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SIX-BELL RINGERS.

Last week we printed a letter from Mr. Vernon Taylor, in which the writer in intentionally inflated language voiced the grievances and neglect of six-bell ringers. Eight-bell ringers, he said in so many words, get all the attention, and 'The Ringing World' never thinks that the poor Minor men deserve some articles about their branch of the art. We confess he is not without cause for complaint. There is a tendency, and always has been, for bands who enjoy the use of a full octave rather to look down on their less fortunate brothers who are restricted to six or even five bells. We ourselves, however, have never seen this feeling carried to such an extent as to make 'enthusiasts love to dance with consummate glee on the corpse of a six-bell ring, without the shedding of even a tear.' On reflection, perhaps, Mr. Taylor will realise that it would tax the abilities of even the conductor of a peal of Spliced Surprise Major to shed tears at the same time as he was dancing with consummate glee.

But, though in this respect Mr. Taylor may have got a little bit mixed, he is quite right in what we take to be his main contention. The six-bell ringers are, after all, as Sir Arthur Heywood was never tired of pointing out, the backbone of the Exercise, and they deserve neither neglect nor disparagement. There are possibilities in Minor ringing and a range of methods far beyond anything the average eight-bell ringer can ever hope to reach. The marvellous Spliced peals before the war showed that, and among six-bell ringers none was more distinguished than Mr. Vernon Taylor himself. Why, then, should not they receive equal treatment and have as many articles published for their benefit in 'The Ringing World' as the eight-bell men have?

Alas, the cases are not equal. The paucity of articles on Minor ringing is not because 'The Ringing World' willingly neglects the six-bell men, but because it has not been possible to write articles for them as for the others. After all, there are difficulties in composing good articles on ringing matters, and the wish and intention to write them do not remove the difficulties.

In a similar way, Mr. Vernon Taylor's complaint about the latest Collection of Doubles and Minor Methods concerns a matter which was, we believe, beyond anyone's control. We imagine that he had expected the question of Spliced ringing to be dealt with in such a way as to reflect the marvellous strides made by one or two bands (including his own) in that particular branch of the art, whereas the book confines itself to a more general and to some extent elementary treatment of the

(Continued on page 170.)

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matter. Two things were responsible for that. One was the limited space available in the book, the other that the average reader must be considered, and in his interests the very few experts must to some extent stand aside. It is by no means easy to strike the happy mean in these matters.

It is, we believe, generally known that the part of the Minor book which deals with Spliced ringing was entirely the work of Mr. Ernest Turner. Mr. Turner is not specially distinguished as a six-bell ringer, but he has shown that he is fully capable of taking a part with the most skilful six-bell bands, and can sympathise with and share the Minor ringers' outlook. We feel sure that he fully considered every available way of presenting the matter and selected the one which, in the circumstances, does best serve everybody's interests.

For the rest, Mr. Vernon Taylor should buck up. He need not be afraid that he and the other six-bell men 'are doomed to vanish into nothingness like a tale that is told.' Also there is not much sense in 'craving for a little sop.' What he wants is to go to the canteen and have a pint of beer, but whether it would be of any avail to go there at 'the eleventh hour' (a.m. or p.m.) we rather doubt.

HANDBELI PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 31, 1941, in *One Hour and Forty-Eight Minutes,*

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Cambridge Surprise, one each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and two of Plain Bob. Tenor size 11 in G.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4

EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

A birthday compliment to Mrs. Jennings and Miss E. H. Jennings. Fiftieth peal together by ringers of 1-2 and 3-4.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. George Williams is quite right on one point. The object of our letter was not to pick holes in Silchester Surprise, but to find out whether people do think it worth a place in the new book. The question is—should a method be recommended for general use if no peal of it is possible in which the tenors do more than three leads of their full work?

We do not suggest, of course, that the tenors should always do their full work in any peal that is rung. Short course peals of Double Norwich and Bob Major, In-and-Fifth peals of London, Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples, ordinary peals of Spliced Surprise, and peals in other methods, all give the lie to such an opinion. But those peals are optional, not compulsory. We are not tied to the three-lead course plan in Spliced, and efforts are being made to break away from it.

Neither do we suggest that Silchester is not worthy of being rung by any band which thinks fit so to do. What we are rather doubtful about is whether it should appear in the new book and so exclude another method, equal perhaps in all respects and free from what, however you look at it, is a grave defect. As we said, we have included it, but would be glad of other people's opinions.

We have had as much experience of Spliced Surprise ringing as perhaps any, and we are not inclined to accept Mr. Williams' opinion that it is not at all difficult. It is quite true that a first-class man who thoroughly knows the four standard methods, and has had practice in ringing them spliced, finds no particular difficulty; and the constant changes of method do actually serve the purpose of keeping his mind constantly on his work. It was a different tale, however, when Spliced Surprise ringing was a novelty, and it is still a different tale when the methods are unfamiliar.

We do not share Mr. Williams' opinion of Berkeley Surprise. Except that its five false course ends (A. B. C. D and E) allow peals in full natural courses with fourth's place bobs, it is inferior to Silchester, and is no more difficult to ring than scores of other methods.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE FOUNDER.

(Continued from page 159.)

Sir Arthur Heywood has often been described as a country gentleman. In the sense that he was a man of wealth and culture who lived in the country, he was a country gentleman, but he did not come of one of those families whose history and traditions are rooted in the soil. Maitland Kelly came of an old country family—and so did Earle Bulwer, but Heywood came from that remarkable new middle class which was produced by the industrial revolution of the late eighteenth century. Sprung from the ranks of the people, and often of puritan origin, they first amassed wealth, and then, after a long and fierce struggle, they broke the power of the old territorial noblemen and magnates, who for a long century had ruled England. From 1832 until the nineteenth century drew towards its end the new middle class supplied most of the rulers and magistrates of the country and no small part of the brains in every sphere of life. In one of his books Mr. Winston Churchill has described these men with his usual literary ability. 'Our country' (he says) 'draws its strength from many sources. In the last century and a half she has discovered fresh reserves of leadership in the men of the new middle classes, created by the expansion of enterprise and wealth which followed the Industrial Revolution. Without name or influence to help them, often with no money save what they won by their own efforts, these sons of merchants and manufacturers, of doctors, lawyers and clergymen, of authors, teachers and shopkeepers have made their way to the front rank in public life and to the headship of almost every great business by native worth alone. Their contribution to government has been rich and varied. It is impossible, looking back, to imagine what we should have been without them. Blot them from the pages, and how much is left of the political history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? Peel, Gladstone and Disraeli; Bright, Cobden and the Chamberlains; Asquith, Bonar Law and Baldwin are all swept from the scene.'

Sir Arthur Heywood's family was typical in almost every way of this class of men. There were Heywoods many centuries ago in Lancashire, and probably they got their name originally from the town of Heywood in that county. In the middle of the seventeenth century two brothers, Oliver and Nathaniel, were vicars of Coleby and Ormskirk, and both were ejected from the livings when the Church of England was restored after its temporary ruin during the Commonwealth.

Nathaniel's grandson Benjamin settled in Ireland at Drogheda and became a prosperous merchant. His two sons, Arthur and Benjamin, migrated to Liverpool, where Arthur was a banker. Benjamin afterwards moved to Manchester and founded the bank, which was the source of his descendants' wealth. His son Nathaniel married the daughter of Thomas Percival, a well-known medical man, a leader of the Lancashire dissenters, and an ardent social reformer. He is said to have been the earliest advocate of factory legislation.

The most famous member of the family was Benjamin, Nathaniel's son, and Thomas, Percival's grandson, who was known not only as a prominent and wealthy banker, but as a philanthropist who devoted himself to the improvement of the life and education of the working

classes. He was the leader of the Whig party in Lancashire, and was foremost in the struggle for parliamentary reform which culminated in the Act of 1832 and the triumph of the new middle class. For a time he was a Member of Parliament, and he received the honour of a baronetcy in 1838. When he died in 1865, his son Thomas Percival, the second baronet, carried on the family traditions, and among other activities was one of the founders of the Woodward Schools.

Arthur Percival Heywood was thus the inheritor of very marked and very noble family traits and traditions, and he was definitely the product of his race. His ideals and his standards were those of his family, but influenced and developed by the passage of the years. The same religious and public spirit which had made Dr. Percival a dissenter and Sir Benjamin a Whig, made Sir Arthur a staunch churchman and a Conservative. Those things the grandfather had fought for and won, the grandson cherished. The new middle class governed England for some sixty years, and when about the nineties of the last century they looked back on their record, they were very well satisfied with it. The country was rich, powerful and contented; and no signs of coming troubles as yet darkened the horizon.

'Englishmen felt sure,' writes Mr. Winston Churchill, 'that they had reached satisfactory solutions upon the material problems of life. Their political principles had stood every test. All that was required was to apply them fully. Statesmen, writers, philosophers, scientists, poets, all moved forward in hope and buoyancy, in sure confidence that much was well and that all would be better.' That admirably expresses Heywood's outlook and that of the men of his class. I have heard him say publicly that every true Englishman is a Conservative however he may occasionally vote at election time. His ideal was an ordered hierarchy in society, each man in his own class and contented with his lot. Providence had given him wealth and position, but wealth and position entailed duties and responsibilities, and he paid fully as much regard to his duties and responsibilities as he did to his privileges. In that he was the true son of his family. I do not doubt he looked on his work for the Exercise and the Central Council as part of his duty to his Church, a task which lay to his hand, and which he must not shirk. It was all quite natural, for there was nothing priggish about him.

It was this native sense of duty and the right to lead which enabled him to form the Council and gave him his position and authority. For as long as he lived he was President of the Council. Nominally he held the office by free selection from some dozens of eligible candidates; actually he held it as much by divine right as ever King Charles I. wore the crown of England.

Intellectually Heywood was an outstanding man, and all he did showed knowledge and ability; but he had large and well defined limitations. He was not a man of wide vision. He saw each problem as he came to it as a whole. He applied himself to its solution, usually successfully, but it did not expand as he worked, nor did it lead him on to further things. In his younger days he was interested in light railways, and he made successful experiments. He had, as older ringers will recollect, a model working light railway in his own grounds, but after a few years, when he had found out what exactly

(Continued on next page.)

SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD

(Continued from previous page.)

he sought, I believe he took no more interest in the matter.

As a boy he learned to ring, and he continued to be one of the church ringers of his own parish, but for many years he was content with stoney, and that at the time when the Exercise was being stirred throughout with new life. When the installation of the full octave at Duffield brought change ringing to his notice, he took up method ringing with enthusiasm, and rapidly went on with peal ringing from Bob Triples, to Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Surprise. At length he had conducted peals of London Surprise Major, Double Norwich Royal and Duffield Maximus. There was nothing else to do; he had done all there was; and though he was still in the prime of life, he dropped peal ringing.

He early took a great interest in composition and method construction. He again he saw a limited number of well defined problems. He set himself to solve them, and when he had settled what constituted a musical method, what was the best for ten and twelve bell ringing, and had laid bare the secrets of Stedman Triples and Caters, he had completed his task. There remained, he publicly stated, but one unsolved problem in the science of change ringing, the production of a seven-part peal of Stedman Triples, and that he lived to see done. All the later problems and the many controversies which centred round the work of the Methods Committee were to him merely futile. He expressed himself as 'patiently amused' at what he called our 'earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionably axiomatic rules.'

When I was preparing the notes for these articles it struck me as very significant that, though he definitely belonged to an older generation than I did, and had completed the whole of his investigations into composition before ever I was a ringer, yet his earliest article was published less than ten years before my first.

He took up the attitude, most strange for a man of his intelligence and ability, that it was possible to settle once and for all the problems of the Exercise. That was one of the main objects of the Central Council. He and his contemporaries had gone thoroughly into method construction, and the question was settled and closed. That men of my generation might have some further contribution to make never occurred to him. He did not realise that if the day ever comes when there are no more problems and no more difficulties for ringers to solve—if, in short, the Exercise ever reaches perfection—then the end will not be far off.

This narrowness of outlook did as much as the changing social conditions to put Heywood out of sympathy with the younger generations. The Exercise altered enormously in the thirty years between 1886 and 1916, and before he died his work for ringing had ended.

Was Heywood a good chairman? I have heard the

question debated more than once, and very divergent answers given. Some thought he was almost everything a chairman should be, others criticised him very strongly. It all depends on what is taken as the standard of good chairmanship. One thing everybody allowed: he was a strong chairman. He always had full control of the meeting and he saw that the recognised rules of debate were properly observed. He endeavoured to be thoroughly impartial, but whether he actually was so, is another matter. Perhaps the ideal chairman is the Speaker, of the House of Commons, who sits in dignity and authority above the members and sees that a very complicated and precise code of rules is strictly carried out. His business is to see that every member has an equal opportunity of stating his views, and so long as he keeps within the rules, what he says, whether it is true or false, wise or foolish, is no concern of the Speaker. Of that the House alone is the judge. Heywood did not take that attitude. He was more like a High Court judge presiding at a criminal trial. He equally has to see that strict rules are observed and that everyone who is entitled to speak does so. But more than that, he is concerned that the right decision is arrived at, and he may, and usually does, intervene to correct false or misleading statements. Heywood was like that. He frequently made a statement at the beginning of a debate, he frequently intervened, and he usually summed up and, like the judge, in effect gave his directions as to what the verdict should be. Occasionally he voted himself.

It was all due, of course, to his sincere wish that the Council should benefit the Exercise, and to his unbounded faith in his own judgment. On the whole it worked for good, for his judgment usually was sound. But there came a time when he had ceased to keep in touch with the spirit of the Exercise and was out of sympathy with the new ideas which were developing, and in one outstanding instance this rather autocratic attitude provoked as near to an unpleasant crisis as we are likely to experience in a meeting of the Council. It would be a bad day for the Council if its officers were ever debarred from expressing to the full their individual opinions, but Heywood backed up his with the authority of the chair, and rather expected they should be deferred to.

Heywood's style as a writer was quite characteristic of the man. It is clear, concise, and sufficient, without any particular literary distinction. On the whole he was the best writer of his time, without the excessive wordiness which mars Davies' books, and without the slovenly and untidy sentences which sometimes disfigure what Jasper Snowdon wrote. But he had one serious defect. He never seemed to be quite sure that he was getting his meaning home to his readers. It was the gap, caused by social, intellectual and educational differences, which separated him from the rest of the Exercise. Jasper Snowdon was his inferior as a writer, but he had the all-important gift of putting himself in sympathy with his readers.

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RECONSTRUCTION. THE NEED FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your excellent articles on bell frames and reconstruction and bell towers visualise more than appears on the surface. Recent events and the great destruction of the entire contents of many of our church towers will have to be taken into serious consideration when times become normal, and must be entirely refitted in the very best way.

One thing is absolutely certain; the new installations must be as fireproof as possible. There is far too much inflammable material used at the present time, oftentimes two or three wooden floors, guide boxes for the ropes and wood fittings in the clock room and belfry.

In future all church towers should have fireproof concrete floors, the bell frames should be of iron, and all fittings, bell wheels, pulleys, boxes, etc., should be made of fireproof material. As soon as possible every tower should have the inflammable material cleared out.

When the rehanging of the Painswick bells was contemplated it was feared in several quarters that if they were hung in an iron frame it would affect the tone of the bells. The iron frame and headstocks prevailed. It was a great success, and when the bells were reopened there was great satisfaction among the large number of ringers present both as regards the 'go' and tone of the bells.

From many years' experience I am convinced that the iron frame is the most practical, and one would have to go a long way to find a better bell frame and fittings than at Painswick. That tower, like most towers, has a set back in the masonry where the under portion of the bell frame rests on strong steel girders cemented into the walls. On these girders a cast-iron H frame is securely bolted, and on top of the H frame stout angle iron is bolted on all ways and the ends cemented into the walls, making the frame as one solid block which ensures that the bearings are always level and cannot get out of alignment, which is the essential thing. The twelve bells are hung with plain bearings, and as a proof of their excellence several long peals have been rung single handed, amongst which was a 13,001 of Grandsire Cinques.

The main consideration with an iron frame is it should not be allowed to develop any corrosion, but be cleaned and painted with two or three coats of red and white lead. Cast-iron as used in the H frame is a great advantage, as it does not scale and is easily kept in perfect condition.

The Leigh, near Gloucester.

WILLIAM HALE.

FARNBOROUGH.—On March 26th, at 106, Lynchford Road, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Harold S. Hobden 1-2, Sergt. John Freeman (conductor) 3-4, Maurice Hodgson 5-6, Will Viggers 7-8.

JOSEPH RILEY.

A FAMOUS OLD-TIME COMPOSER AND RINGER.

Many years ago, John Day wrote down his recollections of old Birmingham ringers, and here is his account of Joseph Riley based on tradition:—

Mr. Riley was, I believe, a native of Cheltenham, and by profession a lawyer. There can be little doubt that for some years he was the leading spirit of the St. Martin's Guild. He was always spoken of with much respect as being a gentleman, although somewhat austere in manner. He was a clever ringer, a good conductor, a composer of considerable ability and quite an enthusiast in the art.

Among his other exploits was that of calling Holt's One-Part peal of Grandsire Triples whilst ringing the fourth bell, being one of the first, if not the first, time of its achievement in the provinces. In 1823 a party of the Youths had a ringing tour under his guidance. At Shrewsbury they attempted a peal of Stedman Cinques, but failed and then went to Wrexham, where they rang his well-known peal of 5,000 Treble Bob Royal. This peal, like a good many other compositions, has had numerous authors. When the late W. Sottanstill visited Birmingham in 1865 he brought the peal with him and wanted it rung in Birmingham. He first showed it to Chattell, who looked it over and, turning to H. Johnson, who was in the company, said, 'Why this is Riley's peal.' Johnson confirmed this, and Sottanstill expressed surprise. The late John Thorpe also composed the same peal.

Riley was really the leading spirit of the society and took part in the memorable peals rung in 1820. The Treble Bob Maximus was, I believe, rung at the first attempt. After failing in the first attempt for the Stedman Cinques, Riley named an early date for another attempt, and as an inducement promised the band a bowl of punch per man if the attempt was successful. The peal was rung and I have heard it said that Cooper at once began to hint in a doubtful sort of way as to the truth of the composition. Riley, being annoyed at this, demanded an immediate investigation, and Cooper, Thurstans and himself retired to a private room to sift the matter out, when all was pronounced correct and the band and their friends were entertained to their heart's content. I believe the meeting house of the society at that time was The King's Head in Worcester Street, and in the room used by them hung one or more portraits of prominent ringers, notably one of Alexander Sanders. When the existing Market Hall was built the house was pulled down and the portraits vanished.

The last peal that can be traced to Mr. Riley is the Treble Bob Cinques, rung in 1832, the only peal yet rung, and he died the following year, about 70 years of age.

He left his peal book to John Hopkins and Hopkins left it to Mr. H. Johnson.

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THE EDITOR.

The condition and progress of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith continue to be quite satisfactory.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker's many friends will extend them their fullest sympathy in the early death of their only granddaughter, who, as announced in another column, passed away on April 4th.

The Witley bellringers are resuming practice—on handbells. They are the recipients of a bequest under which the bells have to be rung on four particular occasions in the course of the year. Prevented by war-time regulations from ringing the big bells, with the Vicar's consent they have agreed to ring the handbells in church before the 11 a.m. service at Easter, Whitsun and Christmas, and at some other time on May 29th.

Any ringers stationed in the district may like to know that regular weekly handbell practices are still being held at 106, Lynchford Road, South Farnborough, and at 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

We mentioned last week that on April 7th and 8th, 1761, James Barham and his band rang the full extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes, at Leeds in Kent. This is what the 'Clavis' says about it: 'To be sure it is recorded in a frame at Leeds, in Kent, as being performed by thirteen men in twenty-seven hours and some minutes, but those of the performers who have been spoke with on the subject give such unsatisfactory accounts, that it is very little thought on, and it is generally believed, that if they did keep the bells going the length of time, the truth or regularity of the changes was very little attended to.'

On April 7th, 1801, the Cumberland Youths rang 5,220 changes of Court Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and boasted that they were the first society to ring a peal in that intricate method, but the Norwich Scholars had already in 1769 accomplished a peal of it.

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who called many notable long peals on eight, ten and twelve bells, was born on April 7th, 1857.

On April 8th, 1912, Mr. George Price called 12,160 Bristol Surprise Major with a band of the Hertford County Association. At the time it was the record length in the method.

The first peal in Australia was rung at Sydney on April 9th, 1890.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques in Yorkshire was rung at Sheffield on April 10th, 1882.

Many long lengths have been accomplished on the ten bells at Appleton, in Berkshire, and one of them was the then record peal of Grandsire Caters, 13,265 changes, rung on April 11th, 1888: It was composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook.

A very famous peal was rung on April 12th, 1909. It was the 18,027 changes of Stedman Caters at the Parish Church, Loughborough. The time was 12 hours and 18 minutes, the first occasion on which a band had stood the clock round. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. His brother Bob rang the treble.

Canon T. L. Papillon, a distinguished member of the Exercise in bygone years, was born on April 12th, 1841, and William T. Cockerill was born on April 13th, 1859.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1, Union Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, and seven Minor methods 2.

DEATH OF MRS. A. C. JOHNSTON.

WIDOW OF WELL-KNOWN BELLFOUNDER.

The death is announced of Mrs. A. C. Johnston, which occurred on Wednesday, March 19th, at her home, Glebe Hyrst, Sanderstead, Surrey. She was 88 years old and was the widow of Mr. Arthur Anderson Johnston, of the firm of Gillett and Johnston, which was founded over 100 years ago.

Mrs. Johnston came to Croydon on her marriage over fifty years ago, and for many years she took an active and leading interest in all the affairs of the borough. During the time that Mr. Johnston was a member of the Croydon Council she took great interest in his work and organised with him the annual distribution of Christmas dinners for 500 families during a period of 25 years.

Her many activities included the founding of the first Girls' Social Club in Park Street, and the original Cripples' Home. She also took a leading part in the Primrose League and did much good work in many other charity organisations, one of the most notable being in aid of the 'Titanic' disaster fund, nearly a thousand pounds being raised locally.

For many years Mrs. Johnston was a well-known figure among ringers. She was present at many dedication services and never missed attending functions at the Croydon Foundry.

During the last few years of her life her activities were curtailed by bad health.

The funeral service took place at Sanderstead Parish Church on Saturday, March 22nd, and the interment at Queen's Road Cemetery, West Croydon. The mourners included Mr. Cyril Johnston and Miss Nora Johnston (son and daughter), Mrs. Cyril Johnston, Mrs. Arthur A. Lyon (niece), Miss F. Langford, Mrs. G. J. Allen, Mr. R. F. A. Housman (general manager of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), Mrs. Housman and a large number of the older members of the staff and employes of the foundry.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

AN EARLY PERFORMANCE OF THE ORIGINAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest Mr. Trollope's account of the Cambridge Youths and should like to state that Daniel Green, who rang the 8th in a peal of Grandsire Caters at Great St. Mary's on November 10th, 1774, was a farmer, and lived, died and was buried near the north wall of Clare Church tower. A grave stone marks the spot inscribed, 'In memory of Daniel Green, who died September 1st, 1785, aged 57 years.'

He used to ride horseback to and from Cambridge, 25 miles each way, to practise change ringing with the Cambridge Youths. This Daniel Green had a son of the same name, and the son rang the 4th and the father the 7th through a peal of Bob Major on Clare bells on February 27th, 1781. The father called the peal, probably Annable's. What became of the son we do not know.

Mr. Trollope says the last peal rung by the society during the 18th century was on June 2nd, 1797, when James Bartlett called Holt's Original. A tablet in the tower states: A.D. 1797. On Friday, June 2nd, was rang in this tower a true and Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5,040 Changes, in 3 hours and a half. Originally composed by Mr. Holt in 1 course and 2 doubles in the last 4 leads by the undermentioned Performers: J. Coe treble, W. Eve 2, W. Lawder 3, J. Bowman 4, W. Goodes 5, J. Bawtell (conductor) 6, P. Spenceley 7, J. Hazard tenor. By this it will be seen that J. Bawtell and not Bartlett called the peal.

I saw nearly all the notes that Samuel Slater made on the peals rung at Cambridge and other places in Cambridgeshire, and no mention is there made of Bartlett's visit to Cambridge and calling this peal. S. Slater searched the Cambridge newspapers for information so as to write up a true record of all peals rung at Cambridge.

After the time Mr. Trollope mentions the Cambridge Youths were led by R. Wilby and he rang several peals, Grandsire Triples and Caters. Probably the most notable was that rung at West Tofts, Norfolk.

The record states that on April 16th, 1868, was rung a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes, in 3 hours and 2 minutes, and composed and conducted by R. Wilby, and contained 190 bobs and 50 singles, the first whole peal on the bells: S. Peggatts treble, J. Rochett 2, J. Dunn 3, J. Halliday 4, E. Andrews 5, R. Wilby 6, Mr. Rochett 7, the Rev. A. Sutton, the Rector, tenor.

This is the first instance that I know of where a Rector rang a peal on the bells of his own parish church. West Tofts bells were made into six in 1849 and eight in 1856 through the efforts of the Rector, the Rev. Augustus Sutton.

No peals were rung at Great St. Mary's between 1852 and 1890, when the spell was broken by a band who had been touring East Anglia stopping there and ringing 5,021 Stedman Caters, composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook, on October 11th, 1890. The following December the Cumberlands visited Cambridge and rang 5,002 Stedman Cinques, composed and conducted by the late George Newson, and in 1893 the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, visited Cambridge and rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus ever rung there. In 1897 the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung on the bells.

T. E. SLATER.

Glensford, Suffolk.

SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING.

'THEORETICALLY UNSOUND.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. J. E. Bailey, is correct in saying that the Suffolk Guild passed a resolution on spliced ringing in 1929.

At the annual meeting on the Easter Monday of that year the following was passed with one dissident: 'The splicing of methods is theoretically unsound. But if this departure from strict regularity is allowed, the splicing of extents in five or six bell ringing should be allowed also.'

No reasons were given for the definite statement that splicing of methods is theoretically unsound, and during some correspondence on the subject Mr. Drake stated that 'everyone seemed to have a different reason for not supporting splicing.' His own reason was that it introduced a third kind of call, which 'broke a principle.' (Has he ever heard of an 'extream' or 'Holt's single?')

Mr. Bailey need have no doubts as to what kind of spliced ringing this resolution referred to, as peals in four, five and six Surprise methods had already been rung.

It is satisfactory to note that despite this 'non-progressive' resolution, many Suffolk ringers now recognise the merits of spliced ringing, and that Mr. Drake has forgotten that the subject was ever mentioned at a meeting of his Guild.

C. T. COLES.

21, Vincent Road, E.4.

FAIRLY GOOD!

At an R.A.F. station 'somewhere in England' recently, a young airman was reading his 'Ringing World' when a second airman asked if he knew any ringers by the name of Pye. The answer, of course, being 'Yes. Do you?' 'No,' replied the second, 'but they were related to my mother.'

Our young airman went to some pains to explain what a gifted family they were, and all the impression it made was, 'Mother said they were fairly good at it.'

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KILBURN.

A small company of about 20 members visited Kilburn on March 29th to attend the annual meeting of the North and East District of the association. Seven towers were represented. The present condition of the bells and towers in relation to war damage seemed to be a prominent matter of discussion.

In place of the usual service the company was conducted around the Church of St. Augustine, which was built about 80 years ago with fields completely surrounding it. Items of much interest were made known by the leader of the party, the Rev. Father Moncrieff, including the beautiful coloured marble flooring pieced together to form intricate designs, the highly decorated vaulted ceiling of the Chapel of All Angels, the four circular windows at the west end depicting the seasons of the year, etc. More than one sad heart passed the door of the ringing chamber on the way up to the belfry, where the light peal of eight was inspected.

The business meeting was by no means the longest on record, being ably conducted by the chairman, Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the association, in the unavoidable absence of the district vice-president Mr. G. W. Fletcher. The provisional election of one member previous to ringing a handbell peal was ratified and one new member was duly enrolled. A list of members attached to the North and East District and known to be serving in H.M. Forces was read to the meeting. The statement of accounts, approved subject to audit and without comment, showed a decreased balance on the year's working, which was entirely due to unpaid subscriptions. All retiring officers were re-elected with one exception, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher being elected to fill a vacancy on the Central Committee, caused by the removal from the county of the Rev. A. S. Roberts. It was agreed that one or two district meetings should be held during the summer months, even to give members a chance for social reunion.

Mr. E. M. Atkins' proposal that a message be sent to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' expressing sympathy in his illness, together with a hope for a speedy recovery, was unanimously approved. The speaker also offered his congratulations in the manner the paper was carrying on, and said it was now, more than ever, the one factor maintaining the life of ringing. Tribute was then paid by Mr. C. T. Coles to the sub-editor, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who had excelled himself in a difficult task.

Handbells were available during the afternoon and evening, courses and touches brought home including Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Grandsire Cinques.

DEATH OF MR. BARRZILLIA HAWKINS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Barrzillia Hawkins, which took place on Sunday, March 30th, at his home at Frogmore, Blackwater, Hants.

Taking up ringing some 50 years ago under the instruction of Mr. Frank Bennett at Hawley, Hants, Mr. Hawkins and his brother George, who is still active, made good progress, which they used for the benefit of change ringing in North Hants. He rang his first peal at Yateley, Hants, on October 8th, 1892, and since then had taken part in many more, among them the first at Yorktown and the first rung by Mr. A. H. Pulling, which was at Hawley.

A good striker and a ringer always to be relied upon, he accomplished a lot of good work for the old Winchester Guild, of which he was a member for many years.

THE LATE MR. G. R. AMBROSE.

FUNERAL AT MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND.

The body of the late Mr. Guy Ambrose, who as announced met his death by enemy action on March 5th, having been recovered, the funeral service took place on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Parish Church of Milton-next-Gravesend, where Mr. Ambrose worked and worshipped for so many years. The Rector, the Rev. H. J. Powell, officiated, and there was a large and representative gathering. Miss Muriel Mitchell, daughter of the hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, was at the organ, and while the cortege was leaving the church played 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' At the committal in Gravesend Cemetery the Milton ringers were represented by Messrs. H. Argent, R. Munn, F. A. Mitchell and F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary, Kent County Association).

Among the many beautiful wreaths was one from his colleagues at Milton.

Mr. Ambrose leaves a widow and three daughters to mourn their loss.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES HILLICK.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Hillick, of Mersham, which took place rather suddenly on March 27th at the age of 67. The funeral service was held at All Saints', South Mersham, and among the very beautiful floral tributes was one from his fellow ringers.

Charles Hillick had not rung many peals, but he was heart and soul in ringing; he did splendid work as a teacher, and whenever any ringing was to be done at practice, service or meeting he was there. His especial delight was in ringing 720's of Plain or Treble Bob Minor, and he usually rang the tenor and called the bobs.

SIXTH'S-PLACE BOBS.

AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter from the Methods Committee on Silchester Surprise Major suggests certain questions which might be of interest.

(1) What are the grounds for the objections to using sixth's-place bobs in a second's-place method?

(2) Do the same objections apply to the use of fourth's-place bobs in an eighth's-place method? (Apart from methods on the lengthening lead plan.)

(3) Should a standard call be considered part of the method? If not, what objections can be raised to the use of a non-standard call, provided, of course, that it is used exclusively in any particular touch or peal?

(4) Has any even-bell method been rung with a bob made when the treble was not either leading or lying?

(5) Has a bob ever been made solely by the omission of any particular place in a method?

(6) Have any definite rulings ever been made on any of the above questions, and, if so, when, and by whom?

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE BOBS.

Notwithstanding the custom of making . . . the bob . . . we don't conceive it obligates every company to abide by it, neither should they be tied to making a particular place at a bob in any method; by all means let every one follow his taste in this particular, as the art of pricking will still be the same; for whoever has skill as a composer can very easily surmount any alterations of that kind, therefore in this method (Double Norwich Court Bob Royal) we would recommend fourth's place at the bob as it certainly would make a great amendment to the music in a peal or even a touch, for by having the bobs in this manner you fall into the treble bob system as far as that of making Triple dodges while the great bells are behind, which is so much admired by all professors of the Exercise; it will likewise lengthen the courses in a similar manner, therefore it is necessary to pursue the same method in composing; upon the whole, we think this way would have much the preference.—'The Clavis.'

A HEAVY RING OF SIX.

There is lately Hung to Sally, and set going to John Bush, Bell-Hanger, of Chew-Stoke near Bristol, in the County of Somerset, a large Peal of Six Bells, in the Town of Yeovil in the said County; The Tenor consisting of near 50 cwt.; they are allowed to be the largest Peal of Six that is in the Country, and required before new Hung, 22 or 23 Men to ring the Six Bells; but since they are hung by the said Bush the same has been rung for several Hours by 7 Men only, and 50 3 or 4 different Peals of Changes: consisting of 120 Grandsire Changes in each Peal.

N.B.—The said Bush has work'd in the Business upwards of 30 Years, and is thought to be a very experienced Man, and will be ready to serve any Parish, if required.—'The Western Flying Post' of July 14th, 1760.

SOME NOVEL 'NEWS.'

It would be hard to cram many more misstatements into two or three lines than are contained in the following from 'The Daily Mirror':—

Bells salvaged intact from a blitz-damaged London Church have been installed in Guildford's (Surrey) new cathedral. They will not be rung until after the war—unless there is an invasion warning in the district.

All Hallows', Lombard Street, was not damaged in a blitz; it was pulled down before the war. The bells have not been 'salvaged,' they have not been installed in Guildford Cathedral, and they will never be rung for an invasion warning. The bells, which have been given to the Cathedral, were taken down when the steeple was dismantled, and are now in the Whitechapel Foundry.

SERVICE RINGING.—Ringing before service is peculiar to the northern counties. In other parts of England the more correct use obtains, that of chiming the bells. In places where the bells are rung before the service it is often too painfully found that, when the ting tang begins or the parson walks in, the ringers walk out, but such unseemly conduct rarely takes place where the bells are chimed for service.—H. T. Ellacombe, in 'Notes and Queries,' March, 1870.

FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

SAMUEL THURSTON.

Recently Mr. C. E. Borrett gave us an impression of Samuel Thurston, the famous Norwich Scholar and conductor of the first peal of London Surprise Major. Mr. T. E. Slater has sent the following account taken from the notes made by his father, the late Samuel Slater:—

Samuel Thurston was born at Norwich in the parish of St. Martin at Oak on February 19th, 1789, and baptised on the 27th of the same month.

It is not exactly known when he began to ring, his first appearance as a ringer being when he tapped on handbells at the New Theatre, Norwich, plain courses of Bob Major, Bob Triples, Reverse Bob Major, Double Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

On October 22nd, 1809, he rang his first peal, 5,040 of Bob Major, at St. Giles', Norwich. It was conducted by Jeffrey Kelf and was the first peal by all the band. Soon after this he took unto himself a wife, as the following record from the registers, St. Martin at Place, shows; Samuel Thurston, bachelor, to Marianne Coleman, spinster, both of this parish, married May 14th, 1810. One of the Norwich Scholars was named John Coleman, and Marianne is believed to have been of the family. John Coleman died in 1833.

In 1813 Thurston joined the College Youths. By that time he had become such an accomplished ringer that he challenged Mr. Chestnutt, the leader of the Norwich Scholars, to ring for £100. Several suggestions were made by both parties, but no satisfactory settlement was reached. Soon, however, Thurston became a Norwich Scholar, and on April 29th, 1814, he is described as being one of St. Peter's ringers.

About this time Thurston was pressed into the Army, much to his disgust, as he was a master stonemason, and he considered it a great degradation. One morning when he was having musketry drill he fired away his ramrod, and ever after his friends used to ask to tease him, 'Sam! who fired away his ramrod?'

He was very fond of talking about his adventures and what he had done and been through, and his friends used to chaff him about the Fakenham ghost. The explanation is that on one occasion he went to ring at Fakenham, and after the ringing was over the band stopped and had some refreshment. When they parted Thurston had to walk home alone in the night. It was very dark. As he went through a narrow lane a greyhound noiselessly came up and put its cold nose into his right hand. This startled him so much that he began to run, but had not gone far before he fell over a donkey that lay asleep in the lane.

His son-in-law, Mr. Finlay, said that he was a genius in many ways other than being a ringer, and was very fond of clocks. At the time of his death his house was full of clocks, for people in Norwich used to bring their clocks to him when they wanted repairing.

Mrs. Finlay said her father went to London to work and took her mother and family with him, but Mrs. Thurston disliked London, so after a time they all returned to Norwich.

Also that Thurston was a master mason and spent a great part of his time restoring Norwich Cathedral and that he was held in high esteem by the Bishops who held the See in his lifetime. When any work wanted doing Thurston was nearly always called in to give advice as to what was best to do. On one occasion he was sent to London to give advice about repairs to the famous Bow Bells in Cheapside.

As he was able to ring anywhere in the circle and conduct and was always pleasant and good tempered, his services and advice were eagerly sought after. He was nearly always teaching beginners and teaching others the advanced methods, and the Norwich newspapers of his time seemed to recognise his great ability as a ringing genius, for in 1835, referring to the Superlative Surprise, they say: 'Moreover, this celebrated peal was rung in a superior style at the first attempt. These circumstances add much to the credit of the company, having a tendency to show the highest degree of perfection they have attained in the Art.'

Concerning the London Surprise they say: 'We had the pleasure of hearing from our scientific ringers 5,280 changes of that intricate composition, London Surprise. This peal has been attempted by many of the most learned of the Science, but relinquished on account of its complexity, but in the hands of our Norwich ringers this obstacle soon vanished, and in 3 hours and 25 minutes a perfect peal was completed, thus showing what perseverance combined with industry and knowledge can attain.'

On the tablet recording this peal it is described as an unsurmountable task. That they had reason for saying so is not entirely without foundation, for the peal was rung on the back eight of a peal of ten that hung in three tiers always shakly and rickety, and the ropes hung from the ceiling thus: 10 5 4 6 9 1 3 2 7. Charles Payne, who rang the 9th or 7th as you may term it, stood very nearly in the middle of the tower.

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THE STANDARD METHODS. MORE ABOUT MUSIC.

In the year 1886, Sir Arthur Heywood published an article on 'Which is the most musical Major Method?' His object was 'to induce any who are in the habit of judging on the authority of their ears alone, to examine a method scientifically before committing themselves to any definite opinion, as thus he will detect every beauty or flaw with a certainty impossible of attainment by the most careful listener.'

This seems to be rather like saying that no one should express an opinion on the taste of plum pudding until he has subjected its ingredients to a thorough chemical test. After all, in music, as in all art, the thing which matters is not scientific accuracy, but what appeals to æsthetic taste and feeling. We need not bother about what in a method ought to be music, but about what actually does strike the ear of the average listener, inside and outside the belfry, as music. Beauties and flaws, impossible of being noticed by the most careful listener, are not for practical purposes either beauties or flaws.

But though the matter was badly put by Heywood, there is great truth in what he meant to say rather than in what he did say. So long as a ringer listens to the bells carelessly and superficially, he may get a general impression of what he likes and what he does not like, but he will hardly have any really good reasons to give for his preferences, and the opinions he expresses will not be of much value. On the other hand, if he studies a method and takes notice of how the bells come up he will be able to look for good positions and appreciate them when they do appear. It is, we believe, common experience that when a man is ringing either the 4th or the 7th in Stedman Triples he appreciates the beauties of 7-4 dodging behind far more than he does when he is ringing, say, the 2nd or the 3rd. In a similar way the man (perhaps the conductor) who knows that 7-4 are to dodge behind will look for the music in a way that others do not.

Heywood was therefore quite right when he urged that ringers should study on paper the musical qualities of methods, but the danger is (and it was not absent in his case) that people should invent beauties and defects which do not really exist.

One of these imaginary defects is in the making of places. Heywood persuaded himself that places, and especially places made together side by side, are bad music. Many people have followed him in this opinion, but what real justification is there for it? Do adjacent places actually offend even the most sensitive ear even when the listener knows quite well they are being made? We doubt it. On the whole, we imagine, the first section of Oxford Treble Bob is the most satisfactory start of any Major method; better than Kent, better than Norfolk, better than Superlative, and much better than Cambridge.

The first section of Oxford Treble Bob, however, gives an excellent example of the danger of judging the musical qualities of a method from isolated features. Let us grant that it is the best way in which a method can start, but see what it involves. Later on you will have two leads with the tenors badly parted, and in addition the false course ends produced are such that only a comparatively small part of the most musical natural courses are available for composition. Oxford does to some

music of Treble Bob by doing away with the Slow. We extent dodge this difficulty, but it cannot be evaded in the majority of the methods with the same starting.

To many ringers any detailed examination or appreciation of the music of ringing will seem unnecessary and superfluous. They are quite content if the music is good enough to form a pleasant background to the 'work,' for it is the intellectual demands made by the method which interest them not the æsthetic appeal to their senses. Speaking generally, ringers are not musical people.

Yet on all grounds a knowledge and understanding of bell music should be cultivated. It not only adds enormously to the enjoyment the ringer can get out of his art, but it keeps him in a most practical way. The man who appreciates music in ringing will not easily tolerate bad and slovenly striking. Unfortunately there are far too many ringers who think that to ring a method means to go through a course or a touch of it without a missed place or dodge. They do not realise that what really matters is how the dodging and places sound.

Lately there has been some discussion and disagreement about the musical qualities of Kent Treble Bob. It may be worth while to consider the matter a little.

For many years Kent was looked upon as the very best of methods for producing music. Then some fifty years ago, when other methods began to come into practice, there was in some quarters a very great change in opinion. We again quote Sir Arthur Heywood. 'I am aware,' he writes, 'that many leading ringers hold Treble Bob as excellent music, but with all deference to their opinion, I must take leave to observe that excellence is a comparative quality, and that no one with the slightest ear for harmony, who has rung Superlative or Double Norwich, would again take the same pleasure as before in Treble Eight. The regard for Treble Bob is simply due to the fact that those who admire it have never heard anything better.'

It is not quite fair to condemn Treble Bob because it is not Double Norwich. It should be judged on its own merits, and that is what we fancy so many modern critics do not do. Treble Bob is not a fashionable method. A band which considered itself good enough to ring Cambridge or Superlative would hardly start for a peal of Kent. Generally, when it is rung there is one or more novice in the band, and so Treble Bob is never struck as it could be struck by the best bands, and its best qualities are not revealed. Perhaps if a really good band put the same skill and attention into ringing a peal of Treble Bob as they do into, say, a peal of Spliced Surprise, there would be another tale to be told.

Treble Bob has the two main features we said were necessary for producing good music. It keeps the natural coursing order of the bells well, and it has continual dodging. These should produce good music, and they do. Perhaps for the outside listener Treble Bob supplies all that is needed.

What, then, are its defects? They lie almost entirely in the fact that there is not much variety in the rhythm. It is in this respect that Double Norwich and Superlative (so far as the plain course is concerned) are superior. This is a defect which affects the men who are ringing, not the outside listener.

But people will tell us that the great defect, musically, of Treble Bob is the Slow Work. They are wrong. It

(Continued on next page.)

METHOD ADAPTATION.**AN ALTERNATIVE EXTENSION OF STEDMAN.**

Sir,—Now that practical ringing has been curtailed, articles in 'The Ringing World' are indicating that attention is being turned to the construction of methods and their qualities, and there is no doubt that many paths are open for investigation. If we can get something which is apparently good, on paper, it could be tried out.

The articles on the Standard Methods gives much food for thought, and reminded me of a remark I heard at the Central Council meeting held at Chelmsford a few years ago. The speaker said there was only one Stedman's method, and that was Stedman Doubles. To ring it on a higher number was only an adaptation. The statement was not disputed.

If Stedman's method is accepted in the present form on the higher number of bells, another means of adaptation, which confines itself to the principle, could also be accepted. It conforms to the rules, i.e., quadruple changes in the nine bell method, and quintuple changes in the eleven bell method, and both uninterrupted throughout.

There is a good argument against it, too much dodging in one section, but the Caters has only one more dodge, and the Cinques two, the latter being a five pull dodge. We accept five pull dodges in Superlative, and these are made front and back, whereas in this it is only at the back end.

It could be named 'New Stedman.' This would distinguish it from what is now practised. Here is an avenue open for the peal composers.

203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

PETER CROOK.

Caters
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THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

is entirely a mistake to suppose that you improve the have rung peals not only of Forward Major and Royal, but also of the eight and ten-bell variation of Kent which eliminate the Slow. They were mostly excellently struck peals, and in every case the opinion was freely expressed that the variations were musically failures. The reason is quite easy to see. The musical value of the Slow is that it gives relief from monotony and sameness, and very much enhances the music of the other leads. Nor, since the musical beat is well maintained, are the two leads, when the tenors are in the Slow, in themselves displeasing to a musical ear.

Treble Bob does not give the varied and pleasing rhythms that some other methods do, but it is a most excellent method for teaching good striking, and supplies almost everything that is needed for outside effect.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 14th, at St. James' Church Schoolroom opposite Cardiff Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, at 4 o'clock.—John W. Jones Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryon Road, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street. Those who want tea must advise me not later than the 17th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, April 19th. Tower Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tower bells and handbells available afterwards. Social evening to follow. Please send numbers for tea by previous Wednesday. All welcome. Combined meeting with Western Branch at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.) on Saturday, May 10th. Details later.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.—A meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, April 19th, at 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided at the Battle Axes Hotel at 4 o'clock. All are welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Orlingbury on Saturday, April 19th. Service 4.30. Tea after. No names—no tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woolton, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 19th. The tower bells and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. For tea kindly notify Mr. E. L. Humphriss, Abbots Lea Cottage, Woolton Hill, Liverpool, before Wednesday, April 16th.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 19th. Committee 3 p.m. General meeting 3.30.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 19th. Service in All Saints' Church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting St. PAUL'S Parish Room 4.45. Handbell ringing in All Saints' tower, 3.15 and after tea. Notification for tea *not later* than April 15th. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 19th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; tea, St. Peter Mancroft Hall, 5; business meeting 5.30.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec., 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General annual meeting at Nottingham on Saturday, April 19th (12th not available). Handbells at St. Peter's from 2 o'clock. Committee meet 2.45 in St. Peter's vestry. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and general meeting. Notice for tea must be sent not later than 12th to F. Salter, 110, Noel Street, Nottingham. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, April 26th. St. Peter's belfry open from 2 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service, with address, in church at 4.45. No arrangements made for tea. A room has been procured at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, for social evening with handbells from 6.30.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Cookham on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells available. Guild service at 4 p.m. Tea at Royal Exchange at 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. per head. Names must be sent by April 21st.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The tower of St. John's will be open, with handbells available. A service will be held at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Please inform Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, if you require tea not later than April 22nd.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.

MEETING AT BUSHEY, Saturday, April 26th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, 3.45 p.m. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice in all methods and social gossip. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. Open to all interested in ringing. Good bus service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Herts Association.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Danbury. Service at 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Six 'silent' tower bells available from 3 p.m. Please send numbers for tea by Tuesday, April 22nd.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells will be available in the schoolroom from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. Do your duty.—Ivan Kay, Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. Ringers wishing to enter the restricted defence area are advised to send 2½d. stamp for a personal summons.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (d.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. W. Rogers, hon. secretary of Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, is 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

EDGAR GUISE.—All communications until further notice should be made to 7, Higham Street, Totterdown, Bristol 4.

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DEATH.

REYNOLDS.—Mary, aged seven, beloved daughter of Jack and Winnie and only granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker. Died April 4th, at Scribers Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham.

THANKS.

Mr. W. J. Nevard wishes to thank all kind friends for their letters of sympathy and goodwill. Will they please accept this as the only intimation, as he is still unable to answer by letter. He is progressing slowly.

CALNE, WILTS.—On February 2nd, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: J. Slade (conductor) 1-2-3-4, H. Hillier 5-6. Rung in honour of Mr. S. Hillier's 69th birthday. And on March 17th, 600 Grandsire Doubles in honour of J. Slade's 67th birthday: J. Slade 1-2-3-4, H. Hillier 5-6.

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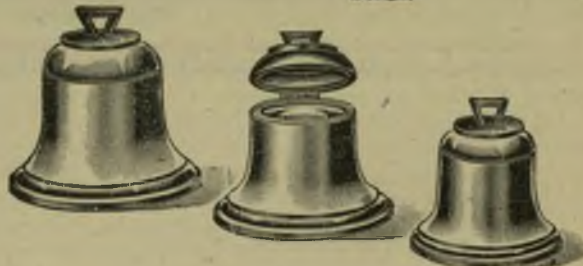
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