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THE NAME OF SNOWDON.

There are in every generation names which stand out in the Exercise in striking relief, names which will live in the history of ringing and hold an abiding place because of the contribution which in life these men made to the progress of the art. This applies equally to those of a generation still remembered by ringers of to-day as to the famous men of other centuries. Names of this kind are recalled from time to time by some passing event, and we are reminded to-day of the name of Snowdon by the death of the last of her generation, Mrs. Laura Snowdon, widow of one who served the Yorkshire Association and the Exercise at large in a measure which few men have done. He carried on the work of which his brother Jasper had so securely laid the foundations, and behind the scenes was helped by his wife, who not only ably assisted him as a 'proof reader' when new or revised books were in the press, but after his death continued the publication of the Snowdon series—books which have had, for over sixty years, an important share in popularising and developing scientific change ringing.

The part which has been played by the men who have substantially contributed to the advancement of ringing, by the books they have written and published, is perhaps not always fully appreciated. Beginning with Richard Duckworth, who wrote 'Tintinnalogia,' published by Stedman in 1668, there have appeared men who were ready to impart their knowledge to the Exercise through the printed word. During nearly three centuries these courageous men, inspired by a love of the art, have devoted their time and talents to preparing and publishing textbooks which have brought the art along, stage by stage, to its present high level. They were courageous because they had to risk financial loss. In the early days this risk must have been considerable, for the field of circulation was extremely limited, but as each succeeding author has come upon the scene, he has found encouragement through the ground being better prepared and his public larger than his predecessor's.

It was Jasper Snowdon, however, who really popularised the ringing textbook, and he did it by a new principle. Up to his time all ringing books had tried to cover the entire field of at least the most practised methods, and some of them printed as much as could be compressed into one volume about all that was known. Snowdon broke away from this tradition, and the scheme which he conceived was for a series of books, each dealing exclusively with one method. He only departed from this in that very popular book, 'Standard Methods,' in

(Continued on page 38.)

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which, however, he made another innovation by including diagrams. And here, by the way, he introduced a plan which has served the Exercise better than he knew. These diagrams were included to illustrate his letterpress. To-day, at any rate among advanced ringers, the letterpress, and even the figures, have become unnecessary. The diagram is all that matters to the man who wants to learn a method just sufficiently to ring it. Snowdon's work, in a way, was a revolution in ringing textbooks, both in style and in instructional value and, as far as they go, they may still be considered the standard works.

But Jasper Snowdon did not live to complete the task he set himself. His comparatively early death left a large part of his work undone. That were tragedy enough, but it might have ended with his passing. Fortunately, however, for the good of ringing, his brother William was prompted to take up the task, and with the help of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies he finished what Jasper had begun. He undertook responsibility for the publication of the concluding books of the series, revised and issued new editions as they became necessary, and for thirty years provided the Exercise with its greatest need in the way of instructional literature. The broad foundations of modern ringing knowledge can be said to lie in the books of the Snowdon series, and they still form the vade-mecum of the average ringer. The extent to which the Exercise is indebted to the family of Snowdon is immeasurable, and in the gentle lady who has now passed to her rest the last member of the family of that generation has gone from us, and a link has been broken with the days when the first appearance of these then novel textbooks was something of a sensation among ringers. But the work of that generation remains and will go on in the future providing young ringers with the best and surest material upon which to base their practical knowledge of the art. The Snowdon books have always moved with the times. Every new edition has been revised, and now, to meet the modern trend, some of them have been entirely rewritten. But they bear the stamp of the house of Snowdon, a hall-mark that makes them still the most useful and valuable aid to his education that the young ringer can possess.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

AN ACCOUNTS DIFFICULTY IN S.W. DIVISION.

The South-Western Division of the Essex Association held its annual meeting at Wanstead on Saturday, January 4th. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties of travelling and the black-out, only a few members attended.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. Chalk, who was re-elected District Master for the coming year.

Owing to the secretary, Mr. J. H. Crampion, being in H.M. Forces, his wife was elected secretary pro tem.

Unfortunately, no accounts could be submitted at the meeting owing to the fact that the books and accounts had not been returned from the auditors, who had had them since January of last year in spite of repeated requests for their return.

It was proposed that the secretary should write a letter of protest to the secretary of the association with regard to this matter.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. J. Chalk for the work he had done during the year, and also to Mr. J. H. Crampion for having made it a record year as regards new members. It was hoped that he would return safely to carry on the good work.

It was proposed that Mr. A. Prior and Mr. G. Dawson be elected to attend the committee meeting of the association for the coming year on behalf of the district.

The Master said that since the last meeting two most loyal members of the district, Mr. G. Lucas, of Walthamstow, and Mr. S. Bingham, of Rayleigh, had passed away.

The meeting was brought to a close with one or two touches of Grandsire and Plain Bob rung on handbells.

ST. PETER MANCROFT, NORWICH.

CONCERNING TWO TENORS.

BY CHARLES E. BORRETT.

The order given by the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, to Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel, in the year 1775, for a new ring of twelve, specified the tenor was to be 38 cwt., but she came out of the mould 41 cwt. 4 lb. This is the weight given in the church records, and there is little doubt of its correctness, for when the bells were delivered at the church the tenor was hauled to the Hay House on Hay Hill, adjoining the south side of the churchyard, and weighed.

For this job the churchwardens stood sixteen shillings worth of ale to the ringers and carters, and as the month was May, it is probable the spring of 1775 was warm and dry!

The bells were conveyed from the Thames to Great Yarmouth by water, and were then transhipped to a 'wherry' (a Norfolk river trading vessel) for the journey up the river to Norwich, and were finally unloaded under the tower on May 25th.

The tenor was broken early in 1814 through the clapper wearing loose, the flight catching the frame and knocking off the lip a piece of metal the size of a man's hand, causing a crack in her side 18 inches long.

Thomas Mears was now at the Whitechapel foundry, and on July 30th, 1814, we read he had 'contracted with St. Peter's parish to take their fractured great bell in exchange, and to send down a new tenor for £110, exclusive of carriage and hanging.'

THE NEW BELL.

The new bell arrived in December, and for some unaccountable reason her weight was put at precisely the same as the broken one—41 cwt. 4 lb. It is hardly credible that both should be the same to a pound, but, at any rate, it passed muster for 90 years. In 1904, however, a packet of letters, from Thomas Mears to the churchwardens, were found in an old vestment chest in the treasury room beneath the sacristy, and they rather upset previous calculations. They tell us the new bell was not recast from the metal of the old one, and they describe some of the difficulties of transport in the 'good old days,' and lastly they give the weight as 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb., and in another letter appears, 'Freight, 43 cwt. at 2s. per cwt.'

In passing, I may say that when she was weighed at Loughborough in 1924, her weight was 40 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. before tuning and removal of cannons. So she had evidently practised 'slimming'!

I think these letters written by Thomas Mears 127 years ago may be of interest to some, and so here they are:—

November 10th, 1814.

'You have no doubt been in expectation of hearing of the Bell which has been ready since last week, the reason of the delay is that none of the Yarmouth Vessels that I have been able to find have a hatchway wide enough to take it in, and they are not willing to take it on Deck, therefore I am at present at a loss to know what to do to forward it, but I have been to Mr. Marsh, of the Four Swans, who says he will take it down at 8 shillings p. cwt., which will not exceed a great deal, the Wharfage, Freight, loading at Yarmouth and Insurance, but you are no doubt acquainted with Mr. Marsh, and probably may be able to make a better agreement with him than I can. I have been calculating as near as I can the expense by water, which from what I can learn will be nearly as follows: Cartage and wharfage in London, it being a heavy article they will charge more than for the usual sort of goods, £1 10s., Freight I am informed to Yarmouth, 43 cwt. at 2s. per cwt., £4 6s., Insurance £5 5s. The expense of unloading at Yarmouth and loading in the Norwich Vessel, with again unloading at Norwich and conveyance to the church, I am at a loss to state, but probably will amount to the difference between the before-stated expense and land carriage. You will please to favour me with a line to give me your wishes and directions in this business, which shall be attended to immediately.'

'P.S.—The old bell may be broken and put into casks so that it may come by water to save expense.'

A HITCH IN SHIPMENT.

November, 1814.

'In reply to your favour, I went to Symon's Wharf on receipt of your letter, and they had not a vessel that could take it till this day. It was sent in order to be ship'd on Board the Thames, Capt. Nicholls, when it arrived at the wharf the wharfinger said he could not permit him to take it, tho' he had previously fix'd with my man to take it in, but during the time I was talking with him another capt'n of a Yarmouth Vessel came and said he would take it if he would allow it to be taken out of the waggon and put on a truck so that it might stand by till he loaded his vessel, which he consented to, in doing of which an accident happened, their chain of the crane broke after it raised the bell about 6 inches, and fell into the waggon, but fortunately without doing the bell any damage, he then would not permit of another crane to be tried and compelled me to bring it back to Whitechapel, as he would not take any charge of it, it is now safe in my yard. I have now no other chance than to try the Custom House vessels which hitherto have not been able to take it down their Hatchways, or send it by the waggon. I shall wait till I have tried all means of sending it by water.'

(Continued in next column.)

CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is a copy of an entry taken from the original Manuscript Book of the late John Alfred Parnell, the noted Gothic Traveller of Sheffield:—

'On Tuesday June 25th, 1811, the Society of Saint Peters Independent Youths of Sheffield was Invited to the Opening of the two new Treble Bells, added to the old Peal of Six to make them a Ring of Eight at Saint John's Church, village of Staveley in Derbyshire, when they performed on them a Musical true and Intricate Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major—containing 5,280 Changes—which was Boldly Struck and nobly brought Round in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes by the 8 undermentioned Change Ringing Artists, viz:—

Treble Mr. James Dovey, of Stourbridge in Worcestershire.

2 Mr. Thomas Arrundell, of Rotherham, Yorkshire.

3 Mr. Joseph Grayson, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

4 Mr. William Hudson, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

5 Mr. William Booth, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

6 Mr. Samuel Shirt, from Sheffield, Yorkshire.

7 Mr. William Rowin, of Sheffield in Yorkshire.

Tenor Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal, Shropshire.

The Conductor of the Peal—Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal. Weight of the Tenor, 30 cwt. net Bell Metal in the Key of F.

On Monday the 24th June, 1811, was the first Opening Day and the Joint Band of Wakefield and Leeds joint Company Rung a Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major composed of 5,184 changes.

The Sheffield Youths took down their Peal when Ringing and do pronounce it to be a false one.'

Here is evidence that even as long as 129 years ago some ringers were able to take down a peal outside the tower.

Apparently there was some friendly local rivalry at this time, and the Sheffield Independent Youths by their gift of checking the peal on the actual opening day and pronouncing it false, were able to score the first true peal on the following day. SIDNEY F. PALMER, Sheffield.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ENJOY PUDSEY HOSPITALITY.

In order to avoid clashing with the general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, the January meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held on the 11th instead of, as usual, on the last Saturday of the month.

A room was reserved at the Pudsey headquarters and handbells were kept going from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., when tea was served with the usual Pudsey generosity. At the business meeting, owing to the absence of the president, Canon Marshall was voted to the chair.

The vote of thanks to the Pudsey company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Miss L. K. Bowling. In putting the vote to the meeting, the Chairman said that it was amazing how the Pudsey company managed to live up to their reputation with such generous hospitality, and he would like to know how it was done.

Mr. Barton, acknowledging the vote, said that no answer would be given to Canon Marshall's question, and, continuing, he compared the present meeting with some before the war, when the tower had been full by 3.30 p.m. In conclusion, he reminded those present of the Pudsey motto, 'The more the merrier,' and hoped that next year would see the old conditions prevailing.

The next meeting will be held at Liversedge on February 22nd, and due notice will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENORS.

(Continued from previous column.)

December 3rd, 1814.

'I beg to inform you that the bell was this day ship'd on board the Hannah (Capt. Butcher) for Yarmouth, which I hope will arrive safe and give satisfaction. My man will be with you next week to hang it. I have insured it according to Mr. Back's directions.'

January 18th, 1815.

'Your favour came duly to hand, and I should have answered by return of post, but was from home. In reply to yours, I am quite ready to sanction the estimate for re-hanging the eleven bells according to the particulars given by Ansell, and also the money you have been so kind to advance, with any future sum you should please to let him have, shall be placed to the credit of the account. The new tenor weighed 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. The old metal I received this morning, which is not unpacked. I hope the bell will give satisfaction.'

The new tenor was 'opened' on Saturday, February 25th, 1815, and to round off the story, there was another little item for ale supplied to Ansell, the bellhanger, and Mr. Trowse, a ringer, who helped him, which the churchwardens duly settled.

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EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PEALS AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

On Thursday, March 14th, on the twelve bells at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the London Scholars accomplished 'the first compleat peal of Six Thousand Cinques.' They started at one o'clock and finished at 6.30, which, if the times are correct, was slow ringing, at a rate of nearly four hours and a half for a five-thousand. Probably the timing was only approximate; the board says nothing about it.

Next day the College Youths 'held it 5 hours and a quarter.' They rang 6,314 changes of Cinques, the longest that had been rung at the time, and as 'it was allowed to be the finest yet known of that nature,' presumably they won the match. But the others were well satisfied with themselves, and erected a large and costly frame in the belfry to commemorate their performance. They seem to have had more money than their rivals for that sort of thing.

The board still exists and is one of the very scanty sources of information about the London Scholars. Of the band only one is more than just a name. William Underwood, the ringer of the second, was one of the most prominent of London ringers, and he left a son called by the same name, who afterwards was for a time the leading man among the College Youths.

The College Youths' peal was conducted by Benjamin Annable, and the band included Robert Catlin, William Laughton, Peter Merrygarts and John Trenell.

Both companies had to put two men to the tenor, and six months later one of the gudgeons broke during the ringing and the bell came down with a crash. The scared ringers left their flying ropes and ran to the windows, but the bell lodged in the pit, and no further damage was done.

The first peal of Maximus in the steeple was one of Plain Bob, consisting of, 5,280 changes, rung on May 8th, 1731, by the College Youths. Annable did not conduct, and was not even in the band. John Cundell called the bobs, and the party included some who were, like Cundell himself, rather jealous of Annable's supremacy in the society, or were offended by his sharp tongue and dictatorial manner. William Jackson, who composed the first peal the College Youths had ever achieved, but had been far overshadowed as a composer by Annable and had since stood out of every peal band, rang the seventh to the Maximus. Robert Catlin rang the second, and he did not again stand in a peal with Annable. William Laughton and John Hayward were also included.

The Eastern Scholars rang 5,600 changes of Grandsire Caters in 1734, with Philemon Mainwaring as conductor, and the Union Scholars 5,040 changes of Bob Royal with John Denmead as conductor.

A fortnight after this last performance a very interesting peal was rung in the steeple, on the front eight bells. This was 'the first Compleat Peal of 5,040 Grandsire Trebles. Prickt and call. by Jn. Denmead.'

The figures of the composition are not given in the peal book and we cannot be sure what was rung, but there was a very old traditional peal on the Bob and Single plan which was printed in the 'Clavis' and was

sometimes ascribed to John Holt. It was not by Holt, but it very likely came from the Union Scholars, of which society both Holt and Denmead were members. There is at least a likelihood that this was the peal rung at St. Martin's, and, if so, with the possible exception of one at Cambridge in 1734, it would be the first true peal of Grandsire Triples rung with ordinary bobs and singles.

Two years later, John Denmead 'prickt and call'd' another seven-bell peal, and the Union Scholars again rang it on the front eight. This was '5,040 Bob Major Trebles, containing the Treble Leads and Bobs of ye compleat Peal of 40,320 Bob Major Eight-in.'

If we take an extent of Bob Major and write out the back and hand changes when the treble is leading we shall have the 5,040 changes on 2345678 in such a form that they can be rung to a peal. Nowadays it would be called a peal of Original Triples, but the bobs were made on the front three bells.

John Holt called three peals for the Union Scholars at St. Martin's—Bob Major in 1748, Bob Triples in 1749, and Grandsire Caters in 1751. The first two, like the other eight-bell peals, were rung on the small octave, which shows that the hanging of the bells was not too good.

When the Society of College Youths split into two companies after the death of Annable in 1756, the older branch left St. Bride's and the meeting place at 'The Barley Mow' and betook themselves to St. Martin's. They held their meetings at 'The Barn' in St. Martin's Lane, a house which was pulled down when Trafalgar Square was laid out. They did little peal ringing, and St. Martin's does not again figure in the records until 1771, when a peal of Real Double Bob Maximus was rung 'with as many bobs before as behind.' It was the first of its kind, but there is little doubt from what is said in the 'Clavis' that it was false.

It was thirteen years before the next peal was rung in the steeple. This was 5,080 changes of Grandsire Cinques on November 13th, 1784, by the 'junior' Society of College Youths.

Following the example of Edward Osborn, I call them the 'junior' society to distinguish them from the ancient Society of College Youths, but they called themselves and everybody at the time knew them as the Society of College Youths without qualification of any kind. The word 'ancient' as applied to the older branch was not a part of the title, but only an ordinary adjective meaning 'old.'

Robert Pye Donkin was the conductor of the Grandsire Cinques, and the band was made up of some of the best and most famous men in the history of the London ringing Exercise—Winstanley Richardson, William Lyford, Robert Pye Donkin, William Wilson, James Worster, Israel Johnson, George Scarsbrook, Stapley Blandford, Thomas Verren, John Povey, John Lyford and Philip Pilgrim.

At that time the ancient society was enjoying a brief period of activity and brilliance before its final dissolution three years later, and two months after their rivals' Cinques on January 6th, 1785, the company rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on the bells.

The band was equal in all respects to the other, and included in it are such famous names as John Reeves, Christopher Wells, Thomas Blakemore, Richard Moore, John Inville, Nathaniel Williamson and George Harris.

Blakemore was the conductor, and he and Reeves at the time were assisting William Jones with the compilation of the 'Clavis.' Wells, by his investigations into the proof of peals of Treble Bob Major, did the whole Exercise a lasting service. George Harris was one of the very select number of men who turned a 50 cwt. tenor into more than six thousand changes of Maximus.

The number of changes as given in the peal book was 5,113, but that we may be pretty sure was the writer's error.

The dissolution of the ancient society was mainly due to a quarrel between John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore over the calling of the first peal of Stedman Caters. The upshot was that Reeves went to the Cumberlands and Blakemore and the majority of the other members threw in their lot with the 'junior' company. The latter now left St. Bride's and 'The Barley Mow' in Salisbury Court and migrated to St. Martin's and 'The Barn,' which remained the headquarters of the Society of College Youths for nearly forty years, when it was transferred to 'The King's Head' at Southwark.

The reunited society practised Stedman Cinques which, until a few years before, had been rung nowhere except in Norwich.

On October 6th, 1788, at St. Martin's, Thomas Blakemore called the first peal ever achieved in the method. The number of changes was 6,206. Jasper Snowdon, in his account of the method, suggested that this number was chosen because it would take a lot of beating and so stand as the record for a long time. This seemed a good reason, and in my book on Stedman I reproduced the statement. It was only after the book was printed that

I noticed the real truth of the matter. 6,206 changes of Cinques is the same composition as 5,184 changes of Caters. Not much was known at the time about Stedman composition, and Blakemore evidently played for safety by calling one of the peals of Caters from the 'Clavis.'

The band, in addition to Blakemore, included some of the most skilful men from both the old companies—Donkin, Povey, Wells, Worster, Inville, Williamson, William Lyford, Edmund Sylvester, and Philip Pilgrim. Two were comparatively new men, James Hammett, who lived in Hungerford Market, and Samuel Lawrence, from Shifnal, in Shropshire.

When Lawrence returned home, he took Stedman with him and introduced it to the Birmingham men who, ever since, have been almost the leading exponents of the method.

At St. Martin's in 1792, Blakemore called another peal of Stedman Cinques for the College Youths, this time 5,088 changes, and in 1797 he called the first peal of Grandsire Cinques ever brought round at hand. The plan adopted was to let 89 lie still at the go-off and to use the traditional Cater way of bringing the bells round.

There was a good deal to be said in favour of this plan. It put the bells at once into the tittums with the 8th behind the 11th, and it saved the long and risky coming home course. The departure from the strict method was, in the eyes of the men of the time, no worse than the use of a single.

The last peal on the bells during the eighteenth century was also Grandsire Cinques. John Noonan called it, and the band belonged to the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We understand that the bells of St. Mary's, Southampton, which was gutted in a recent raid, have been destroyed and the sixth melted in the fire.

Fifty-five churches in the Liverpool Diocese have been damaged by enemy action, and it is reported that part of the east end of the Cathedral will have to be rebuilt.

On January 20th, 1854, William Cooter rang 3-4, and called the first true double-handed peal of Stedman Triples. The honour thus went to the College Youths, for the previous peal by the Cumberlands was false through Cox changing his hands for part of a course.

On Sunday morning, January 12th, at Kington Magna Church, thanksgiving was offered for the victory of the British forces in Libya. At the conclusion of the National Anthem handbells were rung in rounds and set changes with eight blows of firing.

The Guildford Diocesan Guild is to hold two meetings to-morrow. This is to put in order the proceedings of the annual district meeting, which has, under the rules, to be preceded by a meeting at which the nomination of officers has to take place. Only a legal mind would have thought of this.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus was rung at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, on January 20th, 1817. Mr. C. E. Borrett has referred to this in his recent interesting articles.

The Cambridge Youths rang 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus on January 21st, 1788. This remains the record for the method.

An unusual peal was performed at Shifnal in Worcestershire on January 23rd, 1844, when the local men rang 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Triples. To get a true composition, the two variations, Oxford and Kent, were mixed.

Two long peals, both false in composition, were rung on January 25th, 1842. One was 8,105 Stedman Caters at Painswick, the other 8,081 Grandsire Caters at Stroud.

Elijah Roberts, who distinguished himself by tapping some extraordinary peals on handbells, committed suicide at Liverpool on January 26th, 1865. Among his performances were 7,536 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 5,016 Stedman Cinques, and 19,440 Treble Twelve. Most of his peals were rung in the presence of competent witnesses.

An early long peal, 10,080 changes of Bob Major, was rung at Fulham on January 26th, 1735, by the Fulham Youths.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

THE FUNERAL BELL.

A WEST COUNTRY USAGE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the very interesting discussion on the subject of the death knell that occupied your columns for many weeks, I do not think that any of your correspondents mentioned one usage traditional in some parishes, namely, that of chiming each of the bells in turn at a fixed hour in the morning, when a funeral is to take place later in the day. It has never been the custom in my own village of Kington Magna, but in the neighbouring parish of Marnhull—Hardy's 'Marlotte'—the practice is still maintained.

The Rector interprets it as welcoming home the deceased to his parish church for the last time. I surmise that it originated in the Requiem Mass held before a burial. I have heard the same done at Wedmore. and in the island of Cyprus a similar practice obtains both in the Latin and Eastern Orthodox Churches, each bell being chimed three strokes at a time. Mr. Trollope's researches may throw some further light on this tradition.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

P.S.—Now that even the Archbishop has failed to obtain leave for ringing, it may interest you to know that I made ineffectual appeals to the Prime Minister, Mr. Duff Cooper, the Ministry of Home Security and the War Office! The Ministry of Home Security did take the trouble to forward my letter to the War Office, but that authority proved obdurate.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

CLAPPERLESS BELLS PROVIDE PRACTICE.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 11th, a few members being present from Stoke, Burslem, Longton, Hanley and Newcastle. Handbells were used and also the tower bells (six without the clappers). Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor were practised in the afternoon.

A splendid tea was kindly provided by the Newcastle ringers, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. N. Sargeant (Hanley) to the Rector of Newcastle for the use of the bells and for the welcome extended to the visiting ringers.—This was seconded by Mr. E. Steele (Longton).

After tea, handbells were again used, and on the tower bells 720 Bob Minor was brought round and brought a happy gathering to a close.

The next meeting will be held on February 1st at Longton, where there will be seven bells for use without clappers.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. PROPERTY LOST IN LONDON FIRE.

Damaged Books Salvaged.

The College Youths now know the worst about the property which was deposited at The Coffee Pot on the night that the fire raid was made on London. A number of things have been irretrievably lost and the rest damaged, for even the contents of the safes did not escape. The details of the loss were given to the members at a meeting held on Saturday at the Holborn Viaduct Station Restaurant. The hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) had spent much time in the work of salvage and visited the site three times. On the second occasion, in company with Messrs. Charrington's representative, he salvaged the contents of the small old safe, which was not fireproof. The greater part of the contents had been destroyed. A few scorched minute books were saved, but all the rest was useless. The safe, falling from the first floor into the cellar, had been burst open.

On the third visit the smaller fireproof safe was removed and had to be cut open. The greater part of the contents had been destroyed. The larger safe was opened after much trouble, and all the property inside was found to be much damaged.

Of the property saved, the 'pence box' was found only slightly scorched. It contained £1 6s. 5d. in coins that were much discoloured.

The mace stand and gavel were scorched, but repairable. The silver cup, presented by Mr. E. H. Lewis on the occasion of the tercentenary, was quite sound, but will need cleaning and regilding.

The two tercentenary record books were both badly damaged and the covers and binding ruined. The pages, however, can be cleaned and re-bound. The letter book was not much damaged, and the old name book, restored by Mr. E. A. Young, had the cover damaged, but the book is readable. The framed print of Canon Ellacombe needs reglazing, and the late M. A. Wood's peal book was found in fair condition with cover damaged.

Composition book, 'Campanologia,' and five minute books all had covers badly damaged, but the printing is quite readable.

The small peal book, containing a list of bills and inventory 1755-1792, had the cover damaged, and the covers of the two photo albums have been rendered useless. The audit book was scorched but readable, although the cover is useless, while the pages of the Pettit testimonial were intact, but the cover useless.

The three sets of handbells, the cup bells, muffles, gramophone records, older minute books, membership certificates, ancient vase and all other books were destroyed.

This, of course, is a sorry tale, but it is gratifying that some at least of the property can be restored. Such as was salvaged is now stored in a vaulted cellar at the Whitechapel Foundry.

The nine members present at the meeting expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the hon. treasurer for the great pains he had taken over the salvage of the property. A letter from the proprietress of the Coffee Pot was read, in which it was stated that the brewers had promised her a house in the vicinity of St. Paul's and expressing the hope that the society will again make its home there when she reopens.

A message of sympathy and good wishes was brought by Mr. Fred Collins from Mr. W. H. Barber and the rest of the Newcastle ringers. Steps to find a temporary meeting room where members can ring handbells, etc., were discussed.

An interesting letter from Mr. L. Fox, one of the younger members of the society serving with the Forces, was read, in which, in sending his good wishes, he wrote: 'In common with every other member of the society, the passing of the Coffee Pot was a sad blow. Directly I heard about it I began thinking of the happy times I had spent there. As a matter of fact, they were all happy times, except, of course, when we learned of the passing of members.'

'What struck me when reading "The Ringing World" was the fact that the faithful few were—with one possible exception—among those who kept the society going during the last war. The future generations of College Youths will undoubtedly have cause to remember them with gratitude. When we have won this World War No. 2 I hope that their services will not go by unnoticed by the present generation.'

Nine was a very good muster for the meeting considering that a violent snowstorm was raging all the morning. As usual, a warning went during the meeting, the first in the City since the previous Sunday.

DEATH OF MR. H. J. MEE.

A WELL-KNOWN SUFFOLK RINGER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. J. Mee, of Sproughton, who passed away on Saturday, December 28th, at the age of 70.

The funeral service, which took place at Sproughton Parish Church on New Year's Day, was choral, special hymns being sung. After the committal prayers a course of Grandshire Triples was rung over the grave by C. F. Mee (nephew) 1-2, C. Mee (brother) 3-4, C. Rivers 5-6, and F. Rolfe 7-8.

The deceased was a member of the Parochial Church Council and had been a ringer at the Parish Church for many years. He had taken part in over 100 peals, and his last wish was to have his peal cards buried with him. One of his greatest delights was to teach beginners to ring.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

PENDING RESIGNATION OF THE HON. TREASURER.

The various calls of national service, transport difficulties and illness of some members were no doubt causes responsible for the very meagre attendance at the Midland Counties Association meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Of 32 committee members, only nine were present, and of ordinary members numbering several hundreds, two turned up. Pte. Barnabas Key, of Wolverhampton, who is stationed in the vicinity, was a welcome non-resident member, and the total of 13 was made up by Miss White, of Cotgrave, who kindly brought some correspondence from her father, Mr. W. E. White, the association's hon. treasurer, who was ill with cardiac-asthma. Owing to other duties, neither the president (Canon Fitzherbert), nor the general hon. secretary (Mr. E. Morris) could be present, so the chair was taken by the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison.

The committee meeting began at 3 p.m. in St. Peter's Church Room and the discussions were so protracted that it was nearly 5 p.m. when the business finished. As only two ordinary members were present at 4 p.m. when the general meeting was scheduled to commence, these latter sat throughout the remainder of the meeting and no general meeting was held.

After much deliberation, it was decided to publish a report for 1940, and, with a view to making this as accurate as possible, members are asked to notify the general hon. secretary of any alterations, details of members serving in the Forces, etc., before the end of this month.

The election of two auditors presented something of a problem, as neither of the ordinary members present could undertake this duty. The secretary will, therefore, communicate with two suitable members, named at the meeting, to ask for their co-operation in this matter.

Owing to the uncertainty as to whether Easter Monday will be a Bank Holiday, it was decided that the annual meeting, to be held at Nottingham, should be on the Saturday before Easter Sunday, i.e., during the afternoon of April 12th, the arrangements being left in the hands of Mr. Salter, secretary for Nottingham District.

Owing to ill-health and advancing years, Mr. W. E. White wrote to say that he would be unable to continue as hon. treasurer after the annual meeting, and, much as the committee regretted it, they felt it would be an injustice to Mr. White if they refused his resignation.

Nominations for a new treasurer and for the other official posts of the association are, therefore, solicited, and these should be in the general hon. secretary's hands by March 12th.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE.

SOME NOTABLE PEALS AT IPSWICH.

The company of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, has sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. Charles A. Catchpole, which took place on January 10th in his sixty-fourth year.

The funeral, on the following Thursday, was at All Saints' Church, Ipswich, and among the mourners were his widow, sons, daughters, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. Mr. W. P. Garrett and Mr. George E. Symonds represented the St. Mary-le-Tower Society. There were numerous wreaths, including one from the ringers.

Mr. Catchpole will be greatly missed by his many friends, to whom he was endeared by a genial nature and his almost unlimited store of anecdotes. As a member of the talented band at St. Mary's, he had taken part in many meritorious performances. They included the first peals ever rung of Superlative Maximus, Yorkshire Maximus, Pudsey Maximus, Rochester Maximus, Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus and York Maximus, as well as peals of Forward, Duffield, Cambridge and New Cambridge Maximus. He rang 11-12 to a peal of Grandshire Cinques on handbells, and 9-10 to one of Caters. In all he rang 100 peals on twelve bells, about half being Cinques and half Maximus.

His total list of peals was 293, of which 118 were rung for the Norwich Diocesan Association and 175 for the Suffolk Guild. He called one peal, Kent Treble Bob Major at Henley in Suffolk.

Mr. Catchpole's connection with the St. Mary-le-Tower company lasted for upwards of 34 years, and he bore a name which was associated with the belfry for a much longer time still, for his father, William L. Catchpole, was one of the two men who more than anyone else put Ipswich in a unique place among twelve-bell bands. He and James Motts, both of them excellent composers and conductors, worked together in perfect harmony for many years without jealousy and without friction, and they had their reward in the establishment of a band which in method ringing stands entirely by itself among twelve-bell bands. Motts died on January 21st, 1923.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS' A History of the Society

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

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THE DEATH OF MRS. SNOWDON.

THE FAMILY'S WORK FOR RINGING.

As we briefly recorded in our last issue, the death occurred on January 6th of Mrs. Laura Snowdon, widow of the late Mr. William Snowdon, who died in 1915. Had she lived until May, Mrs. Snowdon would have been 92 years of age. She had been in failing health for a good many years, devotedly nursed by her daughter, Miss Margaret Snowdon. Seven years ago she became blind and for the past three years was a complete invalid.

As Miss Archer, of Stockton-on-Tees, she married Mr. William Snowdon in 1883, when he was practising as a civil and consulting engineer in Leeds. They retired to Cartmel in 1913, but Mr. Snowdon lived only two years to enjoy the well-earned rest after a life of great activity.

Although Mrs. Snowdon was little known to ringers, she was a great help to her husband when new ringing books or editions were being published in the Snowdon series, as she was a most accurate proof reader.

The funeral of Mrs. Snowdon took place on the 9th inst., the service being held in the Priory Church at Cartmel, where for so many years, before she removed to Newby Bridge she was a regular worshipper. The interment took place in the churchyard in a grave next to that of her husband, the Rev. Laurence Dykes, Vicar of Cartmel, officiating. It is a coincidence worth recording that William Snowdon's father, the Rev. John Snowdon, Vicar of Ilkley, Yorks, for 63 years, laid to rest in Ilkley Churchyard some of a past generation of Dykes, and now, three generations on in this family, the Vicar of Cartmel should lay to rest the last of her generation of Snowdons.

WILLIAM SNOWDON'S CONTRIBUTION.

No one family has done such great service to the Exercise over so long a period of time as have the Snowdons. Everyone recognises the value of Jasper's work, though perhaps younger generations do not fully know all they owe to what he did sixty years ago. It was his supreme excellence that he not only knew a great deal about the practical side of ringing, but he was able to teach, and his books are still the standard works for the simpler methods.

But Jasper Snowdon's work, with all its excellence, would not have been fully available to later generations had it not been for other members of his family. He died at a comparatively early age, and before he had published all he had written. It well might have been that much of what he had prepared would never have seen the light of day and that the books he did publish would, when the first editions had been sold out, have become rarities in the hands of older men.

This is where his brother William performed his greatest service to the Exercise. The book on Grandsire which Jasper had left unfinished he completed with the efficient help of C. D. P. Davies, and he saw to it that when the earlier editions of his brother's books were sold out they were reprinted, so that a steady supply has always been available for each succeeding generation.

To this there was but one exception. 'Double Norwich' was never reprinted, probably because there was not sufficient demand for it to warrant the cost. In a sense this was a pity, for no other text book had dealt with any one method so completely and withal so clearly from the point of the average ringer. It formed the model on which Sir Arthur Heywood based his excellent book on Duffield.

William Snowdon did not content himself with merely reproducing his brother's work, though he was always thoroughly loyal to the tradition the other had left. When the time came that 'Standard Methods' had become somewhat out of date, he gave it a thorough revision, altered the selection of methods, and brought the book up to the needs of the time. He did more. He employed Davies to write the book on Stedman, which Jasper had projected but had left in only a fragmentary state.

William Snowdon served the Exercise in other ways, and some of them were ways in which only a man like him could act. The Central Council and associations like the Yorkshire Association have benefited enormously from the very fact that they have had as leaders men of the character and personality of William Snowdon.

THE GOOD WORK GOES ON.

In the year 1915 he died, but the good work wrought by his family did not cease.

The gracious lady who has just passed to her rest full of years and of honour carried on the work. Not only were the books still kept on sale, but a project which William had formed before his death was carried out, and C. D. P. Davies was commissioned to incorporate Jasper's fragments in the Surprise Major methods in a book which appeared in 1927.

Still later, when increasing years compelled Mrs. Snowdon to relinquish active work, the tradition was carried on by Miss Margaret Snowdon, who had already been her mother's capable and enthusiastic helper. She, as much as her father and mother, fostered the sale of the books, and as editions were exhausted, saw to it that they were reprinted.

When Davies' Stedman was sold out and the impossibility of re-issuing the book at the same price had to be faced, instead of resigning herself to allowing the book to lapse, she arranged for an entirely new book to be written, and courageously faced the very heavy outlay of capital involved. The same thing has happened with regard to

(Continued in next column.)

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A HANDBELL CONTEST.

Prize Goes to Sheffield Air Raid Distress Fund.

The annual meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th, when the following towers were represented: Cawthorne, Eastwood, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Sandal and Wath.

A handbell contest was held in the afternoon. It had been arranged with the hope of inducing more of the members to take up this form of ringing. Two bands, Eastwood and Felkirk, competed. A big entry had not been expected, but it is hoped that this will be the foundation of something greater.

At the general meeting which followed, Canon W. E. Wilkinson (hon. president) occupied the chair and was supported by the president (Mr. E. Brookes).

Before commencing the business the Chairman announced that Mrs. C. D. Potter, the widow of the late president and one of the founders of the society (Mr. C. D. Potter), had passed peacefully away that morning, and the members stood while prayer was offered by the chairman.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H. Potter and Mr. A. Panther.

The auditor's report on the balance sheet showed a loss on the year's working of 15s., this being due to the non-payment of subscriptions, which had fallen 50 per cent. in 1940 compared with 1939. This, the report said, is no doubt due chiefly to the ban on tower-bell ringing and with it the cancelling of the annual shield contest, which used to bring a large number of members into touch with the treasurer and a consequent substantial increase in receipts. There is no doubt, however, that as soon as the officers can get into touch with these members this matter will be put right.

The report of the hon. secretary (Mr. D. Smith) showed that twelve meetings had been held during 1940 apart from the annual meeting. The average attendance before the ban on ringing was 17; the average attendance after the ban was nine. This, considering all the difficulties, was really as much as could be expected. Seven new members were elected during the year and three had been lost by death, viz., Mr. A. Walker, Pontefract; Mr. T. Dunbireh, South Kirkby, and Mr. F. Mortemore, Ecclesfield.

FUNDS TO BE INVESTED IN WAR SAVINGS.

The officers were all re-elected. The result of the handbell contest was then announced by the judge, Mr. C. Robinson (Cawthorne). Felkirk got through with 61 faults and Eastwood with 65 faults.

The prize for the competition was provided by the president (Mr. E. Brookes) and took the form of a £1 note, the condition, to which everyone agreed, being that the winning team should forward it to the Sheffield Air Raid Distress Fund.

This, with the help of the Rector and the judge, and a collection taken among the members, enabled a sum of £2 10s. to be handed over to the chairman to be forwarded to the fund.

The question of the society's account with Barclays Bank was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed to withdraw the whole of the balance and invest it in the war savings to help the war effort. It was also agreed that, as this would mean the closing of the account with this bank, the treasurer should open a new account for any further deposits with the Yorkshire Penny Bank, as this was deemed to be more convenient.

It was decided to arrange the next meeting at Silkstone on Saturday, February 8th.

Mr. Moxon (Sandal) proposed that the heartiest thanks be accorded to the Rector for all he had done for the members' comfort, for the help he had given in allowing them to use the Rectory Room free of charge and for conducting the meeting.

The Rector, in reply, said he was always pleased to welcome ringers and to help them in every way he could. It was a good thing to think that the work of the society had been carried on and that twelve meetings had been held in a year when the ringing of church bells had been banned entirely. He wished the society every success in the future.

This concluded the business and the party then adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where a good meal was partaken of, after which the rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and social intercourse.

The methods practised during the evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and Major and Oxford Treble Bob Minor. The best piece rung by both bands in the competition was 300 changes of Bob Minor.

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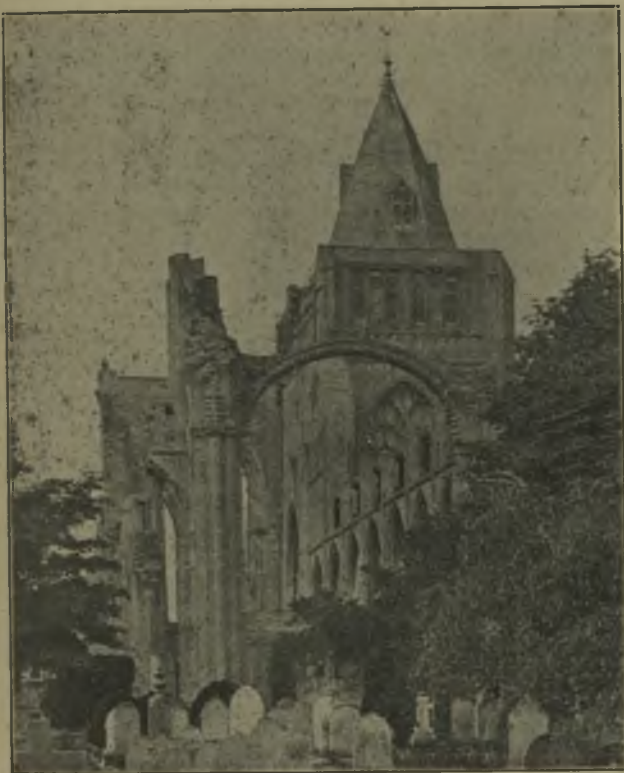
(Continued from previous column.)

'Standard Methods.' Since the present war started a new edition has been printed, which is an entirely new book, in which the Exercise has been given the advantage of the great alteration which has taken place in recent years in method ringing, and of the modern ways of learning and ringing methods.

Over forty thousand copies of books in the Jasper Snowdon Change Ringing Series have been sold. That fact alone will show something of the influence they have had in spreading a knowledge of ringing, and what ringers owe to the family of Snowdon.

FIRST SET OF BELLS EVER HUNG.

THE RECORD OF CROWLAND ABBEY.



PARNELL'S VISITS TO CROWLAND.
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The first set of bells ever hung in England is supposed to be at Crowland Abbey. In support of this supposition I beg to give a copy of an entry taken from the original Manuscript Book of the late John Alfred Parnell, of Sheffield.

'The first Set of Tuneable Bells in England was put up (say hung up) in the Tower of Crowland Abbey, in Lincolnshire (near Holbeach and Spalding), which was a Musical Peal of five about the year 900—or a little before that time or period of the Christian Aera.

I, (John Alfred Parnell) paid this once large Gothic Building—now most of it in Ruins except the North Aisle which is Patched up or rather say slightly Built up for Crowland Abbey Parish Church—a walking visit in October 1814—and found only 5 Bells. When I descended the very low West End Gothic Tower on Examining it I say very minutely and the old Inhabitants informed me (the Grandsire Ringers also) there were never any more than 5 Bells at one time. These 5 Bells were not the Originals—some of them cast as late as 1783 and one in 1788 by Mr. Arnold of the Town of Leicester.

I have paid the Ruins of this once large Abbey 3 Walking Visits—in 1809, in 1812, and 1814.

The Town is a very small one situated in a very flat part of the County of Lincoln and has an old Gothic Bridge—Built Triangular—with three entrances on to it from three different Streets, and suppose it was Built in 600 or 700 of the Christian Aera—its like is not in Great Britain says the *Gothic Traveller*

John Alfred Parnell.

SIDNEY F. PALMER.

Sheffield.

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THE REVERSAL OF COMPOSITIONS.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

In a recent letter to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Edwin Barnett drew attention to a peal of Stedman Triples which James W. Washbrook used to call and which he described as Thurstans' Reversed. It had a single at 2, and Mr. Barnett asked if, and how, such a peal was possible.

He has been answered by two men, Mr. Lindoff and Mr. Powell, both of them competent experts, and we need add nothing to what they say. The general subject of reversal is, however, an interesting one and may be worth a few minutes' study.

The composition Washbrook actually called seems not to be known, but in justice to him it should be pointed out that he really did know a great deal about Thurstans' peal and twin-bob composition generally, and when he wrote that he had called so many variations of Thurstans' peal that he could not remember which he actually called on that particular occasion, he no doubt was stating the literal truth.

To begin at the very beginning, we must be clear that reversal means starting from the end and going back to the beginning in reverse order, and a true and complete reverse variation is that and nothing else.

But the term, like all similar terms, is used in a rather wider sense, and is legitimately so used, provided the main underlying principle is there. What we will do now is to see what that underlying principle is. To follow what we are going to say, it is most helpful to do experimental pricking and to test by examples every point as we come to it.

First let us take any one of the standard Major methods, say Double Norwich, and examine the full plain course. If we follow the changes or the work of the bells either singly or collectively from the first row to the last, and then turn to the last row and similarly follow the work backwards to the first row, we shall find that both are exactly similar. In other words, if we start from 13254768 and prick out a full course we get exactly the same result as in the plain course, the only difference being that the order in which the rows come is reversed. That is an example of a full true reversal.

This reversal must not be confused with another sort of reversal, which is implied when we speak of a Reverse method, such as, for instance, Reverse Bob; for methods have two dimensions, breadth as well as length, and the work and the rows can be reversed from front and back as well as from beginning and end. This second sort of reversal does not concern us at present.

Double Norwich Major we find, when reversed, gives the same method as in the original version, and the same thing happens in every method on any number of bells, which has one hunt only, and is nowadays considered as 'regular.' But it does not happen in 'regular' methods which have two hunts, or, as the ordinary saying is, have a treble and a bell-in-the-hunt. Test a plain course of Grandsire Triples as we just did the plain course of Double Norwich Major. If we start with 1325476 and write out a full course we shall not get the same rows as in the plain course, but something quite different. It follows from this that no reverse variation of any touch or peal of Grandsire can ever be quite as true and complete a reversal as can one in Plain Bob or Double Norwich Major. It is true that, if we select the appropriate

(Continued on next page.)

HOW REVERSAL WORKS.

CONTRAST BETWEEN GRANDSIRE AND DOUBLE NORWICH.

(Continued from previous page.)

point to reverse from, a course of Grandsire Triples does reverse true, but that avails nothing when bobs are made.

Next let us examine a touch of Double Norwich made up by bobbed and plained leads.

This touch is produced by bobs which come at the first, sixth, eighth and thirteenth lead ends. If we turn to the end of the touch and count the position of the bobs backwards we shall find that from that direction also they come at the first, sixth, eighth and thirteenth leads, and if we start with 13254768 and ring the same touch we shall have the same rows but in the reverse order.

A touch or a peal in which this sort of thing happens is said to reverse to the same thing, and it is due to the symmetrical positions of the bobs. But this sort of thing does not always happen. Sometimes the positions of the bobs counted from the end to the beginning are different from those counted from the beginning to the end. For instance, in a well-known touch the bobs counted from the beginning are at the first, fifth and ninth leads; but counted from the end are at the third, seventh and eleventh leads.

A touch starting from rounds with bobs at the third, seventh and eleventh leads would be the reverse of the original touch, but it would not contain the same rows as our first examples did.

It would also part the tenors and so not be of much practical value, but this is met by making the term 'reverse' cover some variation from the strict counting from the end as from the beginning.

All the touches and peals with which we are at present dealing are round blocks, and they can be illustrated by the face of a clock. We will suppose rounds to be at 12 and the touch to follow the movement of the minute hand round to 12 again. The various hours will stand for the bobs, only they will not be all at the same distance apart.

If we start again at twelve o'clock and go round the face, but this time in anti-clock fashion (that is, though, 11, 10, 9, 8, etc.), until we once more reach twelve o'clock, we shall have the reverse variation. But we can start from a different point. We can start, say, from nine o'clock, and go round to nine o'clock again, and if we go anti-clockwise we still have what we reckon as a reverse variation of the original composition.

We have, therefore, four degrees of reversal. First we have a reversal which not only repeats the work of the method and the order of the bobs, but also the actual rows in the opposite order. Then we have a reversal which repeats the work of the method and the bobs in the opposite order, but does not repeat the actual rows. Then we have a reversal which repeats the bobs in the opposite order, but does not repeat either the method or the rows in the opposite order (reversals of Grandsire are examples of this). And finally we have a reversal which repeats the bobs only, in the opposite order, but which starts from a different point.

All this applies to Stedman Triples, but there are two peculiar features in that method which rather complicate matters.

The first is that the usually accepted division of the course into alternate Sixes, although convenient for most purposes, is not really the scientific division. The Six is not the equivalent of the lead in other methods, nor are two Sixes, one quick and the other slow, following each other. The real division is the first twelve changes, from the middle of the whole pull when one bell leads quick, until the middle of the whole pull when the next bell leads quick.

The question has often been debated why Stedman originally began his Principle in the middle of a Six instead of having first a whole quick Six and then a whole slow Six. So clever a man as C. D. P. Davies thought it was more or less a piece of eccentricity, and ringers for many years have reckoned their peals from 2314567, and not from 1234567.

But Stedman knew what he was about, and the composers who followed him knew too, as we can see from what Thomas Melchior, the Norwich man, wrote. They instinctively recognised the first twelve changes as the correct unit of the method. It would have been better in almost all ways if the fourth row of the quick Six had been taken as the equivalent of the lead end.

The second thing is that the wrong change is taken as the course end. Custom has decided that the course end should be the last row of the Six when the seventh is dodging in 6-7 up after having been in quick. It should have been when the observation bell is striking its second blow on the lead when leading full as a quick bell.

Everybody who has rung any of the more complex methods, and many of those who have only rung the simpler methods, will have noticed that in the plain course (and so in every other natural course) there is a place where the work reverses and where the ringer proceeds to do again what he has already done, but in the opposite order. There is one of these 'turning' places at every lead end made by a different bell each time.

If we want to get a true reversal of a composition we must reverse from one of these 'turning' places; and if we do not want to change our observation bell we must reverse from the change where that bell is making its turning place. In the case of ordinary peals of Stedman Triples, that means that we must reverse from the change in which the Seventh is leading its whole pull as a quick bell. All that part of the composition which is included between two Singles must be reversed from that point. The course which contains exactly the same rows as the plain course, but in the opposite order, is 5643127.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

'HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. E. Bailey's letter gives the impression that the reopening of St. Bride's tower to ringers was entirely due to Mr. Cross and Mr. Bevan. This is not so. For nearly 20 years after that unfortunate peal by the Bristol men, following so closely on one rung there by the late Mr. W. Pye, Mr. Arthur Hardy tried all he knew to induce the then Rector to remove the ban, but with no success.

When the present Rector was appointed soon after the last war, in company with the late Mr. J. D. Matthews, he renewed his efforts, this time with success. It is to these gentlemen that the credit belongs. Sunday ringing and practices were resumed and the Rector became a member of the Cumberlands. He also took an interest in ringing generally, preaching on one occasion at a ringers' service at Shoreditch. I believe he also gave permission for a peal attempt, which was unsuccessful owing to the bad go of the tenor (Mr. Walter Ayre will correct me if I am wrong).

I would not for one moment attempt to belittle the efforts of Mr. Cross and Mr. Bevan in carrying on the good work. We are grateful to them for it.

Mr. Bailey's experience of St. Bride's and ringing there is considerably less than ten years, and his letter is one of those instances where 'little knowledge is a dangerous thing.'

E. BARNETT.

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.

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbell ringing in the belfry from 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in Parish Room at 4.30 p.m.—J. C. Dean, 4, Court Road, Northampton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting, at the café (opposite the church).—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke-Regis, Weymouth.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 25th, at 3.30 p.m. A substantial meat tea will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a social evening, including handbell ringing until 8.30 p.m., at an inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. per head. Reports will be available at this meeting.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, January 25th. Service in Cathedral at 3.15, meeting and tea at the Lion and Lamb afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Church House, South John Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, February 1st, at 4.30 p.m. Handbells will be available from 2.30. A good attendance is hoped for.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1st, at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, at 2.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Nottingham, on Saturday, February 1st. Handbells available from 2.30. Business meeting for election of officers 3.30. Will members please make an effort to attend. All ringers welcome. Own arrangements for tea.—F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, February 1st. Bells (7), without clappers, and handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before January 29th. The fourth annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 5.50 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from me on or before February 10th. Please apply early for tickets.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting, at Burbage, will be held at the Chequers Inn, Lutterworth Road, on Saturday, February 1st, at 6 p.m. Good bus service. Handbells and cheerful company. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Fosseyway, Croft, Leicestershire.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but *send names for tea* to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Please note that in future meetings of the branch will be held on the second Saturday in every month at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair). The next meeting is on February 8th, from 2.45 p.m. Handbells, tea and meeting.—A. M. Tyler, Sec.

DEATH OF MRS. C. D. POTTER.

As briefly announced in our last issue, the death occurred on Saturday, January 11th, at her residence at 35, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, of Mrs. C. D. Potter. Deceased was 80 years of age. Although she was not very well known to ringers generally, all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance will miss her happy smile, for she was of a cheery disposition.

Mrs. Potter was the widow of Mr. C. D. Potter, late president of the Barnsley and District Society and founder of the society. He died about 18 months ago.

* Mrs. Potter had not been well for a long time, but it was not until after Christmas that she became seriously ill.

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