anyhow.

Surely it is not asking too much of the Central Council to justify its existence and get something done about it.

I could say a lot more, but I fear that my pen may run away with me, so I'll shut up for the time being.—Keep the old flag flying.

W. E. B.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Wednesday evening, October 2nd, at Stedman, 128, Sketchley Road, a quarter-peal of Doubles, being 600 of Plain Bob and 660 of Grandsire, all called differently: J. E. Clough 1-2, A. Ballard (conductor) 3-4, W. J. Clough 5-6. First quarter-peal on handbells by 1-2.

AIR INVASION WARNING.

(Continued from previous page.)

often in 'The Ringing World,' sir, there is need for clarification on many points in regard to the use of church bells as a warning. When it is all over we shall probably learn what was in the minds of the authorities.

Meanwhile we have to carry on, and what we want in an emergency are short cuts to the successful fulfilment of the job allotted to us.

I trust that in practice Mr. Billy Barton's scheme will turn out to be the best fitted to the particular conditions at Pudsey. Somehow I am beginning to think it will, and I hope those Thursday evening meetings will continue so that in happier times I may accept his invitation.

'RINGER AND HOME GUARD.'

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

DAMAGED IN AIR RAID.

Last month, it has now been revealed, German bombers made a deliberate attempt to damage Liverpool Cathedral.

Two sticks of high explosive bombs were dropped, one falling in a line on large houses standing across the road directly opposite the Cathedral steps, and the other along a parallel street. In all, twelve houses were demolished, and several people were killed, but the Cathedral suffered little harm.

Many stained glass windows in the south wall were shattered, and the windows in the Lady Chapel, depicting saintly women of history, were blown in. Ruby and emerald windows in the choir were also broken.

One bomb fell near the side of the south wall, and debris from the houses damaged part of the roof.

Since the choir is exposed to draught, services are now being held in the central space of the Cathedral.

The building of the Cathedral was begun in 1904, and is unlikely to be completed before 1950 at the earliest. It will then be the largest church in the country, and the third largest in the world.

OTHER WELL-KNOWN CHURCHES DAMAGED.

We learn that during the recent air raids on the Home Counties a church in South Buckinghamshire, which for many years was closely associated with Joseph J. Parker, has been damaged. The bomb fell in a new portion of the churchyard and evidently was aimed at the church.

In North London a church suffered a direct hit, which completely destroyed the building except for the tower and spire, which still stand, a familiar and outstanding landmark in a well-known street.

The church was a typical eighteenth century building, and the belfry was for many years a regular meeting place of the Society of Cumberland Youths, with close associations with William Shipway and in later years Henry Dains. There is a ring of eight bells in the steeple.

Another church damaged is one in a North London suburb, which has a ring of six bells. It was here that the association which eventually became the Middlesex Association was first founded. The tower and bells are intact, but the chancel and interior have been wrecked.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

MR. ERNEST MORRIS' TALKS.

Much good missionary work can be done and interest in our art aroused by both private and public lectures and illustrated lantern talks on the various aspects of bells and bellringing.

To this end Mr. Ernest Morris recently gave a talk to the Royce Institute Men's Bible Class of some 30 to 40 members. It was illustrated by handbell selections played on 16 bells by Messrs. Sidney Harrison, Ray Hubbard, John Hurst and E. Morris. Needless to say, it was deeply appreciated and a cordial invitation issued for a further talk on the subject.

At a later date Mr. E. Morris gave a talk to Friar Lane Chapel Men's Guild on 'Legends and Traditions of the Bells' (from his book on this subject), the second of such talks he has given there. On Saturday last, at Robert Hall Memorial Church, he gave a lantern lecture on 'Romance of the Bells,' which was deeply appreciated by a good company of young people (including a niece of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff and many evacuees from the Eastern Counties). Recently at Croft, Mr. Morris spoke to members of the C.E.M.S. on 'The History of Bells,' and next month he is to give a talk to the Guild of the Church of Christ on the same subject.

A LONDON BELL OPENING.

THE LAST SURVIVOR.

Mr. Frank Dawe has reminded us that the bells of St. John's, Wilton Road, London, where he and the late Challis Winney learned to ring, were opened on October 2nd, 1878. There was a wonderful service at that interesting event, in the course of which the hymn, so frequently used on many similar occasions since, was sung, 'Set between the earth and Heaven, Now our bells are raised on high.'

It was written, Mr. Dawe tells us, by the Rev. B. Smith, who was curate at the church and the prime mover in getting the bells installed.

The ringing was done by the College Youths, and among them such well-known men as Matt Wood, James Pettit, George Mash, Edwin Horrex, J. Murray Hayes and J. R. Haworth, the last named becoming the instructor of the new band that was formed, and which quickly produced some well-known ringers—Messrs. Dawe and Winney among them. These two were actually present at the opening, and Mr. Dawe is the last survivor of the company at that notable gathering 62 years ago.

Mr. Dawe, who rang his first peal at Wilton Road, is unfortunately not now in the best of health, but from his home at Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking, sends his greetings to his friends everywhere.

TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

THE DEATH KNELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to know from Mr. E. J. Taylor and Mr. R. F. J. Sawyer that the death knell is still rung in parts of Devon and Somerset. Perhaps they will give us further particulars. Is it a general custom or only a survival among the more conservative villages? And where it is rung is it a general use whenever a death occurs, or only an occasional occurrence? Information from other parts of the country, too, would be welcome. It may have survived to a greater extent than a man whose experience like mine is mainly of towns and the Home Counties would think.

But let us be clear on one point. The knell should not be confused with the funeral bell, which is still generally rung, though (in towns at any rate) not nearly so often as it once was, mainly because the burial takes place not in the churchyard, but at a cemetery, where two or three strokes on what passes for the chapel bell usually suffice.

The death knell was rung as soon as possible after the person had died, and was an announcement of death. It has often been called the 'passing bell' (Mr. Sawyer calls it so), but the passing bell was an entirely different use, which has been obsolete for about two hundred years. It was rung *before* the person had died and ceased immediately it was known he was dead.

The cessation of the death bell throughout the country has had the result that far fewer tenors are cracked nowadays than in olden times. The usual custom of ringing the knell was to toll a bell single strokes at a minute interval for an hour, and finish with the 'tellers' and the age of the departed. As it was a slow and monotonous job, the sexton very often got a boy or some inexperienced person to do it, and with such a person the tendency would be, when the bell was clocked, to give a strong pull on the rope and hold it. It was the ringing of knells that made clocking such a dangerous practice. Ordinary chiming with clocked bells should not be any more dangerous than chiming with Ellacombe hammers.

Perhaps you may like me to include among the historical articles you are publishing one about the use of bells in connection with deaths and burials. It is a rather interesting subject.

When I wrote that the knell and other traditional uses are now obsolete I was quite aware that there are still survivals in places. Customs which have their roots in far back antiquity do not cease all at once even in these days of rapid changes. Only last February a parson who had recently been appointed to a parish in (I think) Shropshire was surprised when on Shrove Tuesday his sexton came to him and asked if he should ring the pancake bell as usual. 'As usual' so far as the sexton was concerned, but so unusual for the parson that he thought it worth while to write to 'The Times' about it, and the Editor of 'The Times' thought it so unusual that he printed the letter.

In the same way I think Mr. Sawyer will find that the ringing of the death knell, which to him is a usual custom, is for the generality of people so unusual that they do not even know that such a custom ever existed. J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

VARIOUS DEATH AND FUNERAL USES.

Dear Sir,—The subject of traditional bells has evoked some very interesting correspondence in your columns. The following notes on the death bell may add to that interest.

Canon Law provides for tolling four times on the death of a parishioner: (a) The Passing Bell, strictly so called 'when any is departing this life'; (b) the Death Bell, 'after the death of the party,' as it is quaintly worded; (c) 'one short peal before and (d) one after the burial.'

Of these the first is intended to serve as a call to the parson, 'who shall then not slack to do his last duty.' I believe this use to have become entirely extinct. It seems that its once familiar name has been transferred in common speech to the knell rung after death, of which the older inhabitants of this village used to speak as 'passing the bell.'

The death bell is, as far as I know, in general use in the South of England, though I do not remember ever hearing it in Lancashire or Cheshire. In this part, at any rate in rural districts, it is practically universal.

The bell tolled at a funeral is still, to the best of my knowledge, in general use: cemetery chapels are provided with bells for the purpose. Tolling after, as well as before, the burial may to some extent have gone out of use. It is at this point, or else at the time of the death bell, that the traditional 'Nine Tellers'—corrupted into 'Tailors'—have for centuries been sounded to signify that deceased was a man, likewise six for a woman.

There is much variation in local usages. Here the tenor is chimed both before and after the burial; in the next village it is rung. At Marnhull (Hardy's Marlott) it is chimed before, and rung up and down again at the end. It is a fine bell and the effect is deeply impressive.

The direction for 'one short peal' is doubtless due to the fact that in the case of wealthier inhabitants payment was often made for prolonged tolling. At Winchcombe, near Cheltenham, it was, if I remember rightly, the normal practice to toll the death bell at intervals for two hours! The 'peal' contemplated in the Canon may not necessarily have been confined to one bell. On the Con-

(Continued in next column.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

BURTON AND LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICTS MEET.

The Burton and Loughborough Districts of the Midland Counties Association held a meeting at Ibstock on Sept. 28th, members being present from Burton, Ashby, Overseal, Netherseal, Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Nanpantan and Thrumpton.

The Rector kindly placed a room in the Rectory at the disposal of the ringers, and handbells were in good use soon after 3 o'clock.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. R. Newberry, who gave a very inspiring address on the example shown by ringers of the need for team spirit. He said that in other pastimes a member of a team may fall out without seriously affecting the efforts of the whole, but if one ringer is only a fraction out it is audible to all, and he appealed to them to show the same unity during the present crisis so that when the time comes (and may it come soon) for the bells to ring out their message of peace and goodwill, they will be ready to give their services again as solidly as in the past.

Tea was served in the Rectory, some 20 members sitting down to an excellent spread.

The Rector, who presided over the business meeting which followed, was supported by Mr. J. W. Cotton (secretary) and Mr. W. H. Curson (Ringing Master), of the Burton District, and Mr. A. E. Rowley (secretary) and Mr. G. R. Edwards (Ringing Master), of the Loughborough District.

A report of the joint meeting at Cole Orton was given and a discussion took place on further meetings. It was agreed to hold one more, at Whitwick on Saturday, October 19th.

The Rector strongly advised ringers in each and every parish to try to keep together by forming a band of handbell ringers.

Mr. Edwards supported this suggestion and moved the following resolution:—

'That this meeting recommends that each tower tries to arrange a group of handbell ringers in their parish.' It was seconded by Mr. C. Verey and carried.

It was agreed that a message of goodwill be sent to Mr. J. W. Hopkins, the veteran of the local band, who was prevented by advancing years from being present at the meeting.

Mr. Swinfield expressed the pleasure of all who knew Mr. James George to hear that he was making a wonderful recovery after his recent operation.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for so generously placing the Rectory at the disposal of the ringers and for conducting the service, and to the ladies for arranging tea. In reply, the Rector said he was always willing to assist the association in any way possible, and he hoped a further meeting would be arranged in the summer when the gardens would be available. This will no doubt be borne in mind.

Further handbell ringing followed until the approaching darkness made it necessary to bring the meeting to a close.

WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £11 2s. Further donations have been received from: W. H. Fussell, Slough, 2s. 6d.; C. Mee, Sproughton, 5s.. E. Rivers, Sproughton, 1s.; J. Cripps, Shoreham, 2s. 6d.; E. Collins, Croydon, 2s. 6d.; E. F. Pike, Brockley, 2s. 6d.; F. E. Dawe, Woking, 2s. 6d.; T. Winney, Fulham, £1; Mrs. Smeaton, £1; Mrs. Judge, Fulham, £1 1s.; H. R. Newton, Earlsfield, 5s.; H. Langdon, London, 2s. 6d.; H. Eden, Ilford, 2s. 6d.; Lieut. G. W. Debenham, St. Albans, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Margaret H. Shurcliff (Miss M. H. Nichols), of Boston, U.S.A., 3 dollars. To all of whom the sincere thanks of the committee are tendered. A. B. PECK, Hon. Secretary.

THE DEATH BELL AT ST. PAUL'S.

(Continued from previous column.)

tinent one often hears two or more bells at a funeral, and Mr. Trollope may be able to discover evidence of a similar usage in England in former days. In fact, there are indications that such was the case.

Two further points in conclusion. There is a notable survival of the death bell in the heart of London, namely, the tolling of the hour bell of St. Paul's Cathedral on the decease of certain eminent personages. Here in the case of a death it is the established custom not to toll the bell after sunset, but to wait till the next day. This may well have originated in the desire to avoid the double payment to the sexton, to which reference has been made in recent articles in your paper. F. Ll. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

THE ANGELUS.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to the letter from Mr. Trollope on traditional uses of bells, how does he square his denial of the existence of the Angelus bell in pre-Reformation days with the fact that Archbishop Arundel (1396-1401) ordered that one Pater Noster and five Aves were to be said at dawn; and to bring this to mind, a bell called the ANGELUS was to be rung? A further extension was the ringing of this bell at noon, as at Cropredy in Oxfordshire. This information is taken from the late Canon J. J. Raven's books on the bells of England in the Antiquary's Books services, published in 1906.

R. F. J. SAWYER.

Hardington Mandeville Rectory, Yeovil, Somerset.

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

AN EXPLANATION BY EXAMPLE.

In our article of last week we showed that the first section of our example method gives five false course ends, and at first sight that would seem to make a true peal impossible. There are, however, two things which point a way out of the difficulty.

The first is that in all these repetitions one of them always occurs in the fourth lead of one of the two courses involved. Now our method has the lead end 4263857 with second's place made, and in such a method a bob Before cuts the fourth lead out; and if it is done in every course we shall eliminate all internal falseness whatever caused by the first section.

The second thing is that in neither of these five false course ends is either the 6th or 4th at home, nor is the 6th in fourth's place, nor the 4th in sixth's place. It means that so long as the 6th is kept at home or in fourth's, no internal falseness will result from our first section, and we have twenty-four full courses to work with. That will be enough for a peal provided we can put them together. And, of course, we have got the falseness caused by the other sections to take into account.

It was necessary for us to examine all the four rows in the first section of our method, but we need not test more than the first and third, or the second and fourth of the other three sections. Why should this be so?

The answer is that the first section is not symmetrical, but the others are. You can see by noting the position of the places in it what makes a section symmetrical better than by any verbal explanation. When the section is symmetrical the fourth row bears to the third row the same relationship as the second row does to the first row, and consequently if the first and third produce falseness that falseness will be continued by the second and fourth; but if the one pair are true so will the second be also. You will see this if you turn to the changes we have written out to show the repetition of rows. In our last article, which dealt with the symmetrical second section, the rows repeat in pairs, but in the examples we gave in our first and third articles, which deal with the unsymmetrical first section, the repetition is by single rows.

This repetition in pairs of rows does not contradict what we before said that the repetition of a row in a regular method always involves three other repetitions, no more and no less, for in a symmetrical section you get the four-fold repetition twice over.

In reckoning the position of the rows in any section those in the first half lead must be counted from the top, but those in the second half lead from the bottom.

We next turn to the third section of our method. When we test this by transposing the table of lead heads by the first row, 5273486, and the table of lead ends by the third row, 2357486, and comparing the results, we find that 78 never fall twice into the same relative positions; consequently this section has a clear proof scale and creates no difficulties in composition. We shall probably find it better and even in the long run quicker, to make these transpositions and the reverse ones, but we can be sure that the section has no false course ends without any transposing at all.

52731486 —
25374168 —
23571486 +
32754168 +

Take the different pairs of bells which are next each other in the natural coursing order of the method—32, 24, 46, 68, 87, 75 and 53. Note the position of 3 and 2 in the first row of the section, and see which bells occupy the corresponding positions in the third row. If they are the same two bells (but transposed), or if they are any other one of the pairs of coursing bells but transposed), there will be a false course end, but not otherwise. Then take the other pairs and test them in the same way.

In our example 73 occupy the same positions in the third row that 32 do in the first row, and so there is (so far) no false course end. 34 occupy the same positions as 24; 85 occupy the same as 87; and so on. Note that 46 and 68 occupy the same positions in both rows, but as neither is transposed and the rows are of opposite nature, no false course end results. If the rows had been of the same nature there would have been a false course end, and if 86 had occupied the same positions in the third row as 68 do in the first row there would have been a false course end.

The section is symmetrical so we need not compare the second and fourth rows.

The fourth section gives us a group of false course ends which are very rarely met with in any method otherwise suitable for practice. They are 23645, 23564, 25463, 26435.

We first find by transposition that 23645 is false against the plain course; and it follows that as 23645 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 23564. The complementary false course end to 23645 is 25463, and the complementary false course end to 23564 is 26435. Here again we have the four repetitions spread over four separate natural courses.

This is one of the groups of four false course ends mentioned in our last article, and if in any regular method one of the members of the group occurs, all the other three inevitably occur also. The peculiarity of this group (shared by one other group of four) is that in all the courses the second is at home, which means that there are only three true full natural courses with the same bell in second's place. It does not require much knowledge of composition to realise how difficult this would make the producing of a true peal.

We can now sum up the results of our investigations into the false course ends of our sample method and see what chances we should have of composing a true peal in it. The false course ends are

B	24365	4-3, 5-4
P	34562	4-3
Q	62345	3-4
R	54263	5-4
S	46325	4-5
A	32546	3-6, 5-2
D	46253	5-2, 3-6
	23645	4-2, 2-7
	23564	2-4, 7-2
	25463	1-6, 6-4
	26435	6-1, 4-6

If we were to write out all the possible sixty natural courses of our method we should find that no fewer than eleven of them contain one or more rows which are also included in the plain course; and for every one of the sixty courses there are eleven others which are false against it. If we tried to compose by using full courses we should not get very far.

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.

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. 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.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Oct. 12th. Handbells available in Parish Room at 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 5 p.m. All are welcome. —D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, nr. Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at Nottingham. Committee meet 4 p.m. in St. Peter's New Parish Hall. Tea at nearby café 5 p.m., followed by meeting and convivial, handbell ringing, etc., in above hall. All members invited to attend and any ringers in H.M. Forces in and near Nottingham are specially invited to spend a pleasant hour together. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. — Preliminary Notice. — The meeting following the above will be held on November 9th, when it is hoped to commemorate the 303rd anniversary of the society by an informal lunch at about 1.30. Further particulars later.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The October quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Grey Friar Inn, Grey Friar's Lane, Coventry (situated at rear of G.P.O.; five minutes' walk Coventry L.M.S. Station; also Pool Meadow bus station). Private room available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Light refreshments served during the evening. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—All ringers are invited to a meeting at Whitwick on Saturday, Oct. 19th. Handbells in School (near Market Place bus stop) from 3 p.m. Short service in Church at 4.15, followed by tea at 4.45. Please attend if possible, but be certain to send in your names for tea to Mr. E. A. Holmes, Wagon and Horses, Church Lane, Whitwick, Leicester.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—It has been decided that, owing to circumstances over which we have no control, it would be inadvisable to arrange the projected annual meeting, which was to have been held at Tunbridge Wells. — (Signed) Alec E. Richardson, Dis. Sec.; Tom Saunders, John Medhurst, District Representatives.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. George Popnell is now 3, Pant-y-Cefn Road, Markham Village, Blackwood, Mon.

DEATH.

MARTIN.—On the 25th ult., at Pembroke House, Church Fields, Bromsgrove, Ellen Penrose, beloved wife of John Martin, and mother of Arthur, Harold and Bernard Martin.

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