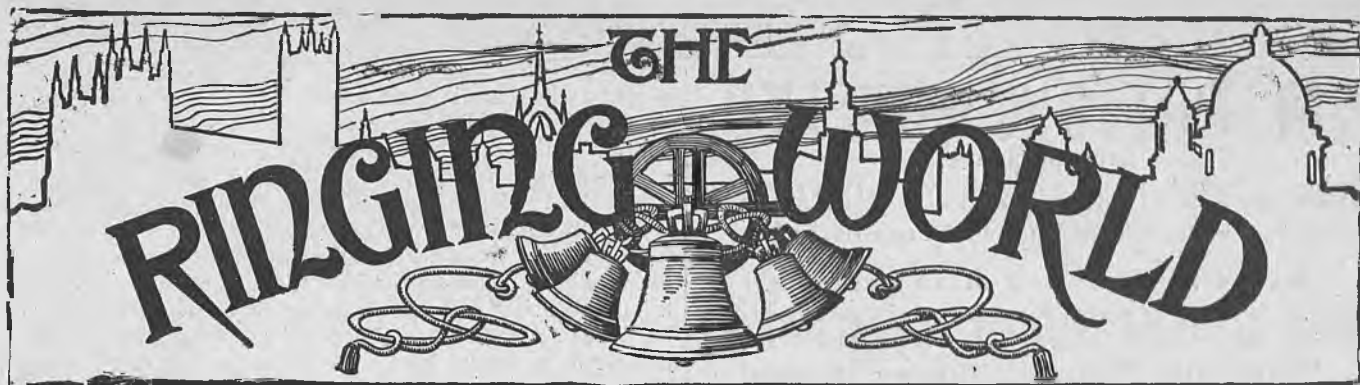




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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1940.

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BAN NOT TO BE LIFTED.

The Home Secretary (Mr. Herbert Morrison) was asked in Parliament on Tuesday whether permission could now be given for church bells to be rung, but the spokesman who replied to the question gave an unqualified refusal on behalf of the military authorities. Ringers, and many others, will be deeply disappointed with the answer. Under war conditions many regulations have to be imposed in the public interest, but none, we think, have served, or could serve, so little practical purpose as the ban placed on church bells. That the authorities have felt little regard for this particular child of theirs is, we think, proved by the fact that no official instructions have ever been issued as to the purpose of the Order, which says that church bells shall be rung only on the instructions of the military or police in the event of actual or impending air invasion. That the Government still decline to lift the ban may, perhaps, be an indication that, however small its usefulness, nothing will be done which may even remotely encourage public opinion to take the view that the danger of air invasion is passed.

What has got to happen if and when they are rung has never been vouchsafed to us. Certain sections of the Home Guard have made local arrangements for the ringing of bells, to suit their own particular plans, but of co-ordinated instructions there are none. What exactly the Home Guard, the military, the police, and more particularly the public, are to do if the bells are sounded has never even yet been officially explained by the Home Office. The idea behind the scheme might have been useful in Elizabethan days, but in the twentieth century, when, in addition to aircraft, there are telegraphs, telephones, wireless, and all the other things that go to make up the hectic disturbance of life, to say nothing of the sirens, which in any case would be utilised to notify the presence of the enemy, the ringing of church bells must in any event be of extremely limited use. Long before the bells could be brought into action the telephone and dispatch riders would have summoned all the forces that would be required to deal with any enemy landing from the air, especially as the very people, who according to certain members of the Home Guard the bells are intended to warn, will already have been notified through other official channels.

The silencing of the church bells has seemed to many people, and not to ringers alone, a futile and antiquated procedure to meet, if it occurred, a gigantic need, with which only the developments of modern science could cope. People in many walks of life have publicly con-

(Continued on page 530.)

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demned the banning of the bells. The one cheerful sound which could be heard above the din of the daily clamour; the one beckoning call which could be heard over the countryside on the Sabbath to remind men of those things which the Church is for ever telling us are being more and more neglected—that one sound has been denied us. This is war, and no one would or should ask for anything which in the least degree affects its successful prosecution, but the banning of the bells appears to have been a hasty and ill-considered measure, of which no one in authority has yet explained the exact purpose. Had the Order been withdrawn the people of this country would, we are sure, have been cheered by the welcome sound of the bells once more over town and village.

Even if, when the Order was first introduced, the situation was such that the bells might have been remotely useful, that time surely has now passed. This country is an armed fortress; its troops are spread over the land in millions, its plans for dealing with invaders, however they come, are complete, and no one, even the most humble Home Guard, would now, we imagine, have to rely upon the bells for his orders. If he has, then the defensive system of the country still leaves something to be desired. Apparently none of these facts weighed with the Home Secretary when the answer was given in the House of Commons to the question put by the Member for Guildford.

In the meantime there is still misconception in some official quarters concerning the older Control of Noise Order. We hear of a case in which a Superintendent of Police has prohibited the ringing of handbells in church. No such thing was ever contemplated by the Order of October last year, which, including 'bell' in the definition of 'instrument,' excepts from the Order any instrument sounded in such a way that it is not liable to be mistaken for a signal connected with air raids. A handbell, as everyone in these days knows, is the signal that danger from noxious gas has been ceased (after warning of its possible presence has been given by a rattle) and who can possibly say that handbells rung in changes in church can be mistaken for such a signal? This must be another instance of police misunderstanding, either of the Order, or of handbells.

OTHER TIMES—OTHER MANNERS !

Mr. Charles E. Borrett sends us the following cutting from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of 1845:—

'On Wednesday, New Year's Eve, 1845, the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Mr. W. Butcher and Mr. Robert Fitch, with a few of their friends, visited the belfry while the ringers were executing their customary peal in honour of the departing year. In the centre of their circle stood the celebrated pitcher capable of holding 17 quarts, moulded by John Dearsley in the year 1749. This the churchwardens filled with punch, the junior churchwarden toasting the company and science of ringing with great spirit. The compliment was acknowledged by Mr. T. Hurry in an appropriate speech, which he wound up by proposing the health of the churchwardens, their wives, families and brother parishioners. It would be injustice to the senior churchwarden not to remark that he pulled the tenor bell (41 cwt.) in a style that proved him to be no novice in the tuneful art.'

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THE 'ADOPTION' SCHEME.

LADY RINGERS' OFFER.

We Want Names and Addresses.

A number of ringers have readily promised to 'adopt' a serving member of H.M. Forces in order that a copy of 'The Ringing World' may be sent to him weekly. The difficulty, which we pointed out at the time the scheme was first suggested, is to find out the men who should receive these copies and their addresses. They should normally be those who were sufficiently interested in ringing to purchase 'The Ringing World' before joining up, but who now cannot afford to do so.

Will secretaries of towers kindly send us names and addresses of their ringers who come within the category mentioned. It may not be possible to 'adopt' them all, but as and when funds become available the paper will be sent to them. It should help to interest them while away and bring them back to the belfry on their return.

But here is a real plum for someone. A group of lady ringers, who belong to a tower in a much bombed town in the 'South-East,' are anxious to do more than merely send someone a copy of 'The Ringing World' each week. They want to 'adopt' a ringer serving in one or other branch of the Forces so that they can knit him comforts and send him small parcels of cigarettes and chocolates occasionally.

We can imagine a great shout going up at this kindly offer. The names and addresses sent to us by tower secretaries will be forwarded to the ladies and someone is going to be lucky.

PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

THE VISIT OF THE YORKSHIREMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Wilfred E. Box, wants to know about the peals rung in the Isle of Man. As it happens, I can supply the information. In July, 1888, a party (mostly from Sheffield, I believe) went to the Isle of Man on pleasure bent. Among other things, they rang the first two peals in the island at Peel on July 4th. Another peal came to grief, I am told, in the last course owing to one of the ringers being so jubilant that they were nearing the end that he let the rope end slip out of his hand, and the bell stayed up with the rope out of his reach.

Another interesting fact is that handbells were rung on board the boat as they went across, which aroused considerable excitement and comment amongst the other passengers. I have a photograph of the entire party of ringers (eleven in all), but I am sorry to say that it is now so faded that it would not be practicable to reproduce it, and even so it would be of no interest, excepting to those who knew the men in question.

In 1928, during a visit to the island, I went to Peel and tried to find if there was in existence any record of these two peals.

But the tower had been much altered if not entirely rebuilt. The ropes were missing from the bells and there was nothing whatever in the form of any peal tablet on record.

Deepcar, near Sheffield.

JOHN R. BREARLEY.

LAST RUNG IN 1916.

Sir,—Very many thanks to those of your readers who have replied to my enquiry in 'The Ringing World.'

Personally, I should be inclined to say that C. H. Hattersley's peals in July, 1886, were the first ever rung on Peel bells. The church was erected between 1880 and 1884, and consecrated in 1893. According to a guide book (1897), the bells were given by a native of the city (Peel is actually a cathedral city), 'who made a large fortune in the South African diamond mines.' The date of their casting is difficult to determine—I examined them when I visited the church, but could not make out any date on them in the semi-darkness of the bell chamber.

The last occasion on which they were rung was in 1916; since that date Ellacombe's apparatus has been used. It is doubtful whether they are ringable now, although the tower has been considerably strengthened. There was at one time a local band of some ability, but it is very questionable if any peals were rung before Hattersley's of 1886.

Regarding St. Thomas', Douglas, I cannot reconcile Mr. Dawe's statement that a peal of Triples was rung there in 1852 with his later assertion that there were only six bells. What was the fate of the trebles?

At present there is a magnificent chime of eight by Taylor, replacing the old bells, destroyed by a disastrous fire. These latter were the gift of Canon Catley (prominent in the first recasting of Worcester Cathedral bells in 1868) and his wife, while he was curate of St. Thomas'.

WILFRED E. BOX.

Harborne, Birmingham.

P.S.—Peel tenor would be about 8½ cwt. in A flat, as the Yorkshire Association records state.

A FAMOUS FAMILY OF RINGERS.

JOHN PATRICK AND HIS COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My old friend, Mr. Charles E. Borrett, has sent me another most interesting extract from an old Norwich newspaper. He writes: I wonder if the following from 'The Norwich Gazette' of Oct. 24th, 1730, is 'another legend'! 'Yesterday morning died at his House in the Old Bailey Mr. John Patrick, Weather Glass Maker whom Dr. Halley in his book of Astronomy, and others of the Royal Society, allowed to be the best of that Profession. Among his Diversions, he used the Art of Ringing, and in that became so great a Proficient that he was the first Inventor of ringing those long Peals which are now in Use, of which a Book of the Art of Ringing is now extant in his Name.'

Snowdon, I see in his obituary at end of his Treatise on Treble Bob, says John Patrick joined the College Youths in 1730 and died in 1796! So there is something wrong somewhere again! C. E. B.

The truth is that Snowdon, and several other people, have done what is so very easy to do when we are writing about ringers of bygone days. They have mixed up more than one man of the same or similar name.

The first John Patrick joined the College Youths in 1679, two years before Fabian Stedman was Master. He became one of the leading men in the company and was steward in 1684 and Master in 1692. He was for long looked on as the greatest authority on composition of his time, the successor of Stedman and the precursor of Annable. When Doleman and the London Scholars brought out the 'Campanalogia' of 1702, Patrick gave his help, and many of his compositions are in that book. His copy is now in the British Museum, and it has several notes in his handwriting, the most interesting pointing out that the 'whole' peal of Grandsire Triples there given is false, though the half-peal 'may do.'

By profession Patrick was an inventor and maker of barometers and thermometers. He advertised a newly invented pendant barometer, which was claimed to be far more accurate than anything hitherto made. He worked for and came into contact with all the leading scientific men of the age, including Halley, the astronomer, and the brilliant but rather eccentric Dr. Hooke.

He lived in Ship Court in the Old Bailey, and the date of his death, October, 1730, as given in 'The Norwich Gazette,' is no doubt correct.

Two of John Patrick's six-bell methods find a place in the Central Council's Minor Collection—London Bob and Albion Delight, the latter under the name of Lytham Bob—but otherwise his compositions have dropped out of the ringers' repertoire.

Fourteen or fifteen of his Minor methods and half a dozen seven-bell methods are given in the 'Campanalogia.' Generally they show a great advance on Stedman's methods in one important thing—the bells work with much greater freedom, and the stagnation of the older methods, where bells lay for several whole pulls in the same position, is avoided. But Patrick did not realise the importance of Bob Major Lead Ends, nor distinguish between the essential difference between a plain lead and a hobbled lead. Knowledge of those things came to the Exercise only gradually and after many years of practical experience.

When Patrick died he left a big reputation behind him, which, when memories became dim and confused, was transferred in part to other men of the same (or similar) name who may have been his descendants.

John Patrick the second joined the College Youths in 1730, was steward in 1733 and Master in 1736. He is the man referred to by Jasper Snowdon, but he did nothing as a ringer that we know of. He took part in no peals and certainly was not a composer. Perhaps it was because he was the son or (more likely) the grandson of the older John that procured him a leading position and rapid advancement among the College Youths.

The next leading ringer of the name was George Partrick, the first Master and virtual founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths. Very likely he was a member of the same family, for the difference in spelling is immaterial and probably only phonetic. The 'Clavis' spells his name Partrick.

He was a composer with a big contemporary reputation, but only one of his peals has survived, the well-known one-part peal of Treble Bob in 22 courses. Jasper Snowdon ascribes this peal to the John Patrick who in fact did nothing.

It was George Partrick (not John Patrick as Snowdon says) who died on June 26th, 1796, and was buried at St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, and about whom the legend is told that he was paid £50 by the citizens of Norwich for composing a peal of Stedman Triples.

Robert Patrick was a later man and possibly, even probably, of the same family. He was a good ringer, a member of the Society of College Youths and one of the band who visited Birmingham in 1786. He lived in Whitechapel and was by trade a cheese factor, but he had married the daughter of Thomas Lester, the bell-founder, and so possibly had an interest in the Whitechapel Foundry. He secured orders for the casting of several rings of bells, but it is hardly likely that he did the work himself. His name is on Bishopsgate bells, but Osborn, of Downham Market, actually cast them. His name also is on Hackney bells, but Mr. A. H. Hughes has evidence which shows that they were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry. His name again appears on Cripplegate tenor, but most likely John Warner cast it.

J. A. T.

OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING. THE FIRST PEAL IN THE CITY.

The visit of the College Youths to Oxford marks an epoch in the history of ringing in the city. Though it was a failure so far as peal ringing went, it created a vast deal of interest in the art, and stirred up the local men to attempt the first peal themselves. They had no lack of good ringers, collegiate and townsmen, though they were not of the same quality as Annable's band. Their heavy bell men were Arthur Lloyd, who usually rang the ninth, and Nicholas Benwell, the sexton of Christ Church and custodian of Great Tom, who rang the tenor. The conductor was John Vicars, a ringer of exceptional ability. Vicars was the son of a man who had been at one time under-butler at Wadham College, and himself was under-butler at New. He was 'not only very ingenious in the art of ringing and excellent in calling the bobs, but also in managing the music of ringing.' In other words, he was a good composer, and of that we have proof, for he was the author of one of the earliest (if not the very earliest) of the peals of Grandsire Triples with ordinary bobs and singles only, a composition which is still occasionally rung. On the three-lead-course plan it was ultimately a development of John Garthorn's peal, but whether directly or as an improvement of Annable's composition, produced by rearranging the singles symmetrically, we have no means of knowing. The figures were preserved by Dr. Charles Mason, of Cambridge.

The other Oxford ringers were Richard Hearn, a tailor, who usually rang the treble, John George, another tailor, Guy Terry, a potash maker, Thomas Yates, the second cook at Magdalen, William Barnes, the second cook at Christ Church, John Broughton, a barber, and Richard Smith, a glover.

On the Tuesday after the College Youths had left, the tenor at Christ Church was rehung, and the same evening the Oxford men rang all ten and endeavoured to imitate the Londoners, but they were soon out and made poor of it in comparison with the others, so that people said it was more than they could do. But they stoutly maintained the contrary, and, as was natural at the time, a match was made, and money staked as a wager. The test was to ring 5,040 'quater or cater changes'; they were to have six trials, and if on the sixth trial they could not do it they were to lose.

Hearne notes that they were all townsmen, but had received some considerable instruction from Mr. Stone, M.A., a man in Orders, and a good ringer himself. Edward Stone, the son of Edward Stone, gentleman, of Princes Risborough, matriculated at Wadham College on June 29th, 1720, at the age of 18, and graduated B.A. in 1724 and M.A. in 1727. We hear nothing further of him as a ringer.

The first attempt was made at Christ Church on New Year's Day, 1734, and it was successful, so the ringers won their wager. It was the first peal rung in Oxford, and Hearne, who heard the whole of it after the first three-quarters of an hour, and was listening critically, was generous in his praise. 'Take it all together 'twas excellent ringing, and they may glory in it.' But it was not to be compared with the attempts made by Annable and his company. Then there was not the least fault made, but now Hearne observed fifty-two faults,

nine of them considerable ones. The worst was caused by Dr. Gregory, the Regius Professor of Modern History, breaking in upon them to their great disturbance.

On the following Easter Monday the same band attempted 6,876 changes, again at Christ Church. Knowing how interested Hearne was, the ringers sent him a few days' notice of the attempt. They met at ten o'clock and at a quarter or a little more after the hour they began the changes and continued until above a quarter after one in the afternoon, when the rope of the ninth bell somehow or other, happening to twist, the ringer of that bell, Arthur Lloyd, was out, and thereby they were all stopped of a sudden and so they sank the bells, 'which accident,' says Hearne, 'I was very sorry for. For indeed they rang so excellently well that I was even ravished with it, and though they did not quite come up to the Londoners, who rang without fault, yet 'twas really so admirable that I could observe but six faults besides the grand one (which was the seventh and put them out) in all their ringing.' However, had they performed the whole, the six faults were so inconsiderable that the peal might have been said to have been rung without fault.

They rang 4,800 changes, 240 less than they rang before, and 2,076 short of what they started for. Had it not been for the unfortunate accident they would certainly have performed the whole without difficulty.

Hearne relates that he went on purpose to be as nice as possible in his observations and was present from the beginning to the end, choosing to be as private as he could and standing for the most part in Cowley Street, which goes from Christ Church to Milham Bridge, 'which bridge has been down many years.'

'As I do not know that I ever gave greater attention to anything of this nature in my life, as I was critical as possibly I could be, and went without any manner of partiality to judge fairly of the matter and to pass over no faults, I must say I could discover but six faults except the grand one (provided an accident may be called a fault) and that what they did was admirable, much to their honour and credit and greatly to the satisfaction of the auditors.'

This is high praise and indirectly much more so for Annable and the College Youths, whose ringing had surpassed that of the Oxford men, good as it was.

John Broughton, the barber, who rang the sixth, had a brother, an older man, and a bookbinder by trade. He met Hearne two days after the peal attempt, and told him that the tale about the twisted rope was only an excuse; the real reason for the failure was that the ringers were tired out. But they denied it was so, and a little more than a fortnight later they again started for the peal, this time at New College, where the bells are considerably lighter than at Christ Church. Broughton was away from Oxford, attending the dons of Magdalen College on a progress, in his professional capacity, and John George's hands had not recovered from the many blisters he had got in the attempt at Christ Church, so the vacant ropes were taken by Thomas Nash and a Mr. Brickland, a schoolmaster, of St. Michael's parish.

Thomas Nash was a cabinet maker, who had come to Oxford from London. He evidently was an accomplished ringer, for he had been one of the band belonging to the Society of City Scholars, who, in 1732, rang 6,012

(Continued on next page.)

OXFORD BELLS.*(Continued from previous page.)*

changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate, the then longest length on ten bells.

The peal was begun at a quarter to ten in the morning and continued until five minutes after twelve, when Brickland 'missed a stroke' and upset the peal. The expression is obscure. It may be that he missed his sallie and could not recover himself.

It was good ringing, says Hearne, except for five faults, one made by Richard Hearn at the treble, and the others by Brickland, who was not so good a ringer as the rest, and was not expected by some to be able to perform his part.

When Richard Hearn was talking afterwards to Thomas Hearne about the ringing he admitted that, though he rang himself, yet he minded the faults. 'Upon which I asked him how many there were? He said three before that which stopped them. I told him that there were just five before that at which he admired my niceness.'

THE DEATH BELL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the recent letters on the survival of the 'death bell,' and it may interest some of your readers to know that it is still rung in this district.

Here, at Earl Stonham, Suffolk, the tenor is raised and rung a whole pull once every five minutes for an hour, then the bell is lowered and chimed three strokes, three times for a man (the 'Nine Tellers'?) and twice for a woman. The bell is rung in day time within 24 hours of a person's death.

At a funeral the bell is tolled one stroke at minute intervals for an hour before the service. It has also been a custom of the ringers for many years not to practise on the tower bells when a death has occurred in the parish, although the bells are rung as usual for Sunday services.

F. L. STERRY.

Stowmarket, Suffolk.

'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I cannot agree with J. A. Trollope in his dogmatic disputation that 'Nine tailors make a man' cannot be a corruption of 'Nine tellers make a man.'

I go back 60 years clear to my schooldays at East Ilsley, on the Berkshire Downs, when I used to pray that old John Butt or Sarah Bottle would not die until I was out of school.

The custom there was, and is now, that the old five bells were chimed each one from treble to tenor, three times three for a man, three times two for a woman and one blow each for a child. Then the tenor was pulled up and rung slowly for a quarter-hour and lowered.

The parish clerk and sexton was well over 80 years of age, and as soon as I heard that so and so had breathed his (or her) last, I used to run to get the key of the tower to ring the bell, and was always carefully instructed by the old man. Be very 'keerful' about the 'tallers,' my boy. I don't think I was more unfeeling than other boys, but I did hope that the invalids would 'pass out' at midday or early evening.

This 'dead bell' was never rung between sunset and sunrise, and if two people were very ill at the same time and one died, the villagers would say, 'So old John's gone, or old Mary's gone. I counted the tallers.' I have heard the same expressions in the West of England, and shall always believe that 'Nine tailors make a man' is a simple corruption of 'Nine tellers mean a man.'

R. T. HIBBERT.

ANCIENT 'SPOTTERS.'

Spotters and fire watchers are now compulsory in certain places under war conditions. But they are not new. Fire spotters were employed in days of old, as Mr. William Hale reminds us, in forwarding the following extract from 'Music and Morals,' by H. R. Haweis.

'At Tournay there is a famous old belfry. It dates from the 12th century, and is said to be built on a Roman base. It now possesses 40 bells. It commands the town and country round and from its summit is obtained a near view of the largest and finest cathedral in Belgium with its five magnificent towers. Four brothers guard the summit of the belfry at Tournay and relieve each other day and night, at intervals of 10 hours. All through the night a light is seen burning in the topmost gallery, and when a fire breaks out, the tocsin, or big bell, is tolled up aloft by the watchman. He is never allowed to sleep—indeed, as he showed in his scanty accommodation, it would be difficult to sleep up there.'

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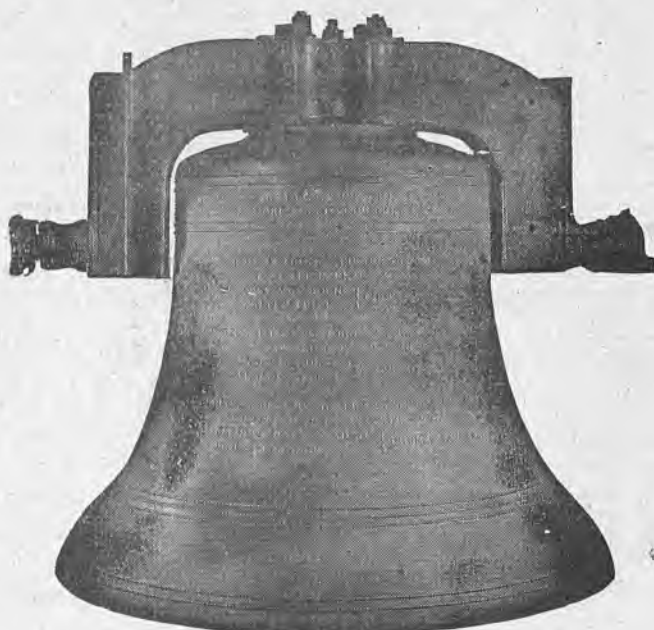
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are glad to be able to tell our readers that Mr. Alfred Pulling, of Guildford, is making satisfactory progress after his recent serious accident. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he is still detained in hospital.

Another invalid, Mr. Frank Dawe, now one of the oldest past Masters of the College Youths, is not so well. He is confined to bed at his home, Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking.

But Mr. Dawe has not lost his sense of humour. The other day, when a visiting nurse made a call upon him, she noticed the fine set of handbells hanging on a stand by his bedside. 'Were you a farmer?' she asked. 'Why?' queried Mr. Dawe. 'Because of all those cow bells,' she said. 'Did you have all those different sizes, so that you could know the cows apart?' Mr. Dawe thoroughly enjoyed the joke and was able to enlighten the lady.

Trooper S. J. Elliott will be pleased to get into touch with any ringers in the Forces stationed in Trowbridge, or any Trowbridge or district ringers, particularly if they are able to do any handbell ringing.

Congratulations to Mr. George Cross, the Master of the Society of Royal Cumberlands, whose birthday is to-morrow.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was in seven methods on six bells, two were Grandsire Triples, one was Stedman Triples and one Stedman Caters. At Upton St. Leonards, Mr. John Austin called Holt's Original and the late James E. Groves rang his first peal.

On November 9th, 1875, the first peal by the Yorkshire Association was rung at Holy Trinity, Hull. It was Holt's six-part peal and was conducted by Charles Jackson.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LADD.

We regret to learn that Mr. George Ladd, of Pinchbeck, near Spalding, in Lincolnshire, passed away suddenly on Thursday of last week. He had not been very well for some time, but had not been confined to his bed. On Thursday morning he cycled into Spalding and later on two ladies from Pinchbeck overtook him on his way home. They stopped and found out that he was not well, so persuaded him to leave his cycle and go home in their motor-car. When he got back to his house he sat down, and soon afterwards passed away. The funeral was at Pinchbeck on Monday.

He had been secretary of the Elloe Deaneries branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild since 1909 and will be greatly missed.

CANON G. F. COLERIDGE.

All our readers will join with us in congratulating Canon Coleridge on his eighty-third birthday, which falls on Sunday next. He was born at Cadbury Vicarage in Devonshire on November 10th, 1857, and his love of bells and bellringing dates from his boyhood days. He is still very active as a parish priest and regularly conducts the services of two churches.

During his long ringing career the Canon has taken part in many famous peals and in some of the early tours, when all the bells did not go as well as they do nowadays. Here is a tale about one of them. Many years ago one of the very earliest ringing tours was held in Devon, and in the course of it a peal of Stedman Triples was rung on the heavy eight at Plympton, near Plymouth. James W. Washbrook rang the seventh and Mr. G. F. Coleridge rang the tenor. The bells were going pretty badly, and the local men, who were wont to ring the tenor double-handed, were very curious as to how the visitors would manage. When the band came out of the steeple one of them approached Mr. Coleridge and asked him who had rang the tenor.

'I did,' he said.

'All by yourself?'

'Yes, all by myself.'

'Well you must be a marvel to ring that tenor all by yourself. But I bet you got a wet shirt!'

'Not a bit of it,' said the future Canon. 'My shirt is as dry as a bone.'

'Never tell me that. Nobody could ring that bell for over three hours and not get a wet shirt!'

'All right, then, feel for yourself,' said the Canon, throwing open his coat while the local put his hand out to feel.

'Well, you do be a marvel! Ring that bell for three hours and not get a wet shirt!' and he went away filled with wonder and amazement.

'I did not tell him,' said the Canon as he related the story in after years, 'that I had taken my shirt off and hung it on a peg in the belfry!'

BUY AN EXTRA COPY

OF

'THE RINGING WORLD'

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DEATH OF ARCHDEACON H. T. PARRY.**LOSS TO LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**

The members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and indeed many other ringers throughout the country will learn with deep regret of the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, of Bigby, which occurred on October 28th. For several years he had not enjoyed good health, and although he recovered from a serious illness in 1938, he had since been unable to carry out all the duties his numerous offices entailed.

The Rev. H. T. Parry, as he was then, first became known to the members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild in 1913, when, through his efforts, the bells at Bigby were augmented to six. He was elected president of the Grimsby District of the Guild in 1920, representative on the Central Council in 1924, representative on the Diocesan Advisory Committee in 1932, and president of the Northern Branch of the Guild in 1935. In 1936 he was elected to the Standing Committee of the Central Council.

Archdeacon Parry only took part in one peal, the first on Bigby bells, his practical ringing being cut short some years ago on the advice of his doctor, but the Grimsby District meetings held each year at Bigby were always very happy gatherings. A short time ago a peal was rung to celebrate Archdeacon Parry's 40th year as Rector of Bigby.

Some weeks ago he expressed a hope that he would be spared to help with rebuilding the Guild after the war, but this was not to be. Archdeacon Parry has passed on, but all ringers who were privileged to have known him will treasure memories of a great friend and helper.

He was laid to rest on October 31st under the wall of the church he loved so well, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln performing the last rites. The following members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild were present: Mr. R. Richardson (Master) and Mrs. Richardson, Surfleet; Mr. J. Bray (hon. secretary, Northern Branch), Burton-on-Stather; Mr. H. Mingay (hon. secretary, Grimsby District), Grimsby; Mr. G. E. Feirn, Grimsby; Mr. and Mrs. C. McGuinness, Mr. H. Marcon and Mr. J. Millhouse, Lincoln; Mr. M. Walker, Ulceby; Mr. F. Lord, Scunthorpe; Mr. W. Bramwell, Goxhill, and also members of the local band.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes were wreaths from the Central Council, the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and the Grimsby District, and crosses from the Ladies' Guild and the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have some recollection of a peal of London Surprise Major being rung single-handed on handbells at Sproughton, near Ipswich, about thirty years ago, conducted by Mr. Charles Mee. Perhaps some of your readers may have the particulars.

'SUFFOLK RINGER.'

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. E. Barnett's letter in 'The Ringing World' of October 25th, I took part in four handbell peals single-handed in Peterborough.

The first one, Bob Major, was rung on May 19th, 1913, and conducted by the late George Jutson, of Peterborough, who rang 7-8.

The next, a peal of Minor in four methods, Oxford Treble Bob (1), Kent Treble Bob (2), Oxford Bob (2) and Plain Bob (2), also conducted by G. Jutson on 5-6, was rung on June 9th, 1913.

The third one, a peal of Plain Bob Minor, seven extents, was conducted by the late Frederick T. Cooke, Peterborough, on October 13th, 1913.

The fourth, conducted by the late Fred Gilbert, of Raunds, was 5,024 changes of Bob Major, rung on August 6th, 1914.

I am unable to say if all the above peals were published in 'The Ringing World,' but it is evident one was, or Mr. Barnett would not have known I was in it.

THOMAS R. VAUGHAN.

21, Clifton Avenue, Peterborough.

Dear Sir,—In my young days several of us used to meet two or three times a week and ring 720's of Minor on handbells, from that going on to Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major. At last it was determined to ring a peal, and the late W. J. Williams was asked to sit in the tower and umpire. He, however, said that to give us encouragement he would ring one bell.

On February 6th, 1886, we sat in the belfry of St. Giles', Reading, and rang Hubbard's five-part, 5,040 Bob Major, in 2 hours and 56 minutes, without a trip: A. J. Wright treble, A. H. Evans 2, H. White 3, R. T. Hibbert 4, A. E. Reeves 5, W. J. Williams 6, T. Sweetzer 7, G. Gibbard (conductor) 8.

Mr. H. Evans and myself are the only survivors of this band.

I don't think at that period there were four ringers in Reading who could ring a course of Grandsire Triples double-handed. I may say that we were all very elated and proud of our peal. Messrs. H. White, of Basingstoke, and W. J. Williams were the only adult members of the band, we other six being about 16 to 18 years of age. I have seen a look of wonder on many faces when I have said I rang a peal of Major at St. Giles', Reading, in 1886; the bells not being augmented to eight until 1891.

RICHARD T. HIBBERT.

Reading.

DRAMA OF NORTH-EAST LONDON CHURCH.**LEAD COFFIN MISTAKEN FOR BOMB.**

Fears that an ancient parish church, one of the best-known in North-East London, on the outskirts of Essex, was in imminent peril of destruction from an unexploded bomb, buried in a vault beneath its tower, have been exploded! A lead coffin had been mistaken for the deadly missile.

The church and churchyard, said 'The Walthamstow Guardian,' were closed to the public until recently, after adjoining almshouses and the original schoolroom of a centuries old grammar school had been demolished by a high explosive bomb.

When the vicinity was searched, a gaping hole was found at the foot of the tower. An officer of a bomb disposal unit, who was accompanied by the chief assistant to the A.R.P. officer of the district and a police officer, carried out an immediate investigation in the dead of night.

Climbing into the exposed vault, the army officer soon discovered a metal object, one end of which was rounded, and which had a projection resembling the fin of a bomb. After a hasty consultation, the presence of an unexploded bomb was 'confirmed,' and in the interests of public safety the precincts of the church were roped off and placed under constant police guard.

Some days later a further examination was carried out by another army officer, who reported no trace of a bomb.

Once more the officer who carried out the original investigation entered the vault, and it was then that he discovered the lead coffin which had been mistaken for the 'bomb.'

And so the story has a happy ending. But lest some folk should regard the incident as a joke, it should be stated that there was ample reason for the decision to treat the suspected bomb with respect. The hole at the base of the church tower was of a size sufficient to admit a man, and might well, therefore, have been the means of entry for a bomb. The metal coffin itself, partially buried beneath the dust and debris of the years, was enough like a deadly object to warrant every precaution being taken. Otherwise hundreds of lives would have been endangered had an explosion occurred in the course of a service.

It now appears that the vault was holed by a huge piece of masonry which crashed from the top of the church tower.

The battlements at this side of the tower are down, and a few stained glass windows slightly damaged. The tower contains a peal of ten bells, on which the Cambridge Royal record of 10,440 changes was rung on Boxing Day, 1923. Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the Middlesex Association, has been closely identified with the ringing here for many years.

A SERIOUSLY DAMAGED CHURCH.

Another church well known to ringers in the North-Eastern outskirts of London was seriously damaged in a recent raid. The roof at the west end of the church has fallen in, and the interior is damaged by blast and splinter. The tower, which contains a peal of eight bells, appears to be safe, but the small Mission Hall, in which the Middlesex Association have held business meetings, the most recent having been in January last, has been wrecked. It was at this church that the late William J. Kemp, at one time assistant secretary of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association, was Ringing Master.

WALMER RINGER KILLED.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Herbert Trinder, who was killed at Dover recently by enemy action. Mr. Trinder was a member of the Walmer St. Mary's band, where he and his father, who was wounded in the battle of Arras in the late war, had worked hard to introduce change ringing. After long work and many disappointments, a promising Grandsire Triples band was formed before the recent ban on ringing put a stop to activities in the belfry.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a ringer and one who loves the church and its bells, I would like to ask isn't it time, now that the invasion is off and seems it will never come, an appeal is made to the noise control for the removal of the ban on our church bells?

I think at least they could be rung for church services up to black-out time. As one goes about and hears the opinion of ordinary people one can't help thinking that they want to hear them again, and I'm sure it would cheer us all up. I think that at all times we should 'Praise God upon the well-tuned symbols.'

J. W. DYER.

Great Tey.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL.

On Sunday evening at the Chapel of the Holy Angels, Bourne-mouth, handbells were rung in the church before the harvest festival service. The ringers were Mr. A. V. Davis and his two children, John and Mary (aged 14 and 10 years), Mr. F. S. Willson and Mrs. F. J. Marshall. The ringing included 360 changes of Minor and a course of Grandsire Caters.

JASPER SNOWDON'S LAST PEAL.

A PUDSEY PERFORMANCE RECALLED.

Exactly 56 years ago—on Saturday, November 8th, 1884—six of the ringers of the old Parish Church of Bradford (now the Cathedral) had decided to go to Pudsey for a peal attempt. Their names alone are sufficient clue to the method they were to ring.

There was Joseph Henry Hardcastle, leader and conductor of the Parish Church company (father of 'Young Joe' known to present-day ringers); Tom Pollitt, who was later to become famous as a ringer and composer; and Bob Tuke (close companion of Jasper Snowdon), who had lately left the salubrious country at Ilkley for the more commercial atmosphere of Bradford. Then there was Jim Angus, Joe Cheetham and Jesse Naylor, Treble Bob ringers to the backbone, all of them. True, Hardcastle had rung a peal of Grandsire Triples, but he had had to go to Sheffield for it, and Tuke had rung a few peals of Bob Major at Ilkley, but Treble Bob was their method and they knew how to strike it.

But they were to ring Major. Two more men were needed to make up the band and the rest of the Parish Church company were out of peal ringing just then. Ben Copley was a member of the 'Amalgamated Society' at Bradford, but he was never a member of the old school. He was really a Bolton (Bradford, not Lancashire) man and would, no doubt, be busy with his 'Scholars' (there's not many of those left now, by the way); Joe Broadley had already won his spurs as a Treble Bob ringer, but he also was a Bolton man and had not yet changed his affections, although he joined the Parish Church band shortly afterwards. Ben Lamb, another Bolton man, afterwards of the Parish Church and one of the finest heavy bell men in the West Riding, had not yet started on his peal ringing career.

Two men were needed for the heavy end. Who better to the 7th than Benny Dodson, of Birstall? A good ringer who had already rung 15 peals, 13 of Major, one of Maximus and one of Minor, all Treble Bob. He trundled the 7th at Birstall week by week. Besides, he would probably bring, as he often did, a supply of the long churchwarden clay pipes which he made and for which he was justly famous.

There was still a tenor man wanted and one particular ringer would just do if he was not too busy—Jasper Snowdon. No need to ask if he was up to the job. He had rung and conducted more peals than anyone else in Yorkshire. More even than Tom Lockwood, and he was a great Treble Bob ringer. There were other tenor men, of course, but none to compare with Jasper—he was the man.

Hardcastle was the conductor and he intended to try one of Nathan Pittstow's new compositions, one with the 6th nine course-ends at home. The old Yorkshire Treble Bob ringers used to favour that type of peal; they liked to hear the 6.7.8's spread out as much as possible.

The band completed, they started the peal and tackled the job right manfully. The bells were struck in true Yorkshire style and they ran round in just three hours. And so Jasper Snowdon rang his 129th peal.

No doubt other attempts were suggested after the ringing was finished, but Jasper, who had been a prolific peal ringer for those days (he had rung 113 in a little over eight years), had quietened off considerably. Ten months had elapsed since his last previous peal; he was a busy man and his literary work was taking up most of his spare time. 'Double Norwich Court Bob' was just about to be published and he was hard at work on 'Grandsire.' Peal ringing, therefore, had to take a back seat for a while.

Twelve months and eight days passed after the peal at Pudsey before Jasper's untimely death. During that period he rang no peals; so his 129th became his last.

The ringers of England subscribed to a memorial to his memory. That memorial, a stained glass window, can be seen in Ilkley Parish Church. When the window and its accompanying bronze tablet were paid for there was a small surplus, and with that a peal board was erected in the ringing chamber at St. Laurence's Church, Pudsey. It bears this inscription:—

'Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.
On Saturday, November 8th, 1884. A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung on these bells in 3 hours by the following members:

J. Angus	...	1	J. Cheetham	...	5
J. Naylor	...	2	J. H. Hardcastle	...	6
R. Tuke	...	3	B. A. Dodson	...	7
T. Pollitt	...	4	J. W. Snowdon	...	8

Composed by N. J. Pittstow and conducted by J. H. Hardcastle.
Rev. R. B. Thompson, Vicar.



JASPER SNOWDON.

This tablet, which is to commemorate the 129th and last peal of Jasper W. Snowdon, First President of the Association, is in connection with the National Memorial window in Ilkley Church.

It may be interesting to add that 'Copley's Scholars' referred to above was a band at St. James', Bolton, Bradford, which was formed, taught and led for many years by Ben Copley. Many of them turned out to be first-class ringers.

Of those who are mentioned in this article, only Mr. Joe Broadley is still with us. He was 81 on October 25th and is still hale and hearty. Only the ban keeps him from ringing his beloved bells at Bradford Cathedral, which were his constant care for many years.
W. B.

JASPER SNOWDON'S WORK FOR RINGING.

Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, who was born at his father's vicarage in Ilkley in Yorkshire on June 18th, 1844, and died on November 16th, 1885, was one of the most notable men in the long history of the Exercise. He was an active practical ringer and did much for the art in the North, where he was mainly responsible for the foundation of the Yorkshire Association, of which he was the first president, though his list of 129 peals would seem small nowadays and was nothing out of the ordinary even in his own time.

It was as a writer that he was eminent, and it is fair to say that among the various causes of the very great improvements which have taken place during the last 50 years in everything connected with the art of change ringing, none has been more potent than the succession of articles and books which he wrote.

He began to write on ringing in 1872, and during the following 13 years he contributed a large number of articles on various subjects to 'Bells' Life,' 'Church Bells,' 'The Bell News' and other periodicals. He published his first book, 'A Treatise on Treble Bob,' in 1878, followed by Part II., a very fine and complete collection of peals in the method. 'Rope Sight' appeared in 1879, 'Standard Methods' in 1881, and 'Double Norwich' in 1884. Though more than 50 years have passed since they first appeared, these are still the standard text books on the various methods, though 'Standard Methods' has twice since been revised, once by his brother William, and again and much more thoroughly by another hand since the present war started.

When Snowdon died his work was still unfinished. He had projected and partly written books on Grandsire, Stedman and the Surprise methods, and had published early drafts of some of the chapters in 'The Bell News.' Fortunately for the Exercise his brother William carried on his work, helped in a large degree by G. D. P. Davies, who was mainly responsible for 'Stedman,' which was a good book, and 'The Surprise Methods,' which was not nearly so good.

Something like between thirty and forty thousand copies of the Jasper Snowdon series of change ringing books have been sold, and their effect on the advancement of the art is not easy to over-estimate.

The Exercise owes a very great debt first to Mrs. William Snowdon and then to Miss Margaret Snowdon, who not only continued the sale of the books after the death of William Snowdon, but brought out entirely new editions, first of the 'Surprise Methods,' and in recent years 'Stedman,' and, as we said above, 'Standard Methods.' Mrs. Snowdon, who has now reached a great age, is, we are glad to say, still alive.

OTHER AUTHORS.

There have been many books written on change ringing during many years and by a great variety of writers. Naturally they vary much in quality, and it is difficult to say which is the best. In some ways the first of all of them, the 'Tintinnalogia,' which was written by Richard Duckworth as far back as 1668, has never been surpassed. The 'Clavis' (1788), by William Jones and John Reeves, is an excellent book, and in its day did more than anything to advance the science of composition, as well as practical method ringing. The writing, too, reaches quite a high literary level.

Shipway's 'Campanalogia,' not nearly so well written as the 'Clavis,' was still an advance in many respects. Not much good can be said of Benjamin Thackrah's work, nor of Sottanstell's, which is a vast mass of undigested and badly arranged figures, out of which a good book about a quarter of the size might have been made. Hubbard's book had many merits and so had Banister's.

But Snowdon's books were something different from all these, for not only did they deal with particular methods in much greater detail than the other books, but they really did explain ringing in a way that it could be understood. The peculiar merit of Snowdon's writing is not that he had any greater literary ability than some of the other men, but that he could write so that he and his readers fully understood each other and sympathised with each other. Perhaps there is no more useful quality in a teacher. Sir Arthur Heywood's 'Duffield,' which was deliberately modelled on Snowdon's 'Double Norwich,' was probably the best written ringing book that had so far appeared. Heywood was a more careful and polished writer than Snowdon, yet he did not, especially in his other writings, get into touch with his reader quite in the way Snowdon did.

Davies was painstaking and thorough, but his weakness was a tendency to diffuseness and to smother his meaning with words.

The Exercise owes more than it sometimes thinks to its writers, and among them, take it all and all, the one it owes most to is Jasper Snowdon.

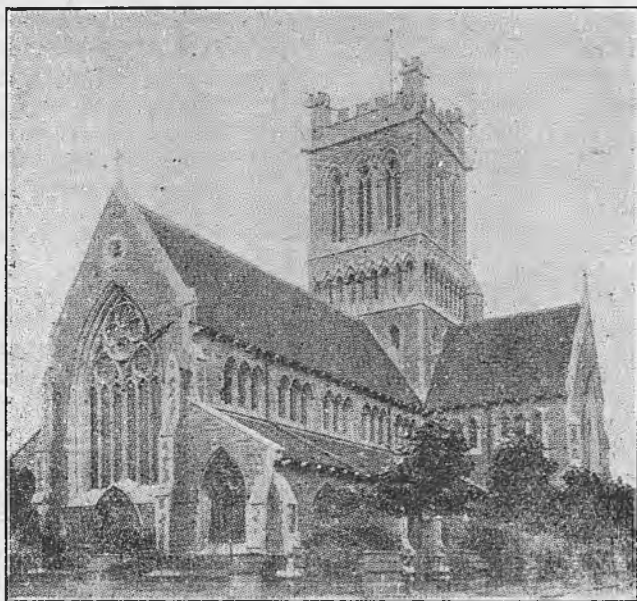
A PIONEER BAND.

ANNIVERSARY OF A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

The story of modern change ringing may be said to have begun in the year 1880 or soon afterwards. Before that time there had been here and there good bands, and during the previous century and a half many excellent peals had been rung. But the usual thing was when any method of more than usual difficulty was attempted for a band to get together, practise the method until they had rung a peal of it, and then drop it. For ordinary practices and peals what were then the standard methods—Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob and Stedman sufficed. Oxford Treble Bob was almost exclusively rung in the Eastern Counties, and Bob Major occasionally in different places. Even Stedman was looked upon as a method only for the more advanced bands.

This state of affairs did not come to an end all at once, and it was a far cry to the days before the war, when few weeks went by without a peal in a new Surprise method being rung.

Nearly sixty years ago the Exercise began to wake up, and the pioneer band which led the movement was the famous company at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. Two of the original members are still alive. To the delight of the older members of the Central Council, Mr. Joseph Griffin attended the meeting, which was held last year at Westminster, and Mr. John Jagger is still living near Birmingham.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

As early as February 3rd, 1882, both these gentlemen took part in a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, the church which Michael Thomas Bass, the brewer, had built regardless of cost, and where under the influence of Lord Grimthorpe, who was also the architect of the church, a ring of bells was hung with a tenor 26 cwt. in weight and F in note. Decidedly not a good peal of bells and not too easy to ring, for the belfry was very noisy.

William Wakley was the conductor and remained so until his death in 1906, but Mr. Griffin called many peals in all the methods that were rung.

After ringing Treble Bob (they had, of course, rung Grandsire), the band turned its attention to Double Norwich. It was in those days an outstanding, perhaps the outstanding method, and only a very few peals had been scored. The Burton men rang theirs on May 4th, 1882, Wakley calling and Messrs. Griffin and Jagger ringing the fourth and fifth.

Mr. Griffin called the second peal in the method, less than three months later, and Jasper Snowdon rang the seventh. The band then went for the record length and, after a failure at All Saints', Derby, in October, on November 18th they rang 7,200 changes at Beeston in Nottinghamshire.

In 1884 a peal of Superlative Surprise Major was achieved. Not much of a feat some of our younger readers will think, but it was an outstanding performance then. No more than seven had already been rung and those spread over many years. What distinguished the Burton peal was that it heralded the arrival of Superlative as a new standard method for the Exercise. It was rung muffled for the funeral of Michael Thomas Bass and was one of four memorial peals in five days, the other three being Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

(Continued in next column.)

BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

THE TOBOGGAN SIMILE.

Mr. F. H. Lewis (the president of the Central Council) has sent us the result of his investigations into the toboggan illustration which was dealt with by Mr. R. O. Street in our issue of September 27th. It was worked out, Mr. Lewis tells us, on a slow and tedious train journey, and to save our readers a headache in following all the labyrinthian calculations, he gives the following summary of his conclusions, which to us (knowing nothing of physics) appears to bear out Mr. Street's contention of 'the rougher the surface the shorter the time,' which seems to be just the opposite to the conclusions of Mr. Smale that 'frictional forces reduce the speed of any moving body.' Between the two, who shall judge?

Mr. Lewis gives his conclusions thus: 'If a toboggan starting from rest slides down a slope 100ft. long, inclined at an angle of 30 degrees, and up a similar slope to come to rest at the top, without friction or air resistance, the time taken for the run will be 7.0711 seconds.

'If the course be sanded so that there is a retardation due to friction of 2ft. per second per second, and if the toboggan be pushed with a constant force equal to $1\frac{1}{4}$ times its own weight for the first 10ft. of the downward slope, it will just reach the top of the upward slope, and the time taken for the trip will be 5.8802 seconds. Air resistance is neglected in this case also. Acceleration of a freely falling body in vacuo is taken as 32ft. per second per second.'

WHAT A MODERN TEXT BOOK SAYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, R. O. Street, states: 'A reduction of friction must cause a *slowing* down of the motion.' I do not remember how he showed this to be true under certain conditions, and I trust you, sir, and your readers will bear with me if I quote the text-book.

'When slipping occurs between two bodies in contact, a frictional force continues to *oppose* the motion, but, in general, the magnitude of the force is less than the frictional force existing just before slipping occurs. Experiment shows that as long as the motion is not too great the frictional force F_1 is directly proportional to the normal (perpendicular) reaction between the surfaces and is independent of the velocity that is $F_1 = vN$ where v is the coefficient of kinetic friction. If a body of mass m rests on a horizontal table which is not smooth then $N = mg$ (or the weight), and $F_1 = vmg$ when the body is moving. Suppose F_1 is the force applied to the body. Since F_1 and F_2 act in contrary senses on a body of mass m , the acceleration "a" is given by $F_1 - F_2 = ma$ and therefore "a" = $F_1 - vgm$.

'In the absence of *friction* the acceleration would have been F_1 so that the effect of friction is to *reduce the acceleration*.' That is to say, frictional forces reduce the *speed of any moving body*. The words in quotation are taken from a modern text-book.

In the case of a bell with straight bearings there is slipping friction between the axle and the gudgeon and the acceleration, when a bell is 'pulled out' is given by $a = \frac{F_1}{M} - vg$ where M is the mass or

quantity of metal in the bell. If by any means we can reduce v (the coefficient of friction) as by use of oil or grease, the acceleration will obviously be increased, the bell will move more easily and the speed greater.

In the case of ball bearings there is *no slipping* friction because all the surfaces in contact roll and hence 'a' (acceleration) = $\frac{F_1}{M}$ if the

balls and gudgeon be perfectly rigid. The frictional forces are considerably reduced.

Thus it follows that ball bearing 'gudgeons' reduce the frictional forces opposing the motion of any bell whatever its weight. In practice Mr. Powell is quite right, light bells do go, as theory proves, more tenderly and definitely with a given pull, more speedily. In the opinion of many experienced ringers ball bearings should not be used for light bells, and theory supports their view.

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

Okehampton.

THE FIRST EXTENT OF LONDON SURPRISE.

(Continued from previous column.)

In 1887 the Burton men added Cambridge and London Surprise to their list, having in 1886 rung the first peal of New Cumberland. This was a method by Henry Earle Bulwer, an excellent method in many ways, but one which, partly because it does not now technically rank as Surprise, is not rung. It fully deserves the attention of go-ahead bands.

Wakley and his men were the first to ring the extent of London Surprise with the tenors together, which amounts to 6,720 changes. They did on November 8th, 1882—fifty-two years ago to-day.

They also scored peals of Duffield Major, Sir Arthur Heywood's method, which somehow has failed to come up to his expectations.

Judged by modern standards, this record may not seem a very striking one, but it would be very foolish to judge it so. You can't have progress unless someone begins it, and where would the Exercise be to-day if it had not been for what the Burton men, or some others like them, did?

THE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

PEALS IN METHODS WITH A, B, C, D, E, F FALSE COURSE ENDS.

In our article in 'The Ringing World' last week it was shown that in any method with A, B, C, D, E false course ends the material available for composing peals with the tenors together can be set down in twelve blocks, each of five full natural courses, and that these twelve blocks are in pairs, one block in a pair being false against the other, but against no other block.

At first sight it would seem that, although if we use one or more courses in any block we are debarred from using any course in the alternative block, yet there is nothing to compel us to use one of the alternative blocks more than the other, provided we do not use both. If, for instance, we use B 1 and not B 2, or C 1 and not C 2, we shall avoid falseness; but so shall we equally well if we use B 2 and not B 1, or C 2 and not C 1. When, however, we come to put our peal together we are faced with other considerations which almost entirely restrict us to the use of the first of the two alternative blocks and entirely restrict us to them if our aim is to produce the extent of the changes.

The courses in the table are full, independent natural courses, and to compose a peal we must join together a sufficient number of them by bobs. In so doing we must not lose sight of the possibility of using bobs Before (or Home) or incomplete Q sets, but any such composition would necessarily apply only to a limited number of methods with the same lead ends. For the present we will deal with peals composed by bobs in full Q sets which will be applicable to every method, whatever its lead end, and equally so whether it is a Second's Place method or an Eighth's Place method. Provided, of course, that we use Fourth's Place bobs with Second's Place methods and Sixth's Place Bobs with Eighth's Place methods.

In every natural course in every method there are three positions where bobs can be made without affecting the tenors. They are the Wrong (or In), Middle (or Fifth's) and Right (or Out). It is immaterial for our present purposes in what order they come in the course, and it is equally immaterial that in Eighth's Place methods the members of the Q set come in the order opposite to that in Second's Place methods—e.g., 34256, 42356 and 23456 instead of 42356, 34256 and 23456.

Now go back to the table of groups, and let us see what Q sets can be bobbed in these courses and what the effect will be.

We start with the Plain Course. Here there are three possible positions in which bobs can be made, the Wrong, the Middle and the Right.

If we bob the Wrong and complete the Q set we get the two natural courses 52436 and 35426.

If we bob the Middle and complete the Q set, we get the two natural courses 43652 and 63254.

If we bob the Right and complete the Q set, we get the two natural courses 42356 and 34256.

These three Q sets can be expressed briefly as 00406, 03050 and 00056.

But 52436 belongs to group F 1, therefore we are debarred from using group F 2; 35426 and 43652 belong to group E 1, therefore we are debarred from using group E 2; 63254 belongs to group D 1, therefore we are debarred from using group D 2; 42356 belongs to group B 1, therefore we are debarred from using group B 2; and 34256 belongs to group C 1, therefore we are debarred from using group C 2.

It follows that if in the Plain Course we make a bob in all the possible positions we are automatically restricted to the use of the thirty courses contained in the groups A 1, B 1, C 1, D 1, E 1 and F 1, and all the alternative groups are excluded.

It further follows that the making of bobs in all the possible positions in any course will similarly exclude the use of five groups and therefore only those courses can be called in full which allow of the use of the same five groups. By experiment we shall find that the only courses which will do this are those included within the same group and, therefore, if we call the Plain Course in full the only other courses which can also be called in full are those included in group A 1. Now the five rows in group A 1 are all in the same coursing order (except for 7-8).

Next, let us turn to the rows in the other true groups and see what bobs can be made in them.

If in 42356 we make a bob at the Wrong (or In) and complete the Q set we get 54326 and 25346. But 54326 is in group D 1 and 25346 is in group F 2, and therefore the Q set 00306 cannot be used.

Similarly, if in 42356 we make a bob at the Middle (or Fifth's) and complete the Q set we get 32654 and 62453. But 32654 is in the group F 2 and 62453 is in the group E 2 and again neither is admissible. The Q set 02050 cannot be used.

The bob at Right is one member of the Q set 00056 which we have already got, and it is the only one which may be made in the course 42356.

In a similar way we will go through all the courses in the true groups and mark the positions where bobs may be called. In some instances we shall find that making a bob will produce a course in one of the false groups and therefore it cannot be used. In other instances we shall find that the first bob will produce a course in a true group, but the second one will produce a course in a false group. Obviously this Q set cannot be used, but we may find the first bob useful after the peal is completed to produce a reduction in the number of the changes. For instance, a bob at Right (in a Second's Place method) in the course 25463 will produce 42563 which is in group D 1, but a bob at right in 42563 will produce 54263 which is in group F 2.

(Continued on next page.)

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

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. Business meeting and nomination of officers afterwards. —A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNESLEY 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. 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

TRUE GROUPS AND Q SETS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Here are the six true groups with all positions in which bobs may be called. The order in which W, M and R come is immaterial:—

	W.	M.	R.		W.	M.	R.
A 1	23456	—	—	D 1	35642	—	—
	35264	—	—		54326	—	—
	56342	—	—		42563	—	—
	64523	—	—		26435	—	—
	42635	—	—		63254	—	—
B 1	42356	—	—	E 1	64235	—	—
	25463	—	—		43652	—	—
	56234	—	—		35426	—	—
	63542	—	—		52364	—	—
	34625	—	—		26543	—	—
C 1	56423	—	—	F 1	23564	—	—
	62534	—	—		36245	—	—
	23645	—	—		64352	—	—
	34256	—	—		45623	—	—
	45362	—	—		52436	—	—

These bobs comprise fifteen Q sets as follows:—

00406	03050	00056
00204	02030	00064
00302	05060	00042
00503	06040	00023
00605	04020	00035

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.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A comfortable room at the Plough, Shilton, will be available on Saturday, Nov. 16th, from 3 p.m., for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Please bring own tea and 'eats.' — D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting, followed by social evening, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Meadowcroft, of Newhey, to commence 6.30 p.m. Ringers and friends welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD GUILD.—Newbury Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business meeting. Intending visitors requiring tea should notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, by Wednesday, Nov. 13th. — T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

BUSHEY, HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at the Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 2.30. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice (whether learner or professor) in all methods, as well as social chats. Tea can be arranged. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

MARRIAGE.

COLMAN—HUMPHREY. — On Monday, Oct. 21st, at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, Robert Terrance Colman to Patricia Humphrey. Present address: 22, Hereford Road, London, W.2.

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'THE SERGEANT' CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY.

For several years a peal was rung or attempted to celebrate the birthday of ex-Sergt. Joseph Williams, of Newent, Gloucestershire, but for the second time owing to the war this attempt could not be made. The celebration was, however, kept up at the home of Mr. Williams on Tuesday, October 29th, on his 88th birthday.

The party included a few of his oldest ringing friends, namely, John Austin and Sidney Romans, of Gloucester, John Clark, of Ross, and J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon.

A most enjoyable afternoon and evening was spent, and plenty of handbell ringing, including both change ringing and tune ringing, was indulged in.

Hospitality was lavishly extended by Mr. Williams and his family. It can well be said of him that he is 88 years young, full of fun and 'devilment,' and after the evening's amusement, in which a bachelor and spinster were concerned, Mr. Williams even now would make a first-class matrimonial agent.

Although Mr. Williams in his police days was concerned in many courageous actions, he had to admit that he was never so frightened in his life as one night in Birmingham recently, when our 'friends' from over the Channel paid their nightly visit.

The party gathered at Newent enthusiastically 'toasted' Mr. Williams and offered him their best wishes. Mr. Williams, in reply, expressed the hope that they would all be spared to meet him in twelve months' time.

J. W. J.

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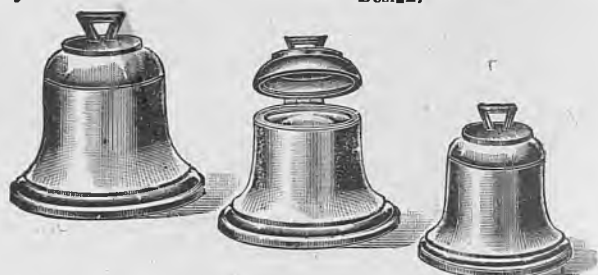
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