THE RINGING WORLD

No. 1,545. Vol. XXXV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 1940. [Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.] Price 3d.

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RINGERS AS BIOGRAPHERS.

The article which appeared in this column last week has probably set a good many ringers thinking. Every man can, in a way, become a biographer. Even if his literary style does not come up to that of great writers, there is a certain fascination in putting on paper one's opinion of one's contemporaries and, perhaps, years after, turning over the notes to recall people and incidents in bygone days. Such notes may be of little interest to others in the lifetimes of the writer and the subjects; it is with the passage of the years that they become of real value in providing reliable material for filling in the historical picture of the period they cover. There are many ringers we know who, if they could have their time over again, would keep a diary; and by 'diary' we do not mean just a bare record of performances, but thoughtful comments on the ringers and their times. This is the stuff of which living pictures of the past can be made by those who come after us, yet how few ringers there are who have ever attempted anything of the kind. We always feel that one of the greatest opportunities for this sort of thing was lost by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson in his book 'Among the Bells,' which could have left us with a much greater insight into the ringers and ringing in the last quarter of last century had there been more of the human side of ringing introduced into this story of his long career. This catalogue of peals and bells and names is but a cold recital of bare facts which might have been made amazingly interesting had the author given to it just that touch of life which could have been applied if the interesting and outstanding men he had met, and with many of whom he had often rung, had been portrayed.

We know it is sometimes difficult to 'put into print' the real truth of what one thinks about living personalities. There are susceptibilities to be thought of and personal criticism is then in poor taste, but when it comes to writing private diaries, or something less pretentious which can be locked away and added to as occasion arises, there is nothing to prevent a man setting down exactly what he thinks of his contemporaries. As long as such opinions and criticisms are just and honest, they may later fit into a background which will help to give a complete picture of our times as far as they relate to ringing.

We do not expect that every ringer, even if he has the opportunity—and there are few who have in these days—will sit down and begin to write his reminiscences or try to put on paper what he thinks of the ringers he has known in the past, or whom he knows to-day. But if

(Continued on page 518.)

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and when any member of the Exercise should try his hand at this kind of thing we would remind him that the recording of his recollections and opinions is not the only thing that matters. He will doubtless carefully preserve his manuscript during his own lifetime; but he must also ensure its safety after he has gone. It is here that one of the uses of belfry and association libraries comes in. These libraries should ultimately become the repositories for these manuscripts. Not always are the treasures of the ordinary ringer appreciated by those who afterwards have to deal with them. Many things have gone on to the rubbish heap or the bonfire which might have been to us of surpassing interest. Old ringing books, whose preservation would have proved a great acquisition to modern libraries if only because they were survivals of the past, have been lost by hundreds. To-day there is greater appreciation of their value and ringers are more alive to the importance of their preservation. But what has happened in the past to books is much more likely to happen to manuscripts found among a ringer's papers when the final clearing up comes.

Anyone, therefore, who begins to keep notes, as, for example, Samuel Slater did, which, while they may seem commonplace to-day, are likely to be of interest and use to future historians, should take proper steps to ensure that his accumulated manuscripts should find a safe resting place after he has gone. If only one ringer here and there were to take up this task of recording impressions about his contemporaries with a view to their preservation, we believe a considerable service would be rendered to the Exercise. These are days, of course, when ringing celebrities can be read about in the columns of this journal, and for that reason it may be thought that the thing we have here suggested may be unnecessary; but we do not take that view. What appears in print seldom contains that intimate personal touch which can be given in the private notes of a friend, or the candid opinions of a rival. That gap in our ringing records to which we referred last week could be at any rate partly filled, for future generations, by acting upon the suggestion now made. But we wonder how many of our readers really will make a sustained effort to provide those who come after with their views on any of the ringers of to-day whom they know?

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

Those ringers who consider war-time meetings (and handbell meetings in particular) a waste of time would have been very much surprised if they had chanced to go to Whitwick on October 19th, the occasion of the meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association. Handbells were in great demand in the school during the afternoon up to the time of service, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. G. Hogarth), who gave a splendid address on the important work of the ringers.

Tea was served at the Wagon and Horses, when 15 members sat down, representing Copt Oak and The Oaks, Hugglescote, Ibstock and Shepshed, with visitors from Anstey, Burbage, Croft, Earl Shilton and Hinckley.

The meeting (presided over by Mr. G. R. Edwards) was very brief, and in view of the number present it was agreed to hold another one at Copt Oak on November 9th.

Thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the Schoolroom and for conducting the service, and to Mr. A. E. Rowley for presiding at the organ.

The handbells were soon in use again to a variety of methods, ranging from Grandsire and Stedman Doubles to Grandsire Caters.

Those present were unanimous in voting the meeting as one of the best held in the district. The ringing was quite good and plentiful and to suit all tastes, while the social part of the meeting was excellent. It is by meeting together like this that friendships are made which will never be broken.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

Request to Central Council.

Considering the present difficulties, a most successful meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Nottingham on Saturday, October 19th. Although Newark was provisionally chosen, it was felt by the committee that this place would be difficult of access to many members, therefore St. Peter's, Nottingham, was decided on in its stead. A few members, arriving early, ascended the tower and on handbells rang (more or less successfully) courses of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, etc. Welcomed most heartily were the 'veterans' who turned up, viz., J. H. Swinfield (Burton), W. E. White (Cotgrave). A. H. Ward and J. Pagett (Derby), and, just to keep them in order, Pte. Sid Harrison, of the Leicesters, came, complete with rifle and ammunition!

The ringing ought to have been good, there were enough handbells for each one present to have four apiece! In addition to two local sets, the hon. secretary brought along the association's bells (13) and also 16 belonging to Pte. S. Harrison. In the afternoon the committee met in St. Peter's Church Hall adjoining, and representatives were present from Burton, Derby, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham. In the absence of the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert (president), the chair was taken by Mr. Colin Harrison (vice-president), supported by Mr. W. E. White (hon. treasurer) and Mr. Ernest Morris (secretary).

The Chairman, in welcoming the members, said that although the business to be transacted was small, it was encouraging and inspiring to all to meet together at such times as these, not only to keep going interest in the art, but also to cultivate the social side of their activities

Notice had been given that moneys invested in C. of E. Building Society would in future bring in 3 per cent. interest instead of 3½ per cent. as hitherto.

The secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council requesting that body, as the premier representatives of the bellringers of England, to approach the heads of the Church, the Archbishops, Bishops and other influential ecclesiastical personages, with a view to securing the rescinding of the present ridiculous ban on church bells, especially as applied to service ringing. There is now a new Minister at the head of the State department concerned, and if pressure was made through the clergy or other influential bodies, something might be achieved. 'We, as individual ringers, with nothing stronger than the fact that it is our art that is concerned, bear very little weight and more often than not would be ignored.'

The next general meeting, at which auditors are elected and other important business is transacted, should be held in January, and, after discussion, it was decided that it should take place at Derby on January 11th. Local district secretaries are asked to note this and fix their annual meetings accordingly.

This concluded the business, and tea was then partaken of at a nearby cafe, following which further handbell ringing in St. Peter's belfry closed a very happy meeting.

IN DAYS GONE BY.

MAKING A NIGHT OF IT!

Bisley bells had just been rehung and we fixed up a band to try for the first peal on them. I started from Gloucester and walked up with Willie Brunsdon. The rest of the party were coming on bicycles and in a spring-cart. It is seven miles to Bisley, and our route took us through Painswick. We got to Bisley at five o'clock and raised the bells, but had to wait about until seven o'clock, when we went into changes. The method was Double Norwich, and all went well until 9.30, when there came a smash. Though vexed, we took the opportunity to give some of the local ringers some short touches of Grandsire Triples. Then one of our party said, 'What a pity to go back without the peal!' And one of the locals said, 'Why not start again?' and he offered to go and ask the Vicar's permission.

Canon Keeble himself came down to see us and asked the whole party up to the vicarage to have refreshments before starting again, an invitation which we were glad to accept. We got into changes again soon after eleven, and the bells came round at half-past two. (It was Jim Groves' first peal of Double Norwich on an 'inside' bell.) No sooner had the bells come round than a door in the corner of the tower, which had escaped our notice, opened and two policemen put in an appearance. We wondered what was coming, but they were quite harmless. One of them was a native of Gloucester, and they said that they had much enjoyed listening to the bells. This encouraged us and someone asked if they could find us any refreshments. They thought they could and conducted us to the village 'pub' and knocked up the landlady, who certainly took it very well. I was glad to return home in the spring-cart.

The Painswick ringers went up to Bisley a few weeks later, and an angry looking gentleman came into the belfry and asked if they were *those fellows* who had come up and rung all night. Mr. Hale told me that he looked quite vexed when they said that they were not, and seemed inclined to disbelieve them. E. B. J.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

EXETER BRANCH.

Ready to Resume when Ban is Lifted.

The activities of the change ringers in Devon have been suspended since the official ban has been in force. Hence the meeting of the Exeter Branch last Saturday was welcomed. Members assembled at St. Sidwell's Church and a renewal of old fellowships was made possible. Some 20 of the older members came to the belfry and for a couple of hours engaged themselves in handbell practice. The chairman (Mr. E. J. Ryall) and the secretary (Mr. W. H. Howe) welcomed the president of the Guild, Preb. E. V. Cox, and the acting general secretary. It was a pleasure to see Mr. C. R. Lilley so active again and to observe that Mr. Laver had sufficiently recovered to be present. Mr. Laver was formerly general secretary of the Guild, but resigned at the last annual meeting in consequence of ill-health.

At 4 o'clock the Rector, the Rev. M. V. Narracott, welcomed the company in the ancient parish church and conducted the short official service of the Guild. It was indeed a pleasure to all present to be able to join in the service, and there was a feeling of hope that once again the activities of the branch might be renewed.

Tea was provided at Deller's Cafe in High Street, and at the business meeting which followed, the Chairman explained that it was with some diffidence that he and the secretary had called the meeting. He expressed pleasure at the presence of so many members.

The company stood in silence when the deaths of the Rev. Lanyon-Owen and Mr. Gold were announced.

After discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on February 22nd at Exeter.

Two new members, the Rev. M. V. Narracott and Mr. E. Holwill, were elected.

The meeting expressed its pleasure at the election of the president, the Rev. E. V. Cox, to a prebendal stall in Exeter Cathedral.

Preb. Cox thanked the Exeter Branch for its initiative in calling the meeting. He thought it was cheering to feel that they were moving towards happier times when they could renew old friendships. Though there was a ban on their greater activities, considerable private work was being done, and they would be quite prepared to resume when the ban is removed and better days come. He hoped that soon the ban would be lifted, not only for ringers, but for the sake of the public, who loved to be called to the worship of God by the voices of the bells.

Another very old friend of the Guild in Mr. Edwin Shepherd was heartily welcomed. He recalled the days, 60 years ago, when the Guild was young and only one tower, in the city of Exeter, practised change ringing. The bells up and down the county in those days were often neglected and in bad condition. Now the keeping of the bells was a parochial pride and he thought much of this was due to the efforts of the Guild. He warned the Guild that there was danger in being too big and cumbersome because on occasions of festivals individual members could not get opportunities of ringing.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the service and to Mr. Read, the organist, concluded the meeting.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

WARM WELCOME AT BRADFORD.

The monthly meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Bradford Cathedral on Saturday and was attended by members from Armley, Bramley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's), Shipley and the local company.

Owing to a service in the Cathedral, which prevented the belfry from being used, the meeting was held in the old Parochial Hall. Members were slow in turning up, but the time was filled in by the thoughtfulness of Mr. J. Hardcastle, who brought his Australian Tour snapshots to the meeting for all to see. While thus visiting the warmer climes the party were able to forget the cold weather outside and they congratulated themselves that last minute alterations gave them a warm comfortable room for the handbell ringing, which continued until the advertised time of the business meeting, over which Mr. J. F. Harvey presided.

The Chairman announced the loss of two members who had passed away during the last few weeks, namely, Mr. James Hey, of Armley, and Mr. Harry Smith, of Leeds Parish Church.

Happier thoughts were then introduced by the birthday congratulations to Mr. Joseph Broadley, who was 81 the previous day.

The routine business of the meeting was then transacted, and the vote of thanks to all concerned was expressed by Mr. Tom Kendall, seconded by Mr. Sam Helliwell.

Mr. Hardcastle, in reply, said he would pass on the thanks to the Vicar. Mr. Hardcastle, referring to the present times, said he hoped that happier days were not far off when the society, along with the Yorkshire Association, would be able to accept an invitation to hold a general meeting at the Cathedral and have a 'reight good do.'

The next meeting is due to be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 30th, when owing to the earlier 'black-out' it was unanimously agreed to start ringing at 2 p.m., with the business meeting at 4 or 4.30 p.m.

Further handbell ringing afterwards took place.

OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS VISIT THE CITY.

During the second quarter of the eighteenth century there lived at Fulham, in a big house near the church, a man named William Skelton. He was a College Youth and an important man among the Metropolitan ringers of the time; and the modern London Exercise owes him a debt of gratitude, for it was through him that Rudhall's beautiful bells were hung in Fulham steeple.

The big house in Church Row had been built by Skelton's father, whose name also was William, and who laid the foundation of his fortune and that of his family in a curious and remarkable incident which happened when he was a boy.

When James the Second was King of England the Bishop of London was Henry Compton, a somewhat masterful man who was a younger son of a noble family and a powerful man in Church and State, one of the leaders of the Revolution which put William III. on the throne of England and finally decided that Parliament should be the governing authority in this country.

Like all the Bishops of London for a thousand years, Dr. Compton lived at Fulham Palace. He had made his will and in it he had bequeathed a legacy to all his servants, including his cook. Now the cook was a man not much younger than the bishop, and he reflected that his chances of inheriting his share of the legacy were not very good, and certainly not very immediate. So, as the best means of handling the money within a reasonable time, he mixed poison with some broth he had prepared for his lordship. Young Skelton, who was a boy employed in the kitchen, was sharp enough to detect the attempt, and the cook was discharged.

This brought Skelton to the notice of the Bishop, who had him educated as an ecclesiastical lawyer, and in the end the boy, by diligence and good fortune, arrived at an honourable position and considerable property in the parish.

Skelton's son William, who was born in 1696, was sent to Oxford, where he matriculated on July 19th, 1712, and became a commoner of Christ Church. He followed his father's profession, and was a proctor in the Court of Arches, becoming Registrar to Dr. Gibson, the Bishop of London.

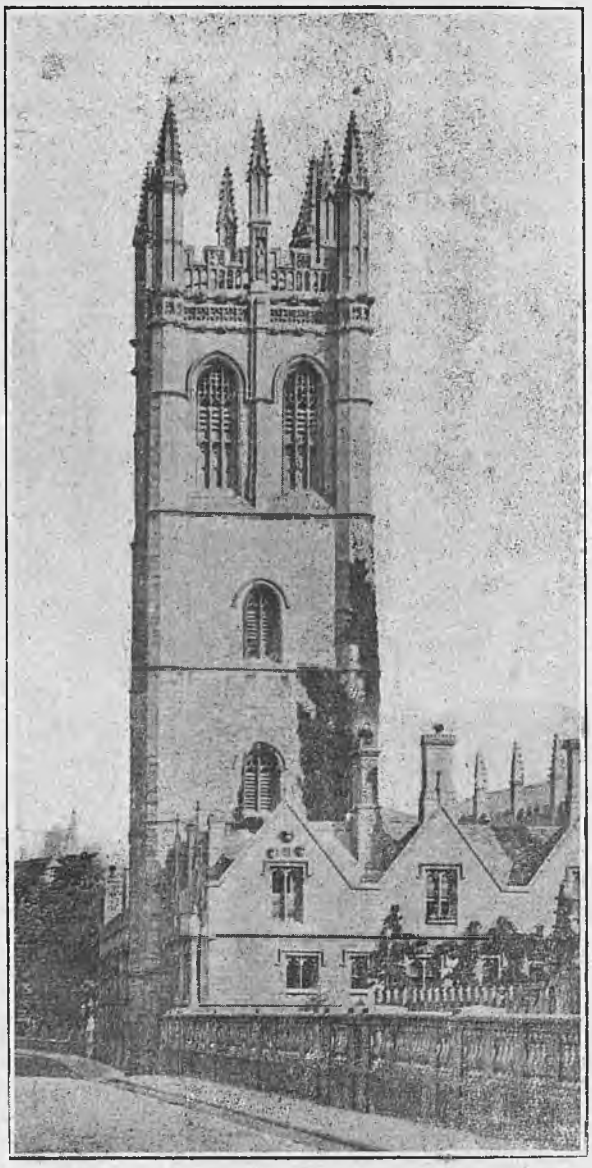
In his university days he practised ringing, and probably had learnt to ring on the old six bells at Fulham under the tuition of Hudnott, the parish clerk, whose portrait, painted in oils on a large wood panel, still hangs on the walls of the belfry.

As Registrar to the Bishop, Skelton issued and signed the faculties for the casting and hanging of several of the famous rings of bells in London, including that at St. Saviour's, Southwark. He was given the name of an excellent ringer by Thomas Hearne, and he joined the Society of College Youths in 1715, though he never stood in a peal with them.

When the old bells at Fulham were recast Skelton was not only the leading man in the committee appointed to carry out the business, but he gave two bells himself, and remitted the fee due to him for the faculty. Later on he paid for the hanging of two other bells given by Theodore Eccleston to complete the ring of ten.

In the year 1733 Annable and the College Youths decided to go to Oxford for their annual outing, and naturally they turned to Skelton to make the arrangements.

Although we have no record, it is quite likely that this was not the first visit of the society to Oxford. In 1723, among the names of new members, appears that of Arthur Lloyd, carpenter and bellhanger, and the chief man in the band that did the not inconsiderable amount of paid ringing in the town. Lloyd may have been on a visit to London, but it is at least as likely that the society was on a visit to Oxford.



THE TOWER OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

On the Saturday before Whitsuntide William Skelton rode down to Oxford to prepare the way, and very early the next morning Benjamin Annable and his party, fifteen ringers in all, set out to follow him on foot. The distance is 63 miles, and three miles an hour, including stops, is pretty good going for such a journey; so that even if they started soon after midnight, it was very late in the evening that a tired and footsore party crossed Magdalen Bridge and made their way up the famous High Street. It was their wont on these occasions to

stop and ring at places on the route. Whether they did so now we do not know, but if they did it would be at a church by the roadside such as High Wycombe.

On the Monday the Oxford ringers rang a short touch at Magdalen as a welcome and another at Christ Church in the evening, the Londoners resting during the day to recover from the effects of their long walk. On the Tuesday (May 15th) they rang a preliminary touch of about 1,500 changes of Grandsire Caters at New College, starting a little before eleven in the morning and finishing at noon, and the same at Christ Church in the evening. Next day they started at Christ Church for a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,040 changes. They began at a quarter to twelve and rang until two o'clock, about 3,200 changes, 'incomparably well,' when, the gudgeons being bad, the tenor fell down, but lodged in the pit.

In the evening they went to Magdalen. It is not clear whether they started for a peal there or not, but, in any case, they could not proceed above half an hour owing to two or three ropes breaking. Hearne does not tell us what method they rang, but if it was a peal attempt, almost certainly it was Bob Major.

On Thursday they went to New College and started again for the Grandsire Caters. They began a little before twelve and rang about three-quarters of an hour, when one of the ropes broke and so they were stopped. Afterwards they dined at 'Weer's beyond Friar Bacon's Study,' and then some of them walked the couple of miles to Iffley and rang a 720 on the six bells there.

The next day, Friday, was their last chance of attempting the peal. They started again at New College and again just before noon. This time they rang two minutes short of two hours, and again a broken rope put an end to the attempt. On the Saturday they started for home and took two days on the journey.

Hearne, who was a competent and critical judge of ringing, is emphatic about the quality of the Londoners' ringing. Both at Christ Church and New, as elsewhere, it was, he said, 'most surprisingly fine without the least fault from beginning to end, such as never was before in Oxford. If it had not been for the faulty gudgeons and the broken ropes, the peal would have been rung with the greatest ease imaginable, for in the attempts there was not the least fault made. All were very sorry and 'twas a scandal that the ropes should not have been in good order.' Hearne notes that Annable rang the ninth bell and adds that he 'is judged to understand ringing as well as if not better than any man in the world.'

ALDERSHOT'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL EFFORT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It would be interesting to hear from various companies in the country what their ringers are doing and the regiments with which some of them are serving. It is unfortunate that so many of the names we used to see from time to time, either in peal records or meeting reports, have disappeared, though only temporarily, we trust. We read in the Belfry Gossip of the calling up of one or two ringers, but I am sure many of us would be interested in the movements of other readers. Below are particulars of some of my own company who are 'doing their bit' in the present conflict between good and evil, and I hope other tower secretaries will send in similar information.

C. W. DENYER.

Aldershot

Mrs. E. Sargeaunt, A.T.S.
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Our readers will be sorry to know that Archdeacon Parry, of Bigby, is seriously ill. He had not been very well for some considerable time. He was taken ill some three weeks ago and was improving again until last Monday week, when he had a serious relapse.

Archdeacon Parry is a vice-president of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, which he represents on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Faculties, and is also a member of the Central Council.

Many happy returns of the day to Mr. Bill Barber, of Newcastle, who was born on November 4th, 1876.

Sixty-two years ago to-day the noble ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung for the first time.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. Two of them were Bob Major, two were Grandsire Triples, two Grandsire Caters, one Oxford Bob Triples and one Stedman Triples.

The Grandsire Caters included a peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester. It was the first in the method conducted by John Austin and the first rung by Mr. James George.

The first peal ever rung on handbells 'retained in hand' was 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Sheffield on October 30th, 1811.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on November 1st, 1831.

On November 3rd, 1796, what seems to have been the second 'name' peal ever accomplished was rung at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by eleven Williams. The method was Grandsire Caters and the conductor was William Shipway.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung at Huddersfield on November 5th, 1821. It was composed and conducted by Benjamin Thackrah. On the same date in 1787 6,048 changes of Cambridge Surprise were rung at St. Peter's, Sheffield. As with the other early peals in the method, the composition was false.

Mr. Percy Williams, of Bristol, hon. treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, has returned home after his recent operation. He was not due to be discharged from hospital quite so soon, but owing to the requirements for beds, he has been permitted to leave to be nursed at home. Naturally he is very happy to be there and his friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. William Betley, the Ringing Master at the Parish Church, Rugby, is going to Ipswich with the bishop elect. His address will be The Flats, The Bishop's House, Park Road, Ipswich.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO MR. A. H. PULLING.

His many friends in the Exercise will regret to learn that Mr. Alfred H. Pulling, of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, met with a serious accident on Friday of last week. Mr. Pulling was engaged in cutting some dead wood from a tree when the ladder slipped and he turned a double somersault in falling on to some concrete. He had a nasty cut on the head and an injury to his arm. For 24 hours his condition was regarded as serious, fears being entertained as to its effect on the head injury he sustained some years ago. Later reports from Warren Road Hospital indicate that he is making satisfactory progress.

ASSOCIATIONS AND WAR SAVINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If I remember rightly, a few weeks ago there was an article in 'The Ringing World' inviting suggestions from its readers, and ringers generally, as to the best way by which ringing societies up and down the country could contribute towards winning the war.

May I suggest that a part of the money retained by the districts for working expenses be invested in War Savings Certificates or the Post Office Savings Bank?

During the war, while ringing is at a standstill, it may be possible for the districts of some Guilds to send as much as 75 per cent. of their balance at the end of the year to their general treasurer. In this way the Guilds throughout the country, from the balances of both district and general funds, might raise as much as two or three hundred pounds. This would make a useful contribution towards our war savings effort. The amounts saved would, of course, be shown on both the district and general purposes balance sheets.

W. LINTER, Hon. Treasurer,
Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

CHECKING FIGURES OUTSIDE A TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reference in your columns to the wonderful ear of the late Mr. J. C. Truss, in the checking of figures outside the tower, reminds me of what happened at Marlow some years ago, after an attempt for a quarter-peal of Stedman had failed.

In the discussion which followed, it was obvious that two bells had shifted, but not even the conductor could quite make up his mind as to which were the two bells concerned.

During the 'inquest,' Mr. Truss, who had apparently been listening to the ringing from outside, arrived in the belfry, and without any hesitation told us that at a certain part end 3 and 5 had shifted. So certain was he on the point that not even the culprits themselves were able to argue any further.

H. BADGER.

Thame, Oxon.

DAMAGED LONDON CHURCHES.

RESULTS OF AIR RAIDS.

At the London Diocesan Conference on Monday last, the Bishop of London announced that 32 churches in the diocese had been destroyed or so badly damaged that they are unusable, and that 47 others had been seriously damaged. Four hundred and fifty to five hundred other church buildings have been damaged.

TOWERS AND BELLS SAFE.

Three North-West London churches were recently damaged by enemy action. One, a new church, removed from the West End of London, had some windows broken when a land mine fell nearby. The tower and spire, together with the ring of eight bells, is not damaged at all.

The second, an ancient church, had some windows broken by a bomb which demolished some houses in the vicinity. The windows are all 19th century stained glass of no artistic or material worth. The building itself was unharmed and the late fourteenth century tower and its ring of eight bells are safe. The bells have had many peals rung on them, including numerous peals of Spliced Surprise Major.

A third church had some windows broken when a delayed action bomb exploded demolishing a bungalow. The Gospel at early Mass had just begun when the explosion occurred. A pause was made whilst the glass fell and then the Mass was resumed. The church was built 14 years ago and is still incomplete. A generous benefactor has provided funds to erect the tower and marble altar, when building is resumed after the war.

THE BELLS OF DOVER.

The towers and bells of St. Mary's and St. James' Churches have so far escaped damage, although considerable damage has been done to church property in the town. A shell from the German guns at Cap Gris-Nez burst near St. Mary's and shattered the old valuable stained glass windows over the altar and some of the masonry. At St. James' it has been found necessary to close the new church from September 30th for the duration of war.

PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Dawe is not quite correct about the above, as Mr. Hattersley's peals were not the first. His were both rung on the same day, July 4th, 1888, and a footnote to the first of the two (Kent Major) said, 'The first peal of any method ever rung in the Isle of Man.' But a fortnight after their publication, July 28th, he corrected this in a letter to 'The Bell News,' saying, 'I am informed that a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Thomas' Church, Douglas, by the St. Peter's company, Liverpool, on their visit to open the bells on December 7th, 1852,' and he added the postscript, 'The bells at Douglas are now only a peal of six.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

A letter has also been received from Mr. E. Jennings, of Bushey, containing the same information.—Editor.

FROM THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION RECORDS.

Dear Sir,—The records of the Yorkshire Association show that two peals were rung at Peel, Isle of Man, on Wednesday, July 4th, 1888: one a 5,184 of Kent Treble Bob Major and the other Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples, both conducted by Charles Henry Hattersley.

Although these peals must have been rung shortly after the bells were installed, it is quite likely that one or more peals had been rung previously, as neither is claimed to be the first on the bells, but both are claimed to be the first in the respective methods on the bells.

Those who took part were Charles H. Hattersley, Arthur Brearley, David Brearley, Joseph Mulligan, and John Mulligan, of Sheffield; W. Davies, J. R. Pritchard and H. Coley, of Liverpool; A. Thomas, of Birmingham; W. Rock Small, of Tipton; and William Whittaker, of Leeds.

The weight of the tenor according to our records is 8¼ cwt.

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

Mr. G. R. Newton, of Liverpool, also sent us information with regard to these peals.

DOVER RINGER KILLED.

Mr. Cyril T. Playford, whose death occurred through enemy action at Dover Harbour, was for several years a bellringer at St. Mary's Church. He was a choirboy until his voice broke and then he took up ringing. He was 20 years of age and was very interested in the bells, although he had not had the opportunity of getting far in change ringing. The funeral took place at St. Mary's Cemetery on Wednesday, October 16th. He was employed by the 'Bulwark' Engineering Company, Dover.

AIR INVASION WARNING.

BRISTOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF BELLS.

Ringers' Services Accepted.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent articles published in 'The Ringing World' indicate that much information is still lacking regarding the 'air invasion warning.'

In the past week I have received several letters asking what has been done in connection with the Home Guard in the Bristol district: and in the hope that the following may enlighten many ringers throughout the country, I give the details of arrangements made and completed in and outside the city.

In accordance with a proposal made at a meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association in August, the following letter was sent to the Zone Commander of the Home Guard in the Bristol area offering him the services of its ringers.

Sir,—May we offer the use of our organisation in arranging for competent church bellringers to be at your service? We make this suggestion realising that in some instances it would be dangerous for individuals unacquainted with the craft to attempt such a task.

Also we would suggest that in some instances a 'chimed' bell would not be effective for any reasonable distance owing to shuttering of the louvres. (St. James', Bristol, for example, would hardly be noted at Bridewell, whereas Temple Church, thus chimed, may be heard for three-quarters of a mile, and if rung would perhaps be heard for two or three miles according to the wind.)

Our offer of assistance may minimise other difficulties you may encounter.

If you do not avail yourselves of our assistance, may we suggest that every precaution is taken to preserve the ancient bells, namely, that clock hammers are released before ringing and that bells are not swung out of control.

We enclose a report of our organisation and we could easily make contact with churches having only one or two bells to ensure a widespread system.

In reply, Lt.-Col. A. T. Chapman expressed his willingness to avail himself of the proffered help, and added: 'I would point out, however, that it may be dangerous for a novice to ring a church bell, but far more dangerous to the public to have the Germans landing in the city.'

Following several interviews with the Zone Commander and a special meeting of members, arrangements were ultimately completed covering 30 towers. The scheme adopted is that on receipt of a message (which would come only from the Zone Commander), the ringer or ringers proceed to the church or are conveyed by a dispatch rider if the distance is of any length. Each ringer has been enrolled as a member of the Home Guard without being under any obligation to attend drills, etc. This has been done in order that the ringer may receive full compensation should any accident occur and so that he may be able to pass through the streets. (I understand that no one without authority may go through the streets if an air invasion should take place.)

A recent correspondent writes that the warning is mainly for the purpose of calling out the Home Guard. In Bristol it is to warn the public in the same way that the siren warns them of an air raid. Those members of the Home Guard who are not on duty at the time are to be collected by a mobile unit which is standing ready.

I trust the above will satisfy those ringers who have written to me for information and that other districts may be able to use the information, should they be making any arrangements.

ALBERT M. TYLER, Branch Secretary.

SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. E. Barnett regarding single-handed handbell peals rung at Basingstoke, in which I took part, as I was a frequent week-end visitor there at that time, may I say that on Good Friday, April 4th, 1890, we rang a 5,056 Grandsire Major, which I afterwards found to be false. The following day we rang 5,040 Bob Major, again on November 29th another 5,040, and on March 27th, 1891, a 6,040. Mr. H. White rang 7-8 to all these and called two of the Bob Major. On April 19th, 1890, the local band rang Grandsire Triples. Mr. White rang 1-2 and called Holt's Ten-Part, Mr. W. Bulpitt ringing 7-8.

But those were not the first peals published. In referring back to the old volumes of 'The Bell News,' there is recorded a 5,040 Bob Major, rung on February 6th, 1886, in the belfry of St. Giles', Reading, eight ringers taking part. See 'Bell News,' February 13th, 1886. Again on February 13th a peal of Bob Triples rung at the Queen's Hotel, Derby, Mr. H. C. Woodward ringing 7-8 and conducting it. Probably this was the peal Mr. Barnett had in mind.

I cannot say if any other peals were rung after these and ours of 1890. I've no knowledge of the peal at Peterborough Mr. Barnett mentions. If he would like the full particulars, I should be most pleased to give them.

F. BENNETT.

37, Port Hall Road, Brighton 5.

EIGHTY-EIGHT NOT OUT.

MR. J. WILLIAMS' BIRTHDAY SCORE.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Joseph Williams, of Newent, Glos., celebrated his 88th birthday. With the exception of Mr. Robert Brundle, of Ipswich, he is possibly the oldest active ringer.

His birthday was marked by a small gathering of his old friends, and there being no means of suitably celebrating the occasion on church bells, handbell ringing took place. Among the little party were Mr. J. W. Davis, of Lydney, now 73; Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport, who is 75; Mr. J. Clark, of Ross, who is 77; and Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester, who will be 77 on November 19th.

MR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams, who is affectionately known to his friends as 'The Sergeant,' served 32 years in the Gloucestershire Police Force, and for the last 12 years before his retirement was in charge of the Newent Petty Sessional Division. Afterwards for 19 years he was school attendance officer.

'Sergeant' Williams is still an enthusiastic ringer and, but for the ban, would doubtless continue to add to his score of something like 200 peals. The last peal he rang was in June, 1939. He and John Austin ring Grandsire Triples 'four-in-hand' on handbells and have delighted many audiences by doing this while sitting back to back, which is no mean performance.

Mr. Williams is well known throughout Gloucestershire ringing circles. His stalwart figure is always notable in any gathering and his genial nature endears him to all with whom he comes in contact. His many friends will join in congratulating him upon his birthday and hope that he will live to see many more.

TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The topic of traditional uses of bells is very interesting. Below I append further information on the subject.

Before the ban on the ringing of bells it was the custom at Daventry to ring the second at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. each weekday—probably a survival from the time when Cistercians occupied the Abbey. Moreover, the curfew was rung at 8 p.m. every day, the sixth being used for this purpose. When the sexton was acquainted with the death of a parishioner, the tenor was clocked. On Shrove Tuesday it was customary at one time to ring the pancake bell.

Similarly, at Towcester the tenor was rung up, struck half-pulls and then rung down for a death, until the cessation of ringing. A bell used to be rung at midday and the curfew at 9 p.m. some years ago. Here, too, a pancake bell was sounded at one time.

From Holy Trinity tower in Richmond (Yorks) market place, curfew was rung at 8 p.m., whilst at Durham Cathedral the tenor was clocked for a few minutes before 9 p.m.—I have heard it termed the 'Mary bell'—and then rung up and down for the curfew after the hour had struck.

LAWRENCE GREENHOW.

Towcester, Northants.

5,024 DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

By F. BENNETT.

23456	1	4	5	6
42356				2
25346	—			3
54326	—			
46325	—	—	—	
62345	—			3
32465	—			2
42563	—		—	
24365		—		1
63425	—			1
52364	—	—		3
26354	—			3
65324	—			
23465	—	S		1

Repeated

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.—On handbells on Monday, October 21st, 720 Bob Minor: Harold Wood 1-2, Pte. E. Rapley (conductor) 3-4, Cecil Longhurst 5-6. Rung while Pte. Rapley, of the Royal Sussex Regt., was home on leave.

'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'

AN UNFOUNDED LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir, — The other day I was reading a book by Professor Pollard, one of the leading authorities on history, in which he said that the most important qualification for an historian is imagination, the gift of being able to make into living men and living events the dry bones which have come down to us from the past. He rated this gift higher even than mere verbal accuracy.

I agree with him to a large extent, but from my experience I should be inclined to rate almost as high the quality of scepticism, the gift of being able to criticise and disbelieve much of what passes for history and has been told us of the men and the things of bygone times.

I am sure it is so when we are dealing with the accounts of bells and ringing. The pages of the books, even the best of the books, written about them are littered with countless fables and statements which masquerade as facts, but are merely more or less credible conjectures. Some of them most likely are true, others are certainly false; and he who would write the history of bells and ringing must bring them to such tests as he is able to apply.

There is one of these fables, of no importance in itself, which particularly offends my sense of right and truth, and when I find a man stating that the proverb, 'Nine tailors make a man,' is a corruption of the saying, 'Nine tellers mark a man,' I feel a mighty urge to burst rudely into his presence and in a loud and insulting tone say to him, 'You are a liar!' Further to impress on him my utter and complete dissent and contempt for his statement, I would perform that ancient and symbolic ritual which is known as cocking a snook at him.

In February, 1871, a man named J. A. Johnson wrote to 'Church Bells' and suggested that the origin of the saying, 'Nine tailors make a man,' was to be found in the custom of giving three times three strokes 'at the end of the last peal after the funeral' to show that the deceased was a man. It may not have been his own original statement, but apparently this was the first time it had appeared in print. The Editor in a footnote agreed.

Thomas North tentatively repeated the suggestion in his books, other people copied him with more assurance, and finally through Miss Dorothy Sayers' clever novel it has been broadcast to the world as a statement of proven fact.

But the suggestion will not bear investigation for a minute. If anything is certain, it is certain that this cannot be true. There is no evidence that the nine strokes were called 'tellers' except perhaps locally. The old English word teller meant one who counts, and so, if it were applied to anything connected with knells, it probably would be to the strokes which by their number told the age of the departed.

But if it were true that the nine tellers did mark a man, why should that become a proverbial saying? Whenever you have a proverb you have not only the immediate statement of some fact, but also some wider truth, which is the really important thing. 'Empty vessels make the most sound' may be true as a simple statement of fact, but nobody would be likely to repeat it if it had not another and a wider meaning which has nothing whatever to do with vessels and not a great deal to do with sound. No one has suggested that 'Nine tellers mark a man,' if it ever was used, had any other meaning than the literal one.

In the second place, 'Nine tellers mark a man' cannot have been corrupted into 'Nine tailors make a man,' for corruption implies a more or less gradual process and some connection between the two phrases. And there is none. It is true that a word or phrase used in one sense does sometimes become corrupted into something totally different, but never without some connecting idea. Between the 'hoc est corpus' of the canon of the Mass and the word 'hocus-pocus' there is absolutely nothing in common, yet the one could not, and did not, corrupt into the other without a connecting idea in the minds of the people who used them.

Are we to believe that people went about saying that 'Nine tellers mark a man' with so little understanding of what they were saying that one day they found themselves saying 'Nine tailors make a man' with still less understanding of what they were saying? It won't do, and we can see how hollow the suggestion is when we realise that 'Nine tailors make a man' is a proverbial saying, not only here in England, but abroad in France and Germany as well. 'Il faut neuf tailleurs pour faire un homme,' say the Breton peasants, and it would take a very clever man to find in that any connection with the death knell and its 'tellers.'

The proverb had its origin in the curious and universal contempt that all people once had for tailors and their trade. You will find strong signs of this contempt in Shakespeare's plays, and I remember my own grandmother (who was born in 1806) telling me that in her young days people seldom spoke of a tailor without adding the words, 'Good Lord!'

So I beseech all good people, and especially Mr. Edwards, whom I honour and respect for his work on the Literature Committee of the Central Council, not to lend themselves to the propagation of this absurd legend.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

P.S.—An early version of the proverb occurs in one of Thomas Dekkar's plays (1607), 'They say three Taylors go to the making up of a man.'

THE DEATH KNELL.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A SUSSEX PRACTICE.

The reference to the death knell in Mr. J. A. Trollope's recent letter recalls an experience of my boyhood. Mr. Trollope says, '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.' In the Sussex parish of my birth the bell was tolled on the death of an inhabitant, but it began with the tellers and there was nothing to denote the age. The tenor was used for a man, the seventh for a woman and the treble for a child. The tellers were three times three, three times two and three times one respectively.

In those early days little actual ringing was done on the bells and they were always 'clocked' for the services. From a time almost as long ago as I can remember, I was allowed to take part in the chiming—we had two ropes each—and I frequently also chimed the death knell.

The reason was not to enable the sexton to get out of his assigned task, for there was no sexton as such in that parish. My mother, after my father's death, was parish clerk, and, therefore, when it came to the tolling of the death knell I was frequently sent to carry out the task.

The nave of the church was a moderately long one, and, not having a watch to time the minute strokes, I used to march in slow time from the belfry, which was then on the ground floor, up the aisle, round the lectern, which stood on the step leading into the chancel, and back again, between the pulls at the rope, which I used to try to count, although I dare say some of the hours were cut rather short. I did that scores and scores of times, and often on dark evenings when many a boy of my age would, I am sure, have been scared of walking up through the church with its eerie atmosphere and its shadowy outlines. I wasn't any braver than my friends, but that old church was familiar to me in every stone and monument and detail. I don't know whether the death knell is still rung at the church, but this I can say, that neither I nor anyone else through years of clocking ever cracked a bell. J. S. G.

AN OLD CUSTOM.

Dear Sir,—Here at Sedbergh the tenor is rung immediately the person has died. It is an old custom here; I can answer for 43 years and the present sexton, a man of 60, says his father and grandfather used to ring it before him. Before 1897 there were only three bells, the present eight bells being put in then.

When the bells are rung after a funeral, they are rung deeply muffled. After half an hour or so, the treble is set and some rounds are rung on the remaining seven. Then the 2nd is set, more rounds, then the 3rd and so on till the tenor remains alone. The person's age is then rung on the tenor. This custom I brought from Cambridge. G. F. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

THE PRACTICE IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the correspondence with regard to the death knell being rung in various parts of the country.

I think it is rung practically throughout Northamptonshire. In my own village it has been rung for as long as I can remember, and it probably has been in use for hundreds of years. When a person dies the tenor bell is rung up very slowly (usually taking five minutes), and then one blow per minute is struck for about 25 minutes, and then the bell is rung slowly down again, the whole procedure taking half an hour. Finally, three blows are struck round on all the bells for a man, and two for a woman, from treble to tenor. It is the custom here not to ring the bell after sunset. At a funeral the bell is tolled.

I was under the impression that the death knell was practically universal all over the country, but apparently, from your correspondence, it is not so. It is not an occasional occurrence here, but is a recognised thing on a death occurring.

Yardley-Hastings, Northampton. SIDNEY J. ELLIOTT.

FUNERAL PROCEDURE REVERSED.

Sir,—With regard to the death bell, this practice is still carried on in Wadhurst and most surrounding parishes. Here the undertaker informs the sexton as soon as possible after a death, and the tenor is raised and tolled at intervals of about a minute for a quarter of an hour. Until people living near the church complained a few years ago, it was tolled for one hour. Then the bell is lowered and after a short silence it is chimed, three threes for a man, and two threes for a woman.

At the funeral the procedure is reversed. About half an hour beforehand, the threes are chimed and after a short silence the bell is raised and tolled at minute intervals until five minutes before the appointed time, then the bell is lowered and chimed until the funeral cortege arrives at the church gate.

I should like to endorse the remarks of those who have written to you re the more interesting matter in 'The Ringing World' these days, and wish you continued success.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

P.S.—Until the ban, a bell was rung here each day from 11.55 a.m. to noon as a call to pray for peace.

EARLY RINGS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter in your issue of October 4th, I would be most grateful if your correspondent 'T' would send me the reference of the letter in the British Museum to which he refers.

In regard to the letter by 'Suffolk Ringer,' the date of the completion of the octave at Horham, Suffolk, is given by Mr. H. B. Walters in his 'Church Bells of England' (page 81) as 1672, and the authority quoted for this statement is Canon Raven. Also the earliest *recorded* ring of eight cast by a London founder is stated there to be that cast in 1680 by Christopher Hodson for Merton College, Oxford. This, however, was not the first ring of eight possessed by the college, for Michael Darbie, in 1655, cast rings of eight for both Merton and New College, Oxford.

While on the subject of early rings, I wonder if any of your readers have details of rings of *six* earlier than 1611; I am anxious to obtain details of as many as possible. FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

THE FIRST RINGS OF EIGHT.

Dear Sir,—Since I saw 'The Ringing World' recently I have come across an entry in an old pocket book* relating to the first ring of eight bells erected in Suffolk, and I venture to say one of the first in England. I hope that it may be of interest to your readers.

T. E. SLATER.

Glemsford, Sudbury Suffolk.

P.S.—I have now sent all Samuel Slater's ringing books and MSS. to the Library, Northgate Street, Ipswich, including a 'Powell' broadsheet of Stedman Triples such as you mentioned last week in the account of Shipway.

*1547.—Item. In the steeple be fyyve bells and a Sanctus bell.

In 1582-4.—The bells having become broken, they were taken to Bury for casting.

In 1680.—There are items for mending the 4th bell wheel, 6th ditto ditto.

In the entries for 1682.—Item, for altering the 7th bell clapper.

In 1683.—Eight well tuned Bells with wheels and Ropes and all other necessarys there unto Belonging. One Saint's bell on which the clock striketh.

OTHER EARLY RINGS.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to see your extracts from Samuel Slater's notebook include the date of the eight at Horham (1672) and of Hadleigh (1678). These supply the answer to your correspondent, 'Suffolk Ringer,' in your issue of October 11th. St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, were made eight in 1688, and Great Tey, in Essex, earlier than any of the foregoing—according to a letter of Mr. Slater's before me at this moment—in 1670. In Norfolk, St. Peter Mancroft, at Norwich, were eight in 1672 and Aylsham in 1700.

The late Mr. F. W. J. Rees, in his 'Chronology of Ringing,' which he contributed to 'The Bell News' in 1884, gives as his earlier eights New College, Oxford, 1655, Merton 1657, Cambridge 1667, All Saints', Hertford, 1674, and ten at Exeter Cathedral 1676. A rather curious thing happened about one of Mr. Rees' entries. He gave 1789 as the year when Eye (Suffolk) were made eight, and a fortnight after this appeared the late George Day, of Eye, the bellhanger, wrote correcting it. Mr. Day pointed out the date should be 1721, and—rather remarkably considering his calling—followed on with 'I can find no peal of eight so old in Suffolk except Framlingham, which were made into eight in the year 1719.' And yet, only five miles from Mr. Day's house and home, hung the eight (1672) at Horham!

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

HORHAM BELLS.

Dear Sir,—The following appears in 'The Bells of England,' by J. J. Raven, page 244: 'The earliest octave known to me is at Horham, Suffolk, where a member of an old Suffolk family, John Club, Cloub or Cloube, was rector. Of these the lower four are dated respectively 1605, 1663 (two) and 1568.' W. HALE.

Gloucester.

J. A. TROLLOPE'S 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'
A History of the Society
5/6 (post free) from
'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD WOKING, SURREY.

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

HOW THEY AFFECT COMPOSITION.

In our last article we saw that when a method has the three false course ends BFG the sixty possible natural courses can be set down in twenty groups, each group containing three courses; and that these groups are in pairs, one of the pair being false against the other, so that if we use any course we are debarred from using all three courses in the false group.

But there are methods whose false course ends, though they belong to the group BFG, do not comprise all the members of that group. B can appear as the only false course end of a method, and the other two can appear together. This has an important effect on the material at our disposal for composing peals, and what it is we will explain by examples.

Rutland Surprise Major.

23456	B 24365	
42356	43265	
34256	32465	

Superlative Surprise Major.

23456	F 32465	G 43265
42356	24365	32465
34256	43265	24365

New Cambridge Surprise Major.

23456	B 24365	F 32465	G 43265
42356	43265	24365	32465
34256	32465	43265	24365

The false course end of Rutland is B 24365. Out of the total number of sixty natural courses thirty are false against the other thirty, but we have a considerable latitude in choosing which thirty we shall use. If we use 23456 we may not use 24365. If we use 42356 we may not use 43265. If we use 34256 we may not use 32465. But if we use 23456 there is nothing to prevent us using 43265 and not 42356; or 32465 and not 34256.

The false course ends of Superlative are F 32465 and G 43265. There are now two full natural courses we may not use for every one we do use. But if we group together the three courses with 5, 6 at home, we find they share each other's false course ends. The three courses with 6, 5 in 5-6 are the only ones which are false against the three with 5, 6 at home; so that instead of reckoning that we have two courses false against every one we use, we may reckon that we have twenty groups of three courses, each group false against another group. When we are composing with full courses we have as many courses to deal with in Superlative as we have in Rutland, provided we do not reverse the bells in 5-6.

New Cambridge has a third false course end. B 24365, F 32465 and G 43265, are all false against the plain course. But these are the three which are false against the group of three which consists of 23456, 42356 and 34256; and the addition of the third false course end adds nothing to the problem as we have just stated it.

We do, however, find a difference when we try to split up the groups. In any method with all these three false course ends, if we use *one* full natural course with any particular two bells in 5-6, we may not use *any* full course with those two bells reversed. But when we have only *two* false course ends it is possible to split up the groups. If we use 23456 we may use 24365; but in that case we may not use 32465, 42356, 43265, or 34256. Instead of a possible three out of six, we have a possible two out of six. The price we pay for reversing bells in 5-6 is to lose one course.

We now come to the second of the important groups of False Course Ends, the one which consists of ABCDE. A close examination of hundreds of Surprise Major methods has shown us that in the majority of those most suitable in all ways for practice in the belfry, one or more of these false course ends appear. We do get good methods with the F and G false course ends, and we do (less often) get methods with false course ends outside both groups, but all of them put together are not nearly so numerous as those with the ABCDE false course ends.

A	32546
B	24365
D	46253
E	65432
C	53624

When we examine this group we find that it has several interesting features. The relationship of the rows is the same as that of a Q set produced by calling five bobs Before with a fourth's place bob, or five bobs Home with a sixth's place bob; and because that is so the coursing order is the same, 1-7-8 only being in different positions among the other five bells. If we start with the course 24365 and call five bobs Before we produce this group.

But more important still is the fact that if we start with 23456 and call a Q set of five bobs Before, we shall produce a similar group of five courses; and when we work out the courses false against this second group we find that they are all contained in the first group.

23456	—	24365	46253	65432	53624	32546
35264	—	32546	24365	46253	65432	53624
56342	—	53624	32546	24365	46253	65432
64523	—	65432	53624	32546	24365	46253
42635	—	46253	65432	53624	32546	24365

The same courses as are false against 23456 are false against 35264, 56342 and the other two. So that, instead of reckoning that we have to deal with five false courses against every true one, we can set down the possible sixty natural courses in twelve groups and these twelve groups will be in pairs, one in each pair being false against the other.

These groups are as follows :—

A 1	23456	A 2	32546
	35264		24365
	56342		46253
	64523		65432
	42635		53624

(Continued on next page.)

TOWER CLOCKS

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NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A short meeting to discuss the question of monthly ringing practices during the winter will be held at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, November 2nd. There will also be handbells and a social gathering. Meet at Star Inn, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held on November 2nd, at St. Peter's. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. The Parish Hall will be open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Plenty of DARTS if you like.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western and Southern Districts) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Chertsey District).—A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Handbells, etc., also available after service. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A luncheon to commemorate the 303rd anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 9th, at 1.30 p.m., at 4s. per head. Will members who intend to be present kindly send their names to reach me by November 4th. Business meeting and nomination of officers afterwards. — A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells available in St. Mary's ringing chamber 3 p.m. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5 p.m., followed by further handbell ringing and social evening. For tea please notify me not later than Nov. 8th. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—A handbell meeting will be held at Copt Oak on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells in Vicarage at 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. (approx.). Please bring own sugar. All ringers welcome.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 2.15 p.m. Six 'silent' tower bells also available. Service in church 3.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Will all members please make a special effort to be present at this meeting?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

(Continued from previous page.)

B 1	42356	B 2	24536
	25463		43265
	56234		36452
	63542		65324
	34625		52643
C 1	34256	C 2	43526
	45362		32465
	56423		26354
	62534		65243
	23645		54632
D 1	54326	D 2	45236
	42563		53462
	26435		36524
	63254		62345
	35642		24653
E 1	35426	E 2	53246
	52364		34562
	26543		46325
	64235		62453
	43652		25634
F 1	52436	F 2	25346
	23564		54263
	36245		46532
	64352		63425
	45623		32654

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RINGING IN DUBLIN.

At the Church of St. George, Dublin, on October 20th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) for evening harvest thanksgiving service in 52 minutes: D. McGregor 1, H. W. Jones 2, Miss A. C. Dukes 3, O. H. Jones 4, G. Lindoff 5, G. G. Lindoff 6, F. E. Dukes (conductor) 7, W. E. Hall 8. On a previous Monday the same team, with the exception of Mr. Hall (the tenor being rung by J. Magill on that occasion), rang a practice touch of 672 Grandsire Triples on the bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

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

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