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THE EDITOR.

When we wrote on another page that all readers of 'The Ringing World' will learn with regret of the serious illness of the Editor, we were not just using the journalistic formula which is usual on such occasions. Mr. Goldsmith has, during a ringing career which is approaching the half-century, created for himself a position which is unique in the Exercise, and is based not only on his proprietorship of this journal, but on the personal esteem and friendship of hundreds of ringers throughout the country.

It is one of the fine traditions of English journalism that an editor, while he has to praise and write much of the good work other people do, must never allude to what he himself has done, and this is the first opportunity which has occurred of pointing out to ringers something of what they owe to 'The Ringing World' and to its Editor. There are, no doubt, hundreds who need no such pointing out, but there is always a tendency for people to take their blessings for granted and not to appreciate them fully until they lose them.

How much the prosperity of the Exercise and the ringing associations during these last thirty years is directly due to 'The Ringing World' is difficult to say, but this at least is certain: that the Exercise as it is at present organised could not function without the help of a weekly paper. There was a time when it seemed very doubtful if such a paper could exist. For many years 'The Bell News' had supplied ringers' needs, but it was carried on largely by the financial support of Sir Arthur Heywood, and when the man who was its editor died, and the paper passed into other hands, its days were numbered.

A new journal was needed, but the difficulties in the way were enormous, and it is quite safe to say that in the whole Exercise there was but one man who had the necessary qualifications to surmount them. The situation called for a man who was not only a skilled ringer, but also a trained journalist and competent reporter, one who thoroughly understood the technical side of making up a paper, and, above all, one who had faith in himself and his work, and was prepared to face the financial uncertainty. For the very great good of the Exercise, Mr. Goldsmith rose to the occasion.

The first number was published on March 24th, 1911, and except for the few months when he was on the memorable visit to Australia and a different series of articles was substituted, this is the first week in which he has not himself written the leading article. That, in itself is no mean achievement. It needs a very wide

(Continued on page 86.)

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and varied knowledge of ringers and ringing to write week by week, year in and year out, something which will give ringers at least one thought to help them to carry on with their work or to stimulate them to further advance. This the Editor has done.

Since the beginning of the war, Mr. Goldsmith has done his share in the national effort, and as food controller for the Woking district has fully employed his time and abilities in an important sphere outside the ringing Exercise. His present enforced inactivity will necessarily last for some weeks, but we have full trust and faith that before long he will be enabled to resume his activity to ours and the Exercise's great content and benefit.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5065 CHANGES,

Tenor size 15 in C.

SIDNEY HARRISON	...	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	...	5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE...	...	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	...	7-8
			JOSIAH MORRIS	...	9-10

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Specially arranged and rung for S. Harrison, of the 7th Leicesters, who was home on leave. This is his first handbell peal, and he is to be congratulated on the way he rang his bells throughout, having had little practice. Mrs. Poole heard the last portion of the peal.

READING, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 14, UPPER REDLANDS ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

ARTHUR WIGGINS...	...	1-2	ALBERT DISERENS	...	5-6
WALTER HUNT	...	3-4	THOMAS N. LANAGHAN	...	7-8

Conducted by A. DISERENS.

Umpire: Richard T. Hibbert.

First peal on handbells by all.

GUILDFORD RINGER A PRISONER OF WAR.

Official notification was received last week by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bristow, of Camelot, Old Farm Road, Guildford, that their son, Sergt. Donald Eric Bristow, R.A.F. (V.R.), was missing. On Tuesday the German radio announced that he was a prisoner of war. Sgt. Bristow, aged 20, is a wireless operator and machine gunner. He was the most promising of the young ringers of Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, Guildford, under the conductorship of Mr. A. H. Pulling, and rang his first peal about three years ago with his pal, Mr. Victor Elliott, who is also a sergeant in the R.A.F. (V.R.), and is engaged on similar duties. Last November Sergt. Bristow had a narrow escape from death when he was wounded in the leg. He resumed duty a month ago.

ILLNESS OF MR. J. P. HYETT.

The many ringing friends of Mr. J. P. Hyett, of 2, Dulas Terrace, Hay, Hereford, will learn with regret that he has been confined to bed for over three months with heart trouble.

Mr. Hyett represents the Hereford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council, he is assistant secretary to the Hereford Diocesan Guild, hon. secretary of the Northern Branch of the Swansea and Brecon Guild and peal recorder to both guilds.

He has done a lot of spade-work for ringing, teaching and helping young ringers through their first peals. He himself has rung about 270 peals, and in pursuit of ringing has cycled thousands of miles.

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DOUBLE NORWICH ON HANDBELLS.

A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Next Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of a peal which forms an important landmark in the development of double-handed handbell ringing, for on Monday, February 23rd, 1891, at Trinity College, the Cambridge University Guild scored the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob in hand. The band was made up of the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey, who rang 1-2, E. Banks James 3-4, Henry Law James 5-6, and Charles A. Clements 7-8. The same four had previously rung Bob Major in November, 1890, and three of them had taken part in the first peal by the Guild, Bob Triples, six months earlier.

Law James called the Double Norwich, and the composition, by his brother, was the earliest of a type of peal which has always been popular with the Cambridge University men. Throughout 5-6 are always either in their home positions, or are coursing.

Double-handed handbell ringing was a rather late development in change ringing. It was not until the opening years of the nineteenth century that it was a generally recognised branch of the art. As early as 1754, the Cumberlands rang a course of Oxford Treble Ten, and two years later a course of Treble Twelve, but it was not until 1811 that the Sheffield men rang the first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major. The Norwich men rang early peals of Bob Major, and the London men rang Grandsire Triples in 1840 and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques in 1854.

By that time any advance in method ringing had practically ceased, even on tower bells, so it is not to be wondered at that men's ambitions in handbell ringing were centred in Stedman and did not reach to any other even-bell methods than Plain Bob and Treble Bob.

It is to the credit of the Cambridge men that they were the first to break fresh ground. Other bands followed in time. The College Youths were the first to ring Superlative Surprise, and the brothers Pye with Mr. W. Keeble rang Bristol and London. The fine performances of the Bushey band in Spiced Surprise Major will be remembered by all.

LONDON AND NORWICH RIVALRY.

A FOOTNOTE TO THE HISTORY OF STEDMAN.

The extract from the 'Norfolk Chronicle' of June 6th, 1789, which was sent us by Mr. C. E. Borrett, and which we printed last week, supplies a very interesting footnote to the early history of Stedman's Principle.

Readers of the 'History of the College Youths' will remember that in 1785 a band of that company visited Norwich to attempt a peal in which they were not successful. After the failure the local men went up into the belfry, and, to show their skill, rang a touch of Stedman Cinques. It was a new method to the Londoners and greatly took their fancy, so that when they got home they began at once to practise it, and in 1787 they rang the first peal of Caters. In the next year, after the two companies into which for some time the original society had been divided, had become reunited, they rang at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the first peal of Cinques.

The leading men among the visitors in 1785 were the three authors of the 'Clavis,' which was then in preparation, and after the rest had gone home, one of them, Thomas Blakemore, stayed behind to gather material for the new book. He stayed with Christopher Lindsey, one of the Norwich Scholars, and was supposed to have copied surreptitiously papers which his host had prepared for a book the Norwich men intended to write themselves.

Whether true or false, the tale was believed, and caused much ill-feeling in Norwich, so that when the Clavis did appear, the Norwich Scholars were almost the only one of the leading provincial companies that did not support it.

It would seem from the latest piece of information that the London men, flushed with pride at the success of their long peal of Cinques, determined to go to Norwich and ring another, so as to show off before the men who had introduced Stedman Cinques, but had never rung a peal of it.

The Norwich men always considered that they were at least as good as any Londoners, and this challenge and the earlier incident excited their strong resentment, so that, when the College Youths arrived in the city, their reception was so unfriendly that a 'fracas' took place between the rival parties and the College Youths returned home in disgust.

It is a little strange that no memory should have survived of this visit among the strong traditions preserved by Osborn of the ill-feeling caused by the earlier visit, but the evidence of the contemporary newspaper is quite good enough and certainly there was at least one man in Norwich who thought that the Londoners had not been fairly treated.

FIRE GUARDS FOR CITY CHURCHES.

The special committee recently set up by the Bishop of London, Dr. G. F. Fisher, for carrying on the work of the bombed City churches is also to see that fire watchers are provided for churches not already destroyed.

In some cases the staff of the church will assume the responsibility; in others members of the regular congregation may take on the duty. There remain a number for which it may be necessary to engage paid watchers. City church finances are, however, difficult, despite the fact that some vicarages have been converted and let as office buildings.

USE OF CHURCH BELLS AS A WARNING.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARLIAMENT.

The widespread doubt which exists throughout the country as to what part church bells are expected to play as warnings in the event of a hostile invasion is shown by questions asked last week in the House of Commons.

Mr. Wedgwood (Soc.) asked what exactly was to be the alarm signal for invasion, if anything was to precede the church bells, especially in London, and if those in the Services or civilians were to receive any general advice as to action or inaction, whether by day or night, at work or at home.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Wedgwood may be sure that these matters are not neglected, but I hardly think they are conveniently dealt with at this moment by question and answer in the House.

Mr. Wedgwood: The Prime Minister will realise, I hope, that it is urgently important that the people of this country, civilians as well as military people, should know what to do and what the signal should be that starts the balloon going up (laughter).

Mr. Churchill: Exactly—and at the proper moment the information will be imparted.

Mr. Thorne (Soc.): Will the Prime Minister consider the advisability of broadcasting as soon as he knows that invasion is coming?

Mr. Churchill: I have no doubt that some public comment will be made (laughter).

The majority of people appear to think that if the enemy attempts to land in this country all the church bells, wherever they are, will at once be rung. This opinion seems to be shared not only by church parsons and officials, but also by some of the civil and military authorities.

This, however, was not the original intention as shown by the wording of the order. It was to give notice to those concerned that enemy forces had been landed or were being landed, by aeroplane or parachute from the air. Obviously it was to give a local and immediate warning.

The exact wording of the Order is as follows:—

1. No person shall, in any area in Great Britain, sound any church bell or cause or permit any church bell to be sounded, except for the purpose of making a signal, in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's forces or the chief officer of police for the area, to indicate that members of an enemy force are landing or attempting to land or have landed from the air.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT IRTHLINGBOROUGH.

A most encouraging and satisfactory meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irtlingborough on Saturday, February 8th, when ringers and friends were present from Finedon, Wellingborough, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Wilby, Mears Ashby, Easton Maudit, Wollaston, Bozeat, Earls Barton, Burton Latimer, Warkton, Keystone, Addington and Surfleet, besides members of the local band.

In the absence, through illness, of the Rector, the service was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, curate at Finedon Parish Church, who gave an interesting address. After referring to the Rector's illness, he said how pleased he was to see such a fine gathering, despite present conditions, and went on to discuss the comparison of our lives with those of the bells.

The organist was Mr. E. J. Holloway (Wollaston), and the collection for belfry repairs amounted to 13s. 3d.

Tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall and 53 members sat down to it, a much larger number than had been expected. The wives of four of the local ringers worked hard for the comfort of the visitors.

At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the president, the Rev. J. H. Marlow.

As a token of respect to the late Rev. E. C. Thursfield and Mrs. Thursfield, the members stood for a minute in silence, and sympathetic reference was made to the illness of Mr. A. H. Martin, of Higham Ferrers.

For the next meeting it was decided to await an invitation to Irchester, where Mr. C. Payne is trying to get the bells fitted with silencers.

The secretary's report and balance sheet, which showed a balance of £1 11s. 2d., were accepted. The membership now stood at four honorary life, 11 honorary and 146 ringing members.

The officers were all re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. J. H. Marlow; secretary, Mr. A. Bigley; Ringing Master, Mr. J. R. Main; Branch Committee, Messrs. A. Y. Tyler, C. Payne and A. Boddington; Central Committee, Messrs. G. Basford and A. Plowman. The auditor, whose work was appreciated, was Mr. E. W. Johnson.

On the proposition of the president, it was decided to form a committee to see that the bells, in towers where it was needed, could be looked over occasionally, and Messrs. F. Barber, G. D. Deighton and A. Bigley were appointed. Mr. Marlow suggested that it was advisable to include particulars of peal boards in the church inventories.

After a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. J. Mawby and seconded by Mr. F. Barber, to all concerned, had been passed, the climax of the evening was the cinema display by Mr. R. Richardson, of Surfleet. The Australian tour and films of famous ringers were shown, and, thanks to the friends from Glyn Garth, an instructive and very interesting evening was spent. Handbells were used by some of the visitors when time and opportunity permitted.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Some of the men who had rung in the first peal of Grandsire Triples at Great St. Mary's in 1724 took part in the second in 1734; there were also John Ball, a gardener, John Saville, a baker, and Samuel Roe, who rang the tenor. Roe was a Master of Arts and Fellow of Trinity. He was afterwards Vicar of Stotfold, in Bedfordshire, and the author of a controversial book written against John Wesley and the Methodists, 'as the most probable Means to banish corrupt Notions out of our Thoughts by suppressing the wild and impure Torrent of Enthusiasm.' He told the famous preacher and evangelist that 'your principles, wherever you borrowed them from, are very erroneous and wicked.' Like all such books on dead and gone religious controversies, it is exceedingly dry and arid and totally unreadable.

Charles Mason attained to a position of considerable dignity in college and university. He became Fellow of Trinity in 1736, Doctor of Divinity in 1749, and Woodwardian Professor of Geology from 1734 to 1762. From 1760 to 1762 he was senior dean of Trinity, an office which in later years was held by another distinguished member of the Exercise, the Rev. A. H. Boughey, sometime president of the Central Council.

Dr. Mason's interests were scientific rather than classic when such a mental attitude was comparatively rare in the English universities, and it was said of him that, 'owing to his devotion to mechanical art generally, and in particular in ringing, he sacrificed to Vulcan much more than to the Graces.'

In the belfry of Downing College there are three manuscript volumes which contain his notes and investigations into change ringing. There is also a manuscript by him in the British Museum, but it has no reference to ringing. He died on December 18th, 1770, in his seventy-second year. Henry Mulliner died on October 29th, 1785, in his eighty-sixth year.

Another very distinguished member of the Cambridge Youths was Richard Dawes who joined the society on April 1st, 1931. He was a Leicestershire man born in 1708, near Market Bosworth. He matriculated at Emmanuel College in 1726, and in due course graduated B.A., became Fellow of his college and proceeded M.A. He became a candidate for the office of Esquire Beadle but was not elected, the reason being thus given by his biographer. 'When care for his health compelled him to rouse himself out of the state of bodily inactivity into which his leisure and studies had brought him, he chose bellringing as an exercise, and being of an athletic frame of body and impelled in everything he engaged by such a genius as could not stop at mediocrity, he quickly became leader of the band, and carried the art to the highest perfection.' But our author goes on to tell us that Margaret, daughter and heir of John, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, was said to have bequeathed a certain allowance of ale to the ringers of Great St. Mary's, 'in which Dawes made no scruple of indulging after a long lesson in campanology, and on such occasions he seasoned the nut brown draughts with a spicing of wit and humour in which he was rich and overflowing when his spirits were high enough to bring him into the kind of company in which he delighted.'

Dr. Paley's father is cited as the authority for this statement, and the writer goes on to say that this 'asso-

ciating with companions unsuited to a gownsman, and amusing them with humour and opinions which became the subject of conversations and were at variance with the prevailing opinions of the University led to his being rejected when he offered himself for the office of Esquire Beadle.'

This was written in 1828, and the author was judging the early Cambridge Youths by the ringers and standards of his own time. Dawes' companions in the belfry included Dr. Mason, the Reverend Samuel Roe, and the Reverend Mr. Windle, besides a number of worthy and respectable townsmen, but evidently he had strong and not very complimentary opinions about some of the great men in the University and was not over particular as to who should know it.

Dawes left Cambridge and became master of the Grammar School at Newcastle-on-Tyne, but he was not a success there, and his life was not a happy one. He ultimately retired to Haworth, where he died in 1766 practically insane. He kept his love of ringing until his death, though he took part in no peal. His claim to fame rests on the fact that he was one of the greatest Greek scholars England has ever produced. He joined the College Youths in 1735.

Richard Dawes was one of those rare men who, both in greatness and in weakness, stand outside ordinary society, and cannot be judged by ordinary standards.

Readers of Jasper Snowden's history of Grandsire Triples will perhaps remember that he quotes a letter from John Webster, of Norwich, to Dr. Mason, in which the writer says he had sent to the Rev. Mr. Windhall 'an infallible rule how to make any proper peal on all numbers that go with a quick hunt.' The Mr. Windhall referred to was William Windle, who was the son of a grazier at Hadleigh, in Suffolk, and was admitted to Caius College, Cambridge, in the year 1724. He took orders and held some preferments in the Church. He was a man of considerable intellectual capacity, and wrote a book entitled 'An Enquiry into the Immateriality of Thinking Substance,' a philosophical and theological treatise and a contribution to the deist controversy which at the time was exercising the minds of thinking men.

Windle was among the subscribers to John Holt's broadsheet, and was himself a composer. He was not the least distinguished of the Cambridge Youths.

Throughout the eighteenth century the Society of Cambridge Youths remained an active and flourishing company. It consisted mainly of tradesmen of the town, with a number of professional men and some few University men.

Among its members were James Griffiths, who was Mayor of Cambridge, John Hazzard and John Robines, members of the town council, Humphrey Argent, an organ builder, and James Bennett, James Crowther, John Hewitt, and William Robson, musicians and singers connected with the choirs of the colleges and the parish churches. Richard York was an attorney-at-law, and John Bowman a parish clerk. Others were gardeners, whitesmiths, leather cutters, ironmongers and members of suchlike trades. One was a cook at King's College, and another a baker at Trinity. Two or three were undergraduates.

After the Grandsire Triples in 1734, the company had little ambition in peal ringing, but in 1769 a misfortune befel them which, in the end, stirred them to greater activity.

AN EARLY TWELVE BELL BAND

In that year the tenor at Great St. Mary's was broken, and Charles Day and a Mr. Pafis exerted themselves to collect money for its restoration with such success that, not only was the bell recast in September, but in the following year two trebles were added by Pack and Chapman to complete the full ring of twelve.

Cambridge was thus the third provincial town to possess a ring of twelve bells. The earliest, at York Minster, was not suitable for change ringing, and had already been replaced by a ring of ten.

Charles Day, who had joined the Society on May 31st, 1750, and was a surveyor of taxes, and a man of position, now took the lead in the company. The band was already a skilful one, and, not many months after the new bells were hung, by ringing 5,610 changes of Grandsire Cinques on Christmas Eve in the year 1770, they gained the honour of being the first provincial company to score a twelve-bell peal. It was rung six days after the death of Charles Mason.

Charles Day rang the eleventh and called the bobs. The other ringers were William Young, who was a farrier, John Laughton, the Yeoman Beadle of the University, John Sanders, an ironmonger, John Incarsole, William Robson, who was an organist, Joseph Gee, a bookbinder and stationer, Thomas Jones, a weaver, John Hinkin, who is described as a gentleman, William Greaves, a cabinet maker, Joseph Crowther, one of the choirmen at Trinity and St. John's Colleges, and Richard Widnell, the cook of King's College.

John Incarsole was totally blind, but notwithstanding 'was remarkable for his extensive knowledge of the art of ringing and other musical professions.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SILKSTONE.

Members of the Barnsley and District Society were present at the meeting held on February 8th at Silkstone from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

Handbells were rung in the afternoon and tea was followed by the usual business meeting, with the president, Mr. E. Brookes, in the chair. Mr. Chant moved the best thanks to the local secretary for the splendid arrangements he had made and for arranging the splendid tea which all had enjoyed so much.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and social intercourse. The methods practised were Grandsire Doubles, Plain, Double and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Plain and Gainsborough Major spliced.

It is hoped to arrange the next meeting at Darfield on Saturday, March 8th. This will be announced in 'The Ringing World' in due course.

GOOD STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Reference has occasionally been made in 'The Ringing World' to the excellent striking of St. Paul's Cathedral bells to Stedman Cinques on Sundays, and I have not heard elsewhere anything to equal it.

Credit is due to the band for such fine performances, but it should be noted that only Stedman is rung year in and year out.

The St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, company, however, never knew what was to be rung for the Sunday services until the bells were raised, and a course of the Surprise Maximus method then decided upon would be tapped off remarkably well.

If time permitted, a touch of Stedman or Grandsire Cinques would immediately follow, but the striking of this, I must admit, was inferior to that previously accomplished.

W. J. G. BROWN.

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J. A.
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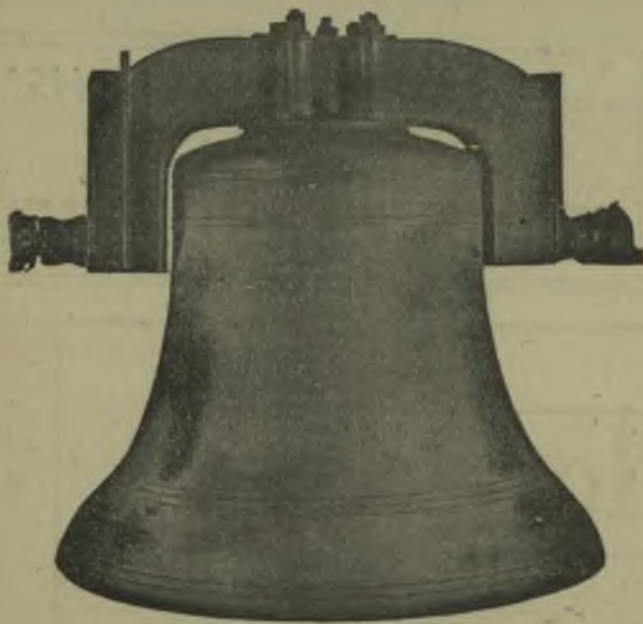
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MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE EDITOR.

All readers of 'The Ringing World' will learn with regret that the Editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, was taken seriously ill on Wednesday night in last week and had to be moved at once to hospital.

A preliminary operation was successfully performed during the early hours of the morning, and a major operation will be necessary in the course of about 18 days.

Fortunately the trouble was tackled without any delay and, although the matter is serious, no undue complications are feared.

The latest report as we go to press is that Mr. Goldsmith's condition is very satisfactory. Will any friends who wish to enquire by telephone ring up Byfleet 370 after 7 p.m.?

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. C. E. Wigg, Vicar of Chearsley, and Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, is to be married at Hayes Parish Church on February 24th. The good wishes of his many friends in the Exercise and particularly in the Oxford Diocesan Guild will go out to him on that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hough, whose wedding is announced on another page, have both been ringers at Knutsford for about ten years.

After the handbell peal at Reading, the band were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins, and touches of Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung. The umpire, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, tells us that he was very pleased with the quality of the striking.

The 'Mad Hand' reciprocates the good wishes of Paymaster Lieut. C. Glem, R.N.V.R., and expresses earnest hope for an early reunion.

If sufficient funds are available it is intended to take down the bells of St. Clement Danes and store them in a safe place until the end of the war. The church has already twice suffered from enemy action.

On the grounds, evidently, that if you make up your mind to do a thing it is as good as done, so why not say it is done? 'Observer,' who contributes a weekly column to 'The Observer,' writes as follows in last Sunday's issue:—

It is pleasant to know that the Bells of St. Clement's, so famous in legend and nursery rhyme, are now safely buried beyond reach of the Hun, not to be resurrected till the bells of London unite in ringing Hitler out to his own place. There are some ghosts who should make a point of being present on the occasion: the Doctor himself, whose church at Streatham and whose workroom at Gough Square have both been desecrated; Canute (as representing the Danes), Mrs. Thrale (for old acquaintance sake), Nell Gwynn (for the oranges). As for the lemons, they might stand for our answer to Hitler.

By the way, St. Clement Danes has for a number of years claimed to be the St. Clement's whose bells talk about 'oranges and lemons,' but we doubt if there is any real authority for the claim. We should like to know who was the author of that famous nursery rhyme and when it first appeared. Can any of our readers enlighten us?

In a recent air raid the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, which, according to tradition, was said by Queen Elizabeth to be 'the fairest parish church in England,' and which contains a noble ring of twelve bells, was hit by a high explosive bomb as well as by incendiaries. Happily no serious damage was done.

Nathan J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, one of the best known composers of an earlier generation, died on February 18th, 1914, at the age of 67.

The year 1777 was one of the most notable in the whole history of change ringing. Among other events the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was then at its height. On February 17th the former secured the record for Treble Ten by ringing 10,000 changes at Shoreditch. They lost it in the following May and regained it nine days later by ringing 11,000 changes.

Henry Haley, for many years a leading London ringer, and, in the end, the principal bob caller in the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1819.

On the same date in 1751, John Holt called a peal of Grandsire Caters for the Union Scholars at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

The Oxford University Guild was formed on February 20th, 1872.

Mr. W. H. Barber performed a remarkable feat at Gateshead on February 21st, 1908, when he rang and conducted a peal of Stedman Triples blindfolded.

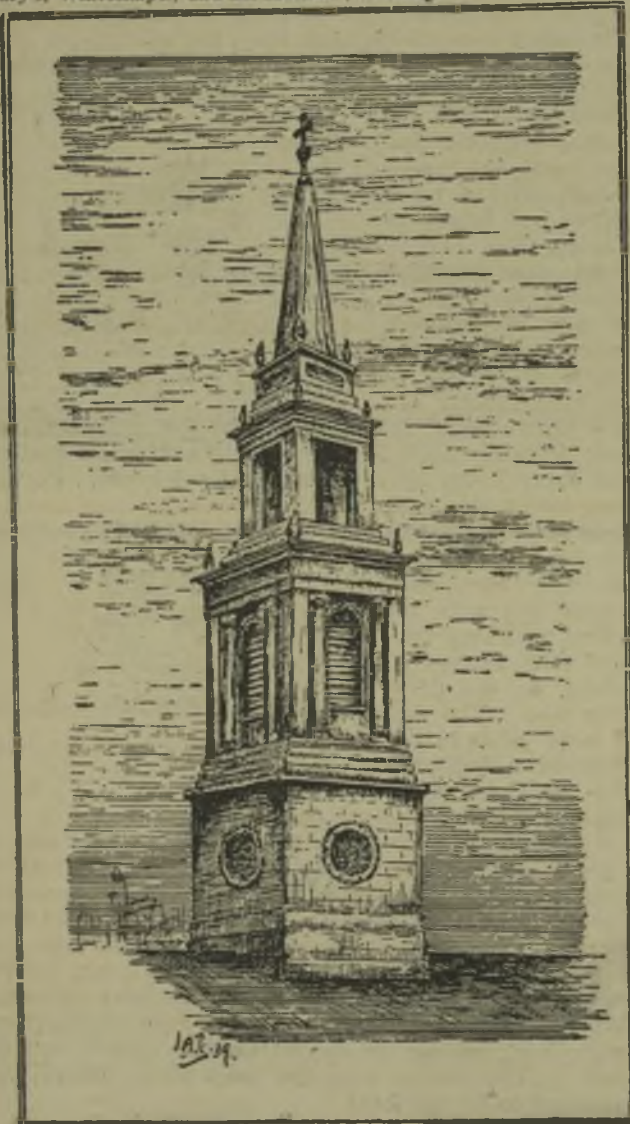
Fifty years ago to-day ten peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Union Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2.

LOST LONDON BELLS.

THE FATE OF THE RING AT CRIPPLEGATE.

Whenever it is announced that a church has been damaged in an air raid, ringers naturally wonder whether it is one of those they know and what has been the fate of the bells.

For obvious reasons, particulars cannot often be published or names given until the lapse of some weeks, but now and then the authorities, very wisely, release full details almost as soon as the disaster has happened. Thus we were enabled to let our readers know of the fate of the bells at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Mary's, Whitechapel, and All Hallows', Barking.



ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD.

There were other churches which suffered about the same time. They were mentioned by name, but it was difficult to ascertain exactly what had happened to the bells. Of them the best known are St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. John's, Waterloo Road.

The worst has, we fear, happened to Cripplegate bells. The whole parish was practically destroyed, nothing is now left in the surrounding district but ruined walls, and any approach to the church is impossible.

A person whose connection with the church enabled him to visit the ruin writes as follows: 'The church and vicarage have only the walls standing, the tower was burnt out, and the cupola has gone. As far as I can see, some of the bells must have crashed, but have not fallen right through. All the woodwork, including the stairs, has gone. In the church there is nothing left, everything that could burn or melt has gone, including the peal board at the west entrance.'

The board referred to was one erected at the base of the tower by the Vicar and churchwardens to record a peal of Stedman Cinques (Continued in next column.)

FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

3.—PECKOVER HILL.

Another little known name, yet one of a capable ringer, and of a well-to-do and respected man of business. He was married at St. Michael's, Coslany, on July 14th, 1793, to Ann Russell, and was buried at the same church on September 29th, 1850, aged 75.

He was 'Headman' of the Mancroft Company in 1821 and also in 1845, but whether uninterruptedly between those years I am not able to say. So far as I can trace, he rang in only six peals, and, oddly enough, they were all of different kinds:—

1809.—5,040 Bob Major, at St. Giles'.

1813.—6,272 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at St. Giles'.

1817.—5,016 Double Norwich Maximus, at St. Peter's.

1827.—5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, at St. Peter's.

1831.—6,160 Double Norwich Major, at St. Michael's.

1832.—6,000 Double Oxford Major, at St. Giles'.

In addition, in 1831 he rang in 4,884 Stedman Cinques, when the bells came home a course too soon, owing to a mistake on the part of Samuel Thurston, who was calling it.

Although the following, taken from the 'Norfolk Chronicle,' is outside the province of a ringing journal, it is interesting as a sample of the times in his day.

'DISCLAIMER.'

'We are particularly requested to state that the name of Mr. Peckover Hill, Manufacturer, of St. Michael's at Coslany, was introduced into the list of the Manufacturers who have declared their adhesion to the cause of Messrs. Gurney and Ker without his knowledge or sanction, and in direct opposition to the principles which it is well known he professes. If this (says our correspondent) is to be deemed a specimen of the art of getting up addresses and requisitions, as practised by the Reformers of Norwich (which there is every reason to suppose it is), we must say this much, that we think a winning party would never use such paltry means to impose upon the credulity of the public, and of the gentlemen who have offered themselves as candidates for the honour of representing their interests in the Reformed House of Commons.'

ERIN DOUBLES.

THE PROBLEM OF COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following notes do not profess to be in any sense exhaustive, but, written as they are in non-technical language, they may be of some help to 'Puzzled.'

In the first place, Erin is based on the slow six of three bells, viz.:
 123 If bobs are called in the interior of the six, this three bell work
 213 is necessarily disturbed. Indeed, any six-score that could be
 231 obtained would break up the three-bell work to such an extent
 321 that all resemblance to Erin would be lost. So we may lay it
 312 down as an obligation that bobs be called only at the parting
 132 of the sixes.

A true six-score of Erin would consist of 20 sixes, 10 of them being positive and ten negative. To avoid repetition each of the positive sixes (the same applying to the negative sixes) must have a different pair of bells in 4-5. The pairs in the Plain Course are 53, 31, 12, 24, 45. Thus there remain to be introduced 52, 23, 34, 41 and 15. These same pairs must also all be used once and once only in the negative half. Further, in starting from rounds, all rows will be positive which are produced plain or hobbled. After one, or any odd number of Singles, all rows will be negative: after an even number of Singles the rows will be positive.

If a Bob be made between any two sixes by a third's place instead of fifth's, the same pair of bells will be kept in 4-5, the result being that the last six changes will be repeated, though in a different order. Taking this in conjunction with what has been written above, it follows that the use of Bobs is altogether excluded, and we are confined to the employment of Singles alone if we are to get a true six-score.

With the problem thus reduced to its simplest terms, 'Puzzled' may like to try his hand at obtaining a six-score with Singles only; but I fear he will not succeed in getting one true. (Perhaps I ought to add that a pair bells, e.g., 2 and 5, can appear at the six-end as either 25 or 52, so long as each pair occurs once and once only in the positive and negative portions respectively.)

Also Singles can be called on the bells in 4-5 in the interior of the six without disturbing the three-bell works.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

E. S. POWELL.

(Continued from previous column.)

rung by the Middlesex Association on May 6th, 1935, in honour of the silver jubilee of King George V. It was conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles.

The Church of St. John, Waterloo Road, was hit by a high explosive bomb some time ago and seriously damaged. The roof has gone and all the interior fittings, but the men who built this did their work well and the walls stand. The tower and spire appear to be the least damaged part of the building. The louvres are still in the windows of the bell chamber, and if they are of wood, and not slate or stone, it is probable that the bells are safe.

The six bells at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, may have come through untouched. The very fine steeple, Wren's latest and one of his best, appears to be all right, though the church itself is gutted.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELL-CAGE. WOOD FRAMES THROUGH THE CENTURIES

(Continued from page 80.)

Following the two improvements mentioned in the last issue, the next noticeable stage in the development of the bell cage was to do away with the brace ties and their framing. The heads were then lengthened to that of the sills, what was formerly the brace tie being framed on to the ends of the heads and becoming the head of the end frame (Fig. 8). The cage for three at Iford is an example of this type. It contains three bells

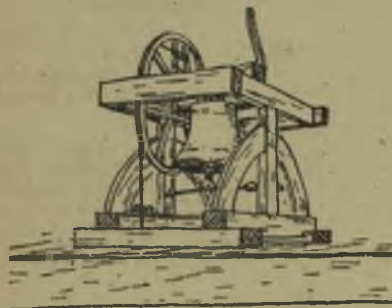


Fig. 9.

of early fifteenth century date, probably the same age as the cage. There is a dated example, 1652 A.D., of this type of cage at Dilhorn, Stafford. The sills show it is a late example, as the plates are missing. The average height of this type is about five feet, but as time passes the cages get

lower and lower until in the nineteenth century they reach the other extreme. The head struts or jack braces were next discarded (Fig. 9) and replaced by end-posts, and at the same time the braces were housed into both head and centre-post (Fig. 10), which again proved a retrograde step. The cage at Botolph's is a fine example of this type; it contains a ring of three cast in 1536. By now it was usual to brace the end frames as is shown in Fig. 10.

At this time the carpenters often moulded the edges of the grooves or sinkings in both heads and centre posts. A most elaborate example is to be seen at South Malling, where there is a cage that was evidently intended for a ring of four, but only the tenor pit was completed. The braces were again lowered and fixed only to the centre post.

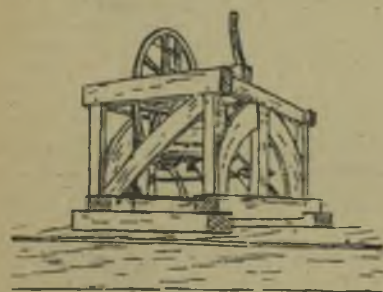


Fig. 10.

1655 and 1671 respectively. Rustington appears to be a reconstruction of an earlier type.

The next development seems to do away with the end posts, a dated example is at Newick, in 1682. A most important step was next taken. The carpenters for several centuries had kept on moving the position of the top joint of the braces. At last they broke away from tradition and the brace was fixed direct to both head and sill. At Donnington is a transitional type with braces from head to sill and retaining the centre-post. I am inclined to regard this cage as a local reconstruction of an earlier cage of the same type. Bury has a cage,

containing bells of late sixteenth and early seventeenth century date, which has dispensed with the centre-post altogether; a bold step, but one in the right direction. Up to the present type the bells have, as a rule, been hung in a row, generally roped the same way, especially in the earlier examples.

A great advance is shown in the cage at Beddingham, dated 1709. It is for a ring of four, each pit is placed against a side of the tower, leaving a space in the centre. The bells are roped the same way, but by the fact of being in a circle greatly reduce the strain on the tower. The plates under the sills have been dispensed with, and instead, the sills are framed together like the heads, the braces being stiffened by a set of jack braces at the top (Fig. 11).

By the mid-18th century another set of jack braces were introduced from the centre of the sill to the main braces. The jack braces were dispensed with by the nineteenth century, it being again found, as in the fifteenth century, that many joints were a source of weakness. Perhaps the greatest advance, since dispensing with the centre-post, was to bolt the head braces and sills together with long vertical bolts, instead of relying on the draw bore pin. The day of loose joints in the truss of a bell-cage had gone for ever, provided the steeplekeeper did his job.

It is difficult to see where any improvement can be made in the modern timber cage (Fig. 12). When given the attention it deserves, it does its job as well as any of iron or steel, and, what is more, will outlast them by centuries. He would indeed be a rash man who prophesied that the modern steel cage will last for 700 years like some of the examples that we have been considering. Even now, some of these metal frames look rather sick, having barely reached the half a century mark. The timber cage has been tried, proved, and found not to be wanting.

G. P. ELPHICK.

MR. C. KENNETH LEWIS' EXTENTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—By general consent greater latitude is permitted in methods on five bells than in those on the higher numbers to compensate in some degree for the small scope offered by Doubles. But there are limits. I can hardly believe that either the Central Council or practical five-bell ringers will countenance a call (Mr. Lewis' so-called Single) which alters the work of every one of the five bells.

If this is Erin—!

E. S. POWELL.

TREBLE BOB AND CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE. A COMPARISON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not think what Mr. C. W. Woolley says about Treble Bob should go without being contradicted. Treble Bob is a good method, and Cambridge Surprise, which Mr. Woolley and others seem to think so much of, is only Treble Bob spoiled. At least it is so musically.

A COUNTRY RINGER.

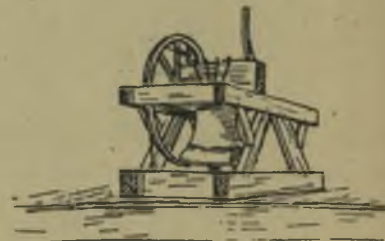


Fig. 11.

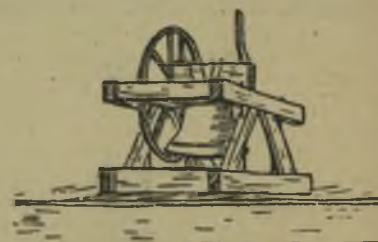


Fig. 12.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE OPINIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL RINGER.

In the long run a method is good or bad in so far as it fulfils well or ill two distinct purposes. One is to provide something which will interest the men who are practising it, the other to produce music which will satisfy the ears of the people who are outside the belfry as well as those who are inside. For neither of these two can there be an absolute standard. What interests one man or one band will not necessarily interest another man or band; and opinions and tastes differ widely as to what is good music in bellringing. We have, however, the experience of the Exercise during more than two centuries to guide us, and there are some general principles and considerations which are worth studying in this connection.

There are several features in change ringing which attract the ringer and make it worth while for him. There is the physical delight of handling a bell, there is the æsthetic delight of music and rhythm, and there is the intellectual delight of performing a more or less intricate method. To the majority, perhaps, the last is the most important.

When a band attempts a peal they set themselves to accomplish two tasks. One of them, which is the business of the band as a whole, including the composer and the conductor, is to ring a given number of changes without ever repeating a single one. No ringer by himself can ensure that; he does not know what changes actually are rung, and he does not concern himself about the matter.

What does concern him is the particular work which he himself must do, and his business is to see that in doing it he makes no mistake.

A method, therefore, can be looked at and judged in two ways. It can be considered as a means of producing true changes and it can be looked at as a means of giving the individual ringer a definite work.

When we study the one, we use the figures which represent a lead; when we study the other we use the skeleton course. They are equally important and, indeed, complementary to each other. As the old records used to say, a peal must be without the repetition of a single change and with never a bell out of course.

Many men at different times have attempted to set up standards and to lay down rules to decide what should be considered as a good method, but in the majority of cases their opinions have been spoilt because they have judged entirely from the lead and ignored the skeleton course.

For the individual ringer a peal really amounts to a long-drawn-out and complicated journey through the other bells. This idea of a journey and of movement is the idea which did in fact create the art of change ringing and which still dominates it from first to last. Yet curiously enough it has been totally overlooked by most of those experts who have done so much by their work and their writing to develop the scientific side of ringing.

As soon as we recognise this idea of ringing as a journey we can see that the things which attract and interest the ringer are very similar to those which attract and interest him when he is taking a physical walk across country.

When we go for a walking tour, what are the things we most desire? They are variety, novelty, comfort,

good companionship, and enough difficulty to give us at our journey's end the satisfaction of having done something. Sometimes we forgo the comfort for the sake of the difficulty; sometimes we shirk the difficulty for the sake of the comfort. We are just like that when we go for a peal, and we react to our surroundings in a quite similar way.

The things we most of all try to avoid in our physical journey are monotony and boredom. No one would willingly walk, for instance, along a French military road that goes mile after mile across the country as straight as a rule. It is the quickest way, no doubt, to get from one place to another, but it is killing. So, too, in a method the one deadly sin is monotony.

But it is not easy to say offhand what does create monotony in a method. It used to be the fashion some years ago to talk about the monotony of the long courses of Treble Bob, and to praise in contradistinction the short courses of Duffield and Forward. General experience has reversed that verdict. The great popularity of Treble Bob during two centuries is sufficient evidence that the majority of ringers have not found it monotonous, though some may have done so. And Duffield and Forward, for all their apparent advantages, have failed just because they did prove monotonous in use. Those methods should be a warning to us not to give a final judgment on any method before it has stood the test of actual practice.

The marked decline in the popularity of Superlative, which once was so highly praised, may confidently be attributed to the monotony of the five-pull dodges, and the same thing spoilt the chances of Double Oxford Bob and Norfolk Surprise, both of which at one time were likely candidates for the honour of being included among the standard methods.

Now, among the newer and as yet fully untried Surprise methods there are several which have four-pull dodging behind or in front. Some of them seem to have the necessary qualities for a standard method. Will this four-pull dodging bar them? It is difficult to say. We have had considerable experience of these methods, and to us a four-pull dodge does not seem to be so very excessive, but that may be accounted for by the novelty of the thing.

Variety, which is the antithesis of monotony, was the first thing we said was desirable in our walking tour, and we appreciate the same thing in our journey through a peal. Variety is not the same thing as difficulty, for there is plenty of variety in Double Norwich Major, for instance, but very little difficulty.

When William Pye's band was ringing their series of Spliced Surprise Major peals, one of the methods given them was Peterborough. Peterborough, on the face of it, should be an excellent method, but the work consists largely of backward hunting in the four front positions and then backward hunting in the four hind positions. The method was included in one of the peals, and previously the band thought they would like to ring a five-thousand of it. They had one attempt, but the method proved so uninteresting from lack of variety (though it was by no means an easy method) that they all agreed it was not worth ringing to a peal. Variety, and not particularly difficulty, is the great attraction in spliced ringing.

(Continued on next page.)

REMINISCENCES.

BY A VETERAN NOT QUITE SO TOUGH.

The reminiscences of 'A Tough Veteran' are interesting and give a chance for others to follow up. 'What brought me into touch with bells and ringers?' he asks and answers.

My own beginnings were much more clear-cut than his, and hang on two incidents only. The first was a great national rejoicing, and the second a muffled peal. The 1887 Jubilee celebrations made up a great day. As a chorister I took part in a civic service at the Cathedral, where a massed choir from the parish churches was accompanied by the fine band of a regiment of Hussars quartered in the city. For this service the Cathedral organist had composed a *Te Deum* in B flat, and it opened with a long roll on the drums. The effect was electric, and I can hear those drums now.

A sumptuous lunch followed the service, and then, as a schoolboy, I was due to take part with thousands of other scholars in a children's fete in the Market Square, during which we sang the National Anthem, 'God bless the Prince of Wales,' etc.

A big church dominates the square, and, as we were assembling, these bells were doing their part with a vengeance!

Like the roll of the drums, the firing of the bells made an indelible impression on me, and for days after I wondered how the job was worked. No one could tell me, for, like 'Tough Veteran,' I had no forebears or relatives in the business, but I kept on thinking about it. Jubilee Day didn't mean to me Queen Victoria, but rather the roll of military drums and the firing of bells!

Two years went by, and one evening I crossed the same square, and heard booming out of the big tower some very different sounds to those of Jubilee Day. It greatly attracted me, and I asked bystanders what it meant. One said he thought it was a muffled peal for someone recently dead. I stayed until the end of the ringing, and on my way home determined to find out about this bellringing and to become a ringer myself. The following morning the local newspaper told its readers the muffled peal was to the memory of one of the city clergy who was also secretary to the Diocesan Association of Ringers.

Fate must have had a hand in it, for less than 13 years after the muffled peal I became secretary of that same association! But that is getting ahead of the story. My mind fixed on becoming a ringer, I made enquiries of a friendly parish clerk, and found the ringers of the city had a whole series of towers at their disposal, which they visited as fancy took them. The ring of twelve in the Market Square was headquarters with a fortnightly practice, but there was no Sunday ringing anywhere.

So when I heard bells going I tracked them down, and sometimes saw men going in or coming out of the steeple doors. Once or twice someone would say, 'Hallo! You here again?' which was not very encouraging to me with strong ambitions burning under my waistcoat!

Months of this sort of thing went on, and harvest festival, 1890, time arrived. At a church with a fine ring of six the ringers met one night in September to ring for the festival. I plucked up courage and followed the men up the stairs and watched the ringing, and afterwards a gruff member of the company asked if I was interested and would like to become a ringer. I jumped at it, and he at once wrote me out a lot of figures and arranged to meet me the next night to start teaching me to pull a bell. He, like all his comrades, was a stickler for mastery and style, and no one had a chance of ringing rounds or changes until it was certain the ringer, and not the bell, was top dog. Unfortunately this sort of thing has somewhat died away!

I still have the dates of my early efforts. Thus I find, on tower bells, September 24th, 1890, first attempt at pulling a bell; February 9th, 1891, first course of Bob Minor; May 11th, 1891, first 720; February 18th, 1892, first 1,008 Bob Major; and February 29th, 1892, first 5,040, seven 720's Bob Minor. A good deal of handbell ringing was also done during this period, which helped enormously.

By present-day standards my progress was absurdly slow, but, looking back, I am glad I was so well 'blooded,' and taught that striking was the thing.

I also feel glad that most of my ringing has been done without the help of 'expert' conductors, a species I look upon with suspicion. It is better to ring in a peal where one man 'calls the bobs' than when the whole band is 'conducted' by the conductor!

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

One thing which strongly appeals to many travellers is rapidity of movement, and we get the same attraction in peal ringing. Much of the good quality of London Surprise lies in the fact that a bell is always freely on the move, and the same thing in a different degree marks out Rutland, but on the other hand the fact that in Double Oxford Bob a bell goes from front to back and from back to front only once in a course, has a lot to do with the failure of the method to become a popular one.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

FIRST STEPS IN HANDBELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would first like to say what a pleasure it is to me to receive 'The Ringing World,' which I always read from cover to cover. Several questions in particular in recent issues have interested me.

Concerning the ban on bells it should not be very difficult to fix up an electric mechanism in each tower, so that by means of contacts placed at appropriate points on the bell-wheels, handbells hung in the belfry could be made to sound at exactly the same moment as the tower bell would have done. This is admittedly a poor substitute for the real thing, but as there doesn't appear to be any prospect of the ban being lifted soon, it would serve to keep the bells going till happier times, and even then would be useful on occasions when the bells could not otherwise be rung—for example, due to illness close to the church.

Readers may be interested to hear of the experience of a beginner on handbells. I had always looked on handbell ringing as beyond my capabilities, but as change ringing on tower bells in South Africa is practically unknown and I happened to get hold of a set of handbells quite cheaply, I naturally turned my attention to it. I failed to interest my friends in change ringing, but a few months back I met a clergyman and his sister who are experienced handbell ringers. We tackle Bob Minor, and I take 1-2 generally. I studied the work of those two bells in a plain course and we had our first practice.

I forget if we rang the plain course at the first attempt, but we were going for touches later on that same evening. Unfortunately, we are unable to meet regularly for practice (which I can see is essential if progress is to be made), and the result is that we have not yet rung a 720, but the few practices have taught me that to ring Bob Minor, at any rate on handbells, does not require the superhuman brain power I had imagined was necessary.

I find a practice tiring if there has been more than a week's interval since the last, otherwise it is a vigorous mental exercise and very exhilarating.

Last Sunday I rang the 6th to call changes at St. Paul's, Durban, a church which is mentioned under 'Bells Abroad' in your issue of July 19th, 1940. The conductor doesn't seem to have much difficulty in getting together a band, as nine turned up, excluding myself, on Sunday evening. All of the ringers at St. Paul's Church learnt to ring there, and have rung nowhere else. They are keen and I should like to help them to learn change ringing, but Durban is over 400 miles from Johannesburg, and this makes any attempt of mine to help them impossible, unless it can be done by correspondence.

In one of Mr. Trollope's articles he mentions a ringer named Dovey, who was ringing at St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, in the years 1770 to 1780. It is quite possible this man is an ancestor of mine, as my father's mother, who was born in Kidderminster about 1840, was a Miss Dovey before her marriage.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' continued success.

C. CHAMBERS.

16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg, South Africa.

DEATH OF TWO COSELEY RINGERS.

As briefly mentioned in our last issue, Mr. Benjamin Gough, of Castle Road, Tipton, passed away on Sunday, January 25th, at the age of 70 after a long and painful illness. He had been a ringer since 1887, ringing at Christ Church, Coseley, for many years, and later at St. Thomas', Dudley. During his long illness he was always talking of the happy hours he had spent in ringing famous peals in different churches in the Midlands.

Mr. A. E. H. Law, who was for long a member of the Coseley band, died on February 9th at the age of 75. For many years he had suffered from rheumatism and had to give up bellringing, but he still took a keen interest in it until the time of his death.

MARRIAGE.

HOUGH—NORBURY.—On February 15th, at Knutsford Parish Church, by the Rev. Norman Hook, Ronald, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hough, of 12, Hayton Street, to Ruth, youngest daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. George Norbury, of 26, Tabley Grove, Knutsford.

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NOTICES.

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

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent opportunity to practise method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 3.30. No arrangements for tea. Come along and meet old friends and have a social afternoon together. Handbells available.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, February 22nd. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30 at the Lincoln Arms Hotel (near High Bridge), followed by meeting and social evening. Bring your wives and sweethearts.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, at Deller's Cafe, High Street, Exeter. Tea 4.30, free to members. Business meeting to follow.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Handbells from 3 p.m., in the Old Oak Inn, Bradford Road. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good muster is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, February 22nd, beginning at 3 p.m. Handbells available, but owing to present circumstances no tea can be arranged. All members are requested to attend if possible.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid-up members at 1s. each; to other members and friends at 5s. 6d. each. All applications for tickets must be received by Saturday, February 22nd. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, March 1st. Six 'silent' bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells also available. It is necessary to elect two members for the general committee, so members please make an effort to be present. Please see that we have a better attendance than at the annual meeting. Names for tea should be sent no later than Wednesday, February 26th, to Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Bell Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 1st. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, February 24th? A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe, Promenade, Cheltenham. Will friends meet at above from 4 p.m.? Tea 4.30 sharp. We hope to have some good handbell practice, as some of our London friends are in the district. I must have names for tea by February 26th.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, March 1st. Tower bells available with the 'Seage silent apparatus' from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and meeting. Please notify for tea by Monday, the 24th inst.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 3 o'clock at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 1st, for the usual monthly meeting. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. No charge to those who send in names by Tuesday, March 4th, to Mr. F. W. Dixon, 1, Greenshaw Terrace, Guiseley. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

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