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TECHNICAL TERMS.

On another page we print a letter from Mr. Peter Laflin, in which he discusses the term 'out-of-course,' a familiar and widely used expression among ringers. Mr. Laflin wonders where it came from, and points out that it is much older than change ringing, and is used in both the Prayer Book and the Authorised Versions of the Psalms.

Many other ringers, we feel sure, have noticed this similarity and have wondered what, if any, connection there is between the meanings of the two uses. It is all a tiny part of a most interesting subject, the origin, use and development of words, a subject to which much learning and many books have been devoted.

So far as the terms used in ringing are concerned, no one has yet to our knowledge made any real study of their origin, but perhaps one day some student will be found with the necessary ability, skill and patience to undertake the task. It is one where it is easy to reach conclusions with the certainty that most of them will be wrong.

In the case under discussion, however, it is not difficult to see the truth. 'Course' is a very old English word, and, like so many more old words, it has a number of meanings all related to each other, but all distinct. Six hundred years ago, early in the fourteenth century, before our present English language can be said to have existed, an old chronicler used the words 'out of course' as meaning 'out of order,' or 'chaotic.' That is the meaning of the expression in the psalm, and perhaps some such idea was in the minds of the ringers who first used it, but that is rather more than doubtful.

The root meaning of the word 'course' is 'the path' or 'direction in which something moves.' Now the essence of change ringing is the movement of the bells, so it was quite natural for men to talk about the 'course' of a bell, meaning its work, just as we still talk about a 'skeleton course.' It was a rather later development to call the combined work of all the bells the 'course' of the method.

So long as the ringing was all right the bells were 'in course,' but when two or more shifted they got 'out of course.' The expression was applied (as it still often is) to the ringing as a whole; it was a comparatively late development to apply it to individual rows, and to use the terms 'in' and 'out-of-course' as we now use the terms 'even' and 'odd.'

This is a good example of how technical terms originate and develop. They start as ordinary words used with ordinary meanings, but gradually, as necessity arises,

(Continued on page 182.)

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they acquire special and restricted meanings which are not always quite the same as the original meanings. Sometimes a word starts with a general meaning and in time is used with one special meaning in some circumstances and quite another in other circumstances. The word 'bob' is a case in point, and is also an illustration of how this dual meaning can exist without any confusion whatever.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Thursday, April 10, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT STEDMAN, SKIFFLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, being 720 each of St. Simon's, Morning Star, London, April Day, Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

*ALFRED JORDON 1-2 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 3-4

*WALTER J. CLOUGH 5-6

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

* First peal in more than three methods. First handbell peal of
Doubles in more than four methods for the association.

SIXTH'S PLACE BOBS.

AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We will do our best to answer the questions Mr.
Christopher Woolley asks in your last issue.

The following is a quotation from the new Surprise Major book:—
'Every Surprise Major Method has two alternative bobs, one with
Fourth's Place and the other with Sixth's.'

'Sixth's Place bobs are of little value in Second's Place Methods,
and Fourth's Place bobs are almost entirely used, but there are
Methods in which the latter will not give a true peal (e.g., Sil-
chester) and others where they cause a bell to lie still for four blows.
These four blows for very many years have been allowed by the
Exercise in the case of Kent Treble Bob, and are not nearly so objec-
tionable in practice as they seem to be in theory. On the whole,
Fourth's Place is much the better bob of the two, but the Sixth's Place
can be used if preferred.

'With Eighth's Place Methods the Sixth's Place is the normal, but
the alternative is usually just as good and sometimes better. Either
may in cases cause a bell to lie still for four blows, and in some
Methods one or the other will not give a true peal. In MS. Methods
the Lead End is the same as in Kent Treble Bob, and when the
incidence of the falseness does not fall in the first, second or seventh
Leads, there is an enormously greater scope for composition with the
Fourth's Place Bob than with the Sixth's Place. With GS, HS, JS,
KS and LS methods, the Fourth's Place opens a field for composition
which is not only very large, but is practically untouched, and it adds
very often to the interest of the Method in ringing, since five bells
are affected by the bob and it puts their work backwards or forwards
two, three or four leads.

'Although we have given what seems to us to be the better of the
two alternative bobs to each Method, there is no reason why the
other should not be used if it is preferred; and there is no reason
why any Method should always be rung with the same bob. A Method
like Double Norwich could quite well be rung with a Fourth's Place
Bob, which would give a very interesting variation from the ordinary
practice.'

It will be seen that we have taken a somewhat cautious attitude,
for we think that anything provocative or contentious is out of place
in a standard text book, but our personal opinion is considerably
more definite. It may not be logical to allow both fourth's and sixth's
place bobs in eighth's place methods, and to discourage sixth's place
bobs in second's place methods, but we are certain that experience
teaches that these latter are objectionable and at the best makeshifts.
Few would have anything to say against ringing Double Norwich
with a fourth's place bob, but all would cry out against the use of
sixth's place bobs in Bob Major. Sixth's place bobs in a second's
place method have only been used in three instances, and in every
case because the fourth's place bob would not work or was supposed
to create some defect.

A standard call is to some extent a part of the method, but there is
no reason why suitable variations should not be introduced into any
method.

The natural position of the bob in any method with one hunt is at
the change between the leads. In some instances this is necessary for
the truth of the composition. There is no rule to prevent a bob being
made anywhere that may be convenient.

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

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 172.)

III. THE FOUNDATION.

When he had decided in his mind that the Exercise needed a Central Council, Arthur Heywood realised that the formation of such a body was a task which he himself would have to undertake practically unaided.

His success in what he set out to do was so rapid and so complete that we can very easily overlook the difficulties of his task. The Exercise had not changed during the five years which had followed the complete failure of the earlier attempt. The great mass of the ordinary ringers in town and village were indifferent to any such scheme. Their opinion is summed up in the question which was asked scores of times, then and later, though never to obtain information: What good would it do? The old societies had not abandoned their attitude of hostility and dislike of any new body. This opposition was most active and vocal in London, but it had the support of the majority of the old-established bands in the country, and was based on the age-long traditions and prejudices of the Exercise. It was only from the small minority of men who were influenced by new ideas that Heywood could look for support, and, fortunately, they practically controlled the great territorial associations, for, though he fully intended to carry the thing through by himself, he could not act unless he had at least the nominal assent and co-operation of the Exercise.

The way in which he first introduced his scheme was extraordinarily clever. On February 28th, 1889, Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, reached his eightieth birthday. Heywood had formed a deep and sincere liking and respect for the old gentleman, and to celebrate the event he gave a dinner at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, to which he invited the chief ringing officer of each county or diocesan association, or such delegate as he might appoint.

The dinner followed the usual course, but toward the close Heywood, in thanking the company for drinking his health, brought forward five resolutions which he asked them to adopt.

The first was: 'That this meeting, while failing to see the advantages of a National Ringers' Association, is of opinion that great benefit would accrue to the Exercise if a committee consisting of one or more selected members from each association could meet from time to time to consider and decide such ringing matters as are a cause of perplexity.'

The second resolution declared: 'That this meeting is of opinion that the advantages attending the establishment of a General Ringers' Benefit Society would not be great enough to outweigh the immense difficulty of collecting and administering the funds in a satisfactory manner.'

The third was: 'That in the opinion of this meeting the indefiniteness of many of the terms at present in use, more especially in the scientific treatment of campanology, imperatively demands the attention of the Exercise with a view to their revision and improvement.'

The fourth: 'That this meeting, approving the whole-some rivalry which has been established between the various ringing associations in the number of peals annually recorded by each, is of the opinion that the registration (in the tabular list of peals) of any performance in the name of more than one such association is destructive of fair comparison.'

The final one was: 'That this meeting considers it eminently desirable that there should be some authoritative definition as to the extent of departure from absolute correctness of ringing which may be permitted in a true peal.'

The first two resolutions were, of course, the really important ones. They approved the general idea of a Council, and got rid of two alternative plans, both of which had supporters in the Exercise and might have been rivals of the plan Heywood had in his mind. The two were a National Association with unlimited membership, and a Ringers' Benefit Society.

The other three resolutions were brought forward probably to show what sort of things the proposed Council would deal with. They were matters on which Heywood had already formed definite opinions, and, in fact, were among the earliest things brought before the Council.

The resolutions were, of course, carried unanimously. They probably would in any case have been passed by the particular body of men then present, but, after having enjoyed a man's hospitality and (it is to be supposed) reached the benevolent stage which comes at the end of a good dinner, the company could hardly have rejected the resolutions proposed by their host.

Heywood had now got the authority he needed to act, and his guests went back to their own associations practically pledged to secure for him their support.

Each association was asked to bring the first of the Birmingham resolutions before its annual meeting and to signify its approval. Many of them did so, and whenever it was proposed it was passed. There seems to have been very little enthusiasm, but that really did not matter. In those days, when communications were very scanty, it was usually only once a year that the associations in the rural districts, like the Norwich Diocesan, or the Devonshire, or the Oxford Diocesan held a general meeting. At such times the men from the villages and small towns sat tongue-tied and accepted anything that the few men, who really ran the society, proposed. They might not always agree, but they kept their opinions for the time when they went with their own fellows to have a drink at the public-house. If men like Earle Bulwer, Captain Moore and Gervase Holmes supported the new Council, nothing else much mattered so far as the Norwich Diocesan Association was concerned.

All the Exercise was not equally inarticulate. The Lancashire men appeared at first as if they intended to reject the scheme. On the other hand, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where conservative opinions might have been expected to be strong, the new Council was welcomed. Here we may, no doubt, see the result of the influence of the brothers Snowdon and of Charles Henry Hattersley, who, though he was an inheritor of old traditions and old prejudices, was genuinely open to new ideas.

Heywood's personal influence secured the support of the Midland Counties Association and of the Birmingham men. The latter, in the circumstances, was one of the most important.

There remained the hardest problem of all—London. In those years the Society of College Youths and, to a hardly less degree, the Society of Cumberland Youths, enjoyed reputations and a prestige based on their long histories, which were without parallel in the provinces. Both societies had bands which could ring Stedman Cinques excellently well, and to the country ringer, who

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

seldom had an opportunity of entering a twelve-bell tower, Stedman Cinques was on a lofty plane to which he hardly dare aspire. A Central Council which did not include the College Youths was hardly thinkable, and yet, as we have seen, the members as a whole were actively opposed to the whole thing. If the resolution had come before the society in the ordinary way it would (we cannot doubt) have been rejected.

Heywood evidently quite understood this, so he took advantage of the fact that he was a member and went up to London and himself moved the resolution. The personal intervention succeeded. The society was anything but enthusiastic, and Muskett and others, as might have been expected, were very critical. Heywood got his way, not because he convinced the members of the value of his scheme, but partly because of the prestige a man of his social position naturally enjoyed, and partly because, for all the many and great differences between him and them, there were important points where he and the best of them did come into very close contact. His natural conservatism could appreciate their reliance on tradition, and there was more than one of them for whom he had a real liking and respect. No one could be long in the company of Matthew Wood without recognising a man of outstanding personality and character. James Pettit was always a gentleman in the best sense of that very difficult word. Edwin Horrex was a lovable man. William Cooter might appear hard, but he had a great ringing career behind him. All the College Youths, of course, were not the equals of these men. Muskett was merely truculent, and Robert Haworth, who pulled more strings among the London ringing underworld, and controlled more paid ringing than anyone else, was rather sly and oily. 'Treacle,' the younger members called him. Heywood, however, made good his position in the society, and throughout his career he always acknowledged its outstanding position. It can hardly be said that he ever received any particular support from it in his work on the Council.

Heywood had now got a general approval from the associations, and the next step was to ask them to send one or two representatives to a meeting in London so that a definite scheme might be sanctioned. It met at the Inns of Court Hotel in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Easter Tuesday, April 8th, 1890. Forty-four men had been selected to represent twenty-nine societies, and forty turned up. Only three of them are still alive to-day, and, curiously, all three represented London societies—Mr. H. R. Newton for the St. James' Society, and Messrs. F. E. Dawe and R. T. Woodley for the College Youths. Of the others, the best remembered are C. H. Hattersley (Yorkshire), F. E. Robinson and J. W. Washbrook (Oxford Diocesan), A. P. Heywood and J. W. Taylor (Midland Counties), H. J. Elsee (Lancashire), G. F. Attree and C. D. P. Davies (Sussex County), H. Bastable (St. Martin's, Birmingham), Leonard Proctor (Herts), R. S. Story (Durham and Newcastle), F. G. Newman and T. L. Papillon (Essex), E. W. Carpenter (Kent), H. Earle Bulwer and Captain Moore (Norwich Diocesan), and G. B. Lucas (Middlesex).

Heywood was, of course, the chairman, but not before a rather significant episode took place. After Earle Bulwer had suggested his name, John Rogers, one of the

Cumberland Youths, proposed Leonard Proctor instead. Rogers was a rather disputatious person, something of the style of George Muskett, and his action was evidently meant to tell Heywood that he need not think he was going to be the boss and have everything his own way. Heywood took it as such, and disclaimed the least inclination to lead in any particular, but everyone, including himself, knew he was the only possible man for the job. Proctor, who was content to let others do the bob calling in his own belfry, was the last man to desire the office.

Until the meeting no details of any scheme had been made public. Heywood had sought and obtained approval for a general idea and did not want to jeopardise it by differences of opinion on how it should be carried out. But he had prepared a draft scheme in full detail and had already submitted it to some of his friends. This scheme was put before the meeting as a basis of discussion, and after some unimportant amendments was adopted. It settled the constitution of the Council and the rules under which it worked until the recent revision.

So the Council was formed, but it remained to be seen whether it would justify its existence. Heywood had successfully accomplished the first part of his task, but he had still to guide the Council through the difficulties and dangers of its youth.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE MINUTES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It might interest you to have a few notes from our committee minutes.

February 9th, 1889.—That a deputy from this association be sent to attend the Johnson Birthday Celebration at Birmingham on February 28th, 1889, in response to an invitation issued by A. Percival Heywood, Esq., to all associations and guilds in the country. That Mr. A. E. Holme, vice-president, be appointed to represent the association. Failing his inability to attend, Mr. R. Wreakes be sent. That all necessary expenses be paid.

At the quarterly meeting on April 27th, 1889, Mr. Holme gave a report of the proceedings. The proposed Central Ringing Council was discussed and was adopted, subject to approval of the annual meeting. The annual meeting was held on October 12th. It was resolved that the association join the Central Ringing Council and that the Rev. H. J. Elsee and Mr. G. Longden be appointed representatives on the provisional committee of the Central Council.

April 26th, 1890.—After hearing the report of the Rev. H. J. Elsee and Mr. G. Longden, it was resolved that the travelling expenses be paid.

You will see from the above the Lancashire Association was in it from the beginning. Canon Elsee attended all meetings (except about two when he was in South Africa on a mission) until the time of his death, although he was not at the Birmingham dinner. The scheme seemed from the beginning to be favourable to the association.

W. H. SHUKER.

106, Bank Street, Clayton, Manchester 11.

TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The advantages of the lengthening lead plan (on which I see both Mr. Dench and Mr. Harvey have agreed), together with the lesser point about contiguous places, were the only reasons for my mentioning Treble Bob in the discussion of Surprise methods. I think this fact was evidently not appreciated by some of the supporters of Treble Bob.

Good striking, which depends on the band, and bells at least good enough to be heard properly, are essentials; but these are only factors concerned with individual performances. To introduce them as arguments for or against any particular method is, to my mind, very unsound reasoning. The use of such arguments cannot carry very strong conviction in favour of the case they are intended to support.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

OXFORD.—On Tuesday, March 25th, at New College, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (10 different callings) by W. H. B. Leese 1-2, J. E. Spice (conductor) 3-4, *Miss W. Laws 5-6. *First quarter-peal. Rung in celebration of the ringer of 1-2 having passed his 'finals.'

MR. C. L. ROUTLEDGE. SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY RINGING.

On Monday, March 31st, Mr. C. L. Routledge, who is one of the foremost and best known ringers in the North of England, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, and in honour of the event an attempt for a peal of Bob Major on handbells was arranged by members of the Durham and Newcastle Association. Unfortunately one of the band was kept busy at 'the works' and after a long wait a 720 Bob Minor was rung by C. L. Routledge 1-2, W. H. Barber (conductor) 3-4, E. Wallace 5-6. As Mr. Wallace's 21st birthday had fallen on the previous Friday, there were mutual congratulations going round.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. MEETING AT DARFIELD.

The April meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Darfield on Saturday, April 5th, and members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Wath and the local company.

The reading room was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening, and the handbells were brought into action and made very good use of.

The Rector, the Rev. H. Drown, spent most of the afternoon with the ringers, and it being the first time he had witnessed any handbell ringing, he appreciated it very much. He expressed the opinion that it was nice to be able to keep the art going in this way. It kept the members together and the flag flying so that when the time came they would be able to go back to the towers ready for action.

An apology was received from the president, Mr. E. Brookes, for absence, as he was on duty as a fire spotter.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for all he had done and for the welcome he had given the society was passed, and, in reply, he said he was pleased to welcome the society once more to Darfield. He regretted that owing to conditions which all present knew quite well he could not provide the usual tea which added so much to the meetings. He felt that instead of entertaining the ringers he himself had been entertained by the handbell ringing, but he hoped it would not be long before bellringing would be resumed.

Tea was served at the Cross Keys Hotel at 5.15, after which the members returned to the reading room for further handbell ringing.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Plain, Double, Reverse and St. Clement's Bob Minor, Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Plain and Little Bob Major Spliced, Plain, Reserve and Double Bob Major Spliced, and Plain and Gainsborough Major Spliced.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, May 10th.

IN AND OUT OF COURSE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent X.Y.Z. refers to the terms 'in-course' and 'out-of-course' as being 'proper and historical.'

Ringers know what they stand for, but I have often wondered where they came from, because one of these terms, namely, 'out-of-course,' is much older than change ringing. In Psalm 82, second half of verse 5, are the words 'all the foundations of the earth are *out of course*.' It is the same both in the Authorised Version 1611 and in the Prayer Book Version of the Psalms (attributed to Coverdale about 1549). The point is that it could not have applied to rows and changes at first, but might have been borrowed to express something not understood. Perhaps one of our clerical ringers could explain this term for us.

P. LAFLIN.

25, Hallam Street, Stockport.

AN ENDOWMENT FOR BELL ROPES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Arthur Wright, continuing his articles on the 'Church Bells of Monmouth' in the last issue of the 'Archæologia Cambrensis,' the journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association, mentions some very interesting details of the six bells of St. Bridget's, Skenfrith, Mon.

The bells were cast by Thomas Rudhall in 1764, and the treble has the ob. of George II. halfpenny on waist. On the second bell is the couplet, 'When you us ring we'll sweetly sing.' I don't remember a similar instance of Rudhall using this.

A piece of land comprising about 4 acres near Blackbrook is called Ynys-y-Glock and Ynys-y-Eglwys (Bell and Church Meadow), the profits of which were for the repair of the church and maintaining ropes for the bells. In 1691 it was let by the churchwardens to Richard Morgan, wheelwright, for 99 years, at a rent of 20s., he agreeing to keep the bells in order. In 1783 Sir John Briggs purchased it for £263, and joined it with his lawn, pulling down a house on it and cutting down the timber. It was sold in 1825 with the estate to Edward Barker, who on demand gave £1 to buy bell ropes.

A commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Brougham, which was set up on a petition from the parishioners, recommended that action be taken to recover this land, but no action was ever taken by them. Does any reader know of any similar instance where land was given for the repair and upkeep of bell ropes?

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

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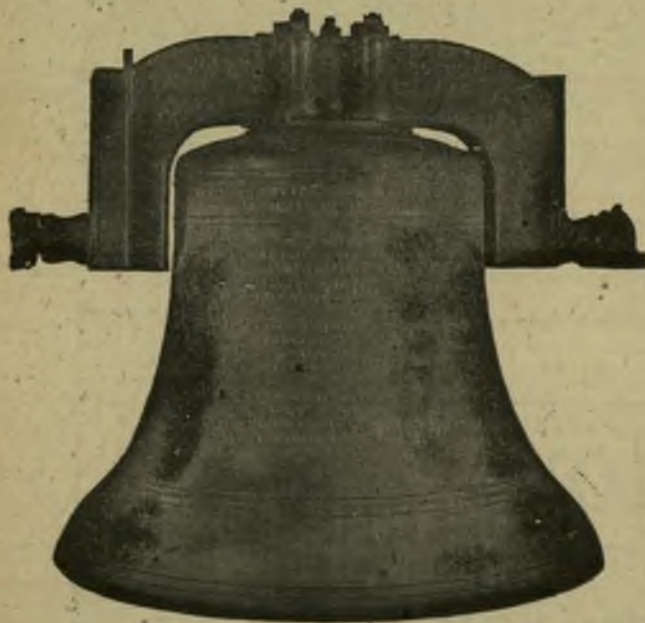
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that the Editor continues to make satisfactory, although slow, progress toward recovery. He is still in hospital.

Once again he desires to thank his many friends for their kind inquiries and good wishes.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

To-day is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Heywood, an account of whose life and work for the Exercise and the Central Council is appearing in our columns.

We have received a letter from Mr. William Keeble, who is still in hospital at Colchester. He tells us that he is keeping fairly well, but has suffered from a number of fits, the last attack a rather bad one. Fortunately he was in bed at the time. All ringers will extend to Mr. Keeble their sympathy and good wishes. In his time he has taken part in many splendid performances, including double-banded Surprise (London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative) and the record peal of London Surprise on tower bells.

The 'funny man' of 'The Suffolk Chronicle and Mercury' writes. 'One of the few advantages of this dreadfully noisy war is, it has, closed down the belfries and given us a bit of peace on practice nights! But when it's over perhaps I'll be more friendly to an hour or so's racket once a week. The bellringers may have funny ideas of pleasure, but the Government lug-plugs ought to be handy when the bellringers get really busy on their Grandsires, Triple Bob Majors, or whatever they call 'em.'

On April 13th, 1914, the record peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, 14,000 changes, was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne. Arthur E. Pegler rang the tenor and Samuel Wood conducted from the treble. The composition was John Reeves' peal, slightly varied by Henry Johnson.

Three years earlier on April 17th in the same tower and by much the same band the record peal of Kent Maximus was accomplished. Samuel Wood called this from the ninth, and the tenor was rung by James George.

We have just heard from Mr. George that, though at times he has not been at all well, he is at present as well as can be expected. He naturally feels the loss of his leg tremendously, and though he has been to the expense of an artificial limb, it is quite useless to him.

A gallant attempt to ring 22,096 changes of Double Norwich Major at Heptonstall on April 14th, 1928, failed after about 18,360 changes had been rung in 10 hours and 36 minutes.

The first peal of Bob Major in Ireland was conducted by James W. Washbrook at Arklow on April 14th, 1906.

In view of the correspondence now appearing in our columns, it is interesting to notice that on April 15th, 1813, 6,272 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major were rung at St. Giles', Norwich, with sixth's place hobs.

Yesterday was the anniversary of three famous peals in addition to that at Ashton-under-Lyne just mentioned. In 1820 the Birmingham men rang the then longest peal of Treble Twelve; in 1900 a peal of Superlative, 9,312 changes, was rung at Irthlingborough; and in 1769 the Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Norwich Royal.

To-day is the anniversary of some famous peals. In 1737 the Painswick men rang 12,006 Grandsire Caters; in 1874 the Cumberlands rang 13,440 Double Norwich Major at Romford; and in 1927 the Lancashire Association rang the record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 17,824 changes, at Heptonstall.

James R. Haworth was born on April 21st, 1821. He lived to a great age and died just before the last war.

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

The Stedman Triples was rung by the College Youths at St. Andrew's, Wells. Street, on the bells and in the steeple which have since been moved to Kingsbury.

One of the peals of Double Norwich was conducted by Mr. George Williams and rung at Reigate on Dr. Arthur B. Carpenter's birthday.

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMOUS BELLS.

It is now confirmed that the worst has happened to the famous ring of twelve at St. Giles', Cripplegate. Mr. R. F. Deal informs us that eight of the bells which were in the steeple have now been taken down. Several of them, including the tenor, are badly damaged, in most cases being split across the crown. Very little is left of the other five.

MR. A. J. HARRIS.

LEICESTER RINGER DECORATED FOR BRAVERY.

In the course of a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace, the King bestowed the medal of the Order of the British Empire on Mr. Alfred James Harris for bravery during an air raid at Leicester last November.

Mr. Harris was the leader of a voluntary A.R.P. rescue squad operating in the thick of the bombing.

The 'London Gazette' officially states that 'the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire' was awarded Mr. Harris 'for meritorious service.' 'He was the leader of a voluntary A.R.P. rescue party operating in the thick of the bombing. He and his party succeeded in rescuing over twenty casualties from dangerous buildings. Mr. Harris did splendid work. He worked continuously for ten hours until he was exhausted. It was undoubtedly due to his splendid leadership and disregard to his own personal safety that his squad was so successful in their efforts.'

Mr. Harris is a well-known member of the Midland Counties Association and the Leicester Cathedral Society. He is a member of the Central Council. He began his ringing career in 1902 and joined the Midland Counties Association in 1908. He was secretary of the Leicester Branch from 1909 to 1911 and president from 1924 to 1938. He was elected representative on the Central Council in 1936.

He is also a past president of the Leicester Branch of the National Federation of Master Painters and Decorators of England and Wales, and holds several offices in the Decorating Section of the Leicester College of Arts and Crafts.

From 1915 to 1919 he served in the Royal Field Artillery.

The Exercise will congratulate Mr. Harris on the honour His Majesty has conferred on him.



MR. A. J. HARRIS.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank Messrs. Trollope and Turner, of the Methods Committee, for their reply to my letter of April 4th, but it does not alter the remark they made on the above method in their letter of March 28th.

The second paragraph contains remarks I have heard many times over, as to short courses, 'In and 5th, etc.' I agree they are not compulsory and am pleased to know that efforts are being made to break away in 'spliced ringing' from the 'three lead plan.'

I know they are experienced 'spliced peal ringers,' but personally I found no difficulty in the only two attempts I have ever made, without practice, beyond just a course or two at perhaps just the tail end of a district meeting.

As to Berkeley Surprise, I suppose it is the usual matter of opinion. Ask those who have rung a peal of it.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Care should be taken when instructing beginners with handbells, either double-handed or single-handed, to teach on the proper lines, otherwise the effort will be wasted when the time comes for those same persons to see what they can do in the tower. They will be all at sea. I know a case of a man tapping Surprise methods who could not ring them in the steeple.

New ideas are all right if the ringer is brought on to understand change ringing so that when the war is over he can take his place in the tower on one bell. Put a clapper stay across six or eight bells and practice on them. These stays are easily made. I will forward a sketch to anyone sending me a stamped envelope.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR DEAN.

WELL-KNOWN SURREY RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur Dean, of Leatherhead, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 6th, leaving a widow, three sons and six daughters to mourn their loss.

The funeral took place at Leatherhead, on Thursday, April 10th, and at the conclusion of the service in church, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge), a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung by four of the local company.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Surrey Association, the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and the local ringers.

In addition to the family mourners and friends, there were present representatives of the Surrey Association (Mr. E. G. Talbot), the Guildford Diocesan Guild (Mr. A. H. Pulling), the Ashtead company (Mr. J. Hoyle), the Cobham company (Mr. W. James) and the local band.

Arthur Dean was born on September 16th, 1864, at the village of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, and at an early age learned to ring on the five bells in the village steeple. The local band rang Grandsire Doubles from memory, and he first became acquainted with real change ringing at Beenham, Berks, about 1890. In 1892 he went to London and joined the St. Margaret's company, the Waterloo Society and the Cumberland Youths. His first peal (Grandsire Caters) was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1893. In 1896 he came to Leatherhead and ever since was a member of the local band.

He was a good striker and had but a poor opinion of any ringer who was not. Being of splendid physique, he usually was at the back end, and rang several badly going tenors to peals, including St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, and Kingston-on-Thames, but he was equally at home on a light bell. His peals numbered about 250 in various methods, Grandsire Caters being his favourite, especially when in the handstroke position with the 6th behind the 8th.

In 1923, on the death of Mr. Marks, he was elected captain of the local band and held the office until his death. He was instrumental in getting the bells rehung in 1924. He was a vice-president of the Surrey Association and a foundation member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

HIS WORK FOR THE EXERCISE.

The death of Arthur Dean removes a ringer who over a long period has done yeoman service for the Surrey Association, which two or three years ago expressed its recognition by electing him as a vice-president.

As leader of Leatherhead tower, Mr. Dean had round him a loyal and competent band, who kept up their regular service ringing and rang many peals in the standard methods for the county organisation. Until the coming of the Guildford Diocesan Guild twelve years ago, Leatherhead had always been essentially a Surrey Association tower, although earlier, before the county association came into being, it had joined the Winchester Diocesan Guild. Arthur Dean succeeded to the mantle of Stephen Brooker as conductor and for years he ruled the belfry with a firm hand. He was a blunt man. He said what he had to say without mincing words, but the fact that he always kept a band round him was proof that his plain speaking did not offend.

It was a great blow to him when he became incapacitated by a disease which prevented his getting to the tower. In the days when ringing was permitted, he could hear the bells from his home, and nothing gave him greater delight than to hear them well rung, or to have an old ringing friend drop in for a chat.

When the Guildford Diocesan Guild was formed, Arthur Dean came with the rest of his band readily into the new organisation, and he came without sacrificing any of his loyalties to his old love. It has been a lasting tribute to the whole of the ringers in that part of Surrey that for twelve years the Surrey Association and the Guildford Guild have worked in the friendliest relationship—at the outbreak of the war they were even seeking a closer working agreement—and in all this Arthur Dean gave his co-operation. For the last three or four years his burly form has been missed from the belfry at Leatherhead, but his heart was there, and to the end he retained the liveliest interest in ringing.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL AT CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Notwithstanding the evidence Mr. T. E. Slater brings forward in your last issue, I think it is certain that the Holt's Original at Cambridge in 1797 was conducted by James Bartlett, the College Youth of Kensington, and not by John Bowtell, the Cambridge bookseller.

My authority is the peal book of the Cambridge Youths. That book, I believe, disappeared long since, but about 100 years ago Edward Osborn made a verbatim copy of it, and I used his copy when writing my recent account of Cambridge ringing. There is also independent and nearly contemporary corroboration in Parnell's MS.

Mr. Slater quotes the peal board as giving Bowtell as conductor. I do not know if that board still exists, or if it is readable, or has been rewritten. A copy was given many years ago in 'Church Bells' in much the same words as in Mr. Slater's letter. Jasper Snowdon used this copy and other people have followed him, but it seems that the man who made the copy misread the name which may have been almost illegible. Perhaps some of our Cambridge friends will tell us if the board is still there and if it can be read.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing, on Saturday, April 5th, when about 30 members and friends were present from Brentford, Crayford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Fulham, Hillingdon (St. John's), Harrow, Kenton, New-castle-on-Tyne, Ruimsip, Twickenham and Walthamstow.

The annual committee meeting preceded the tea. The proceedings were opened by a well-struck touch on the handbells and a few prayers by the Vicar of Twickenham. The annual general meeting followed, presided over by the president, Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, supported by the Rev. W. Paton (St. Lawrence's, Brentford), the Rev. T. Hyslop (curate-in-charge, St. Stephen's), Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president), Mr. C. T. Coles (general secretary), Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey (district secretary) and others.

The secretary presented his annual report, which stated that during the past year three meetings had been held, at Heston, Brentford and Ruimsip. Five new members had been elected and none lost by death. Four churches in union with the district had been damaged by enemy action, but fortunately none seriously. As far as had been ascertained six members were on military service.

'We were all very grieved,' said Mr. Cockey, 'to hear recently of the serious illness of the Editor of "The Ringing World," but it is pleasing to note that he is getting over his operation, and we all hope that he may be soon fully restored to health, to carry on the good work he is doing for ringing generally. The future is uncertain, but full of hope, and may it be that by the time our next annual meeting comes round, we shall be ringing the bells again, perhaps for final victory.'

The statement of accounts, presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, showed a balance of £4 handed over to the Central Fund.

All the present officers were asked to remain in office, viz.: Secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Ringing Master, Mr. G. M. Kilby; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. F. G. Baldwin; auditors, Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Fulwell; committee, Messrs. C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler and T. Collins. Two new members were elected, Mr. F. Humphreys and Miss P. Norman, of Heston.

The question was raised as to the place for future meetings, and it was left with the secretary to try and arrange a meeting, probably in July, following the annual general meeting and one proposed to be held by the North and East District in June. A cordial invitation was received from the Rev. W. Paton to hold the next annual meeting at Brentford, and this was accepted with the hope that by that time the bells might be ringing again.

The secretary was asked to write to the Vicar of St. Stephen's and to Mr. Goldsmith expressing sympathy in their illnesses, and to the assistant secretary, Mr. Wilson, on service, wishing him good luck. A welcome was extended by the vice-president to Preb. Cole Sheane, the Rev. W. Paton and the Rev. T. Hyslop, to which all suitably replied.

The president proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. and Miss Cockey and Miss Hastie, for arranging the tea, and to Mr. Good (verger) and his wife for arranging the hall, and complimented them all on the excellent arrangements made in face of difficulties. Mrs. Cockey suitably replied.

After the meeting handbell ringing was indulged in till about 7 p.m., when a very pleasant meeting came to an end.

ON FOREIGN SERVICE.

A LETTER FROM A REMOTE ISLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although my being stationed so far away bars me from taking any active part in the Exercise, I still follow with great interest the achievements of those who are in a more fortunate position than myself. I admire their determination in carrying on despite the ban on tower bells, the 'blitz' and other great drawbacks and difficulties which they must meet at a time like this.

It is with deep regret that I read of some of our most ancient and beautiful churches being destroyed and to realise that modern architecture will not be able to replace the beauty and history of those noble buildings.

I was very much interested in an article on the ringing of the death bell. Since I have started ringing I have never heard it mentioned at any of the towers I have rung at, but I distinctly remember when I was in school, at such times when there was a funeral we used to listen for the tenor tolling three slow strokes for a man and two for a woman.

I was also interested in your list of where the curfew was still rung until the ban was imposed. I did not see Shrewsbury in that list. The curfew was rung at St. Mary's every night after the clock had finished striking nine; the clock hammers were then lifted, the eighth was tolled for about two minutes and then set except on Saturday nights, when it was lowered ready for the clerk to use with the apparatus. After setting the eighth, the date of the month was struck on the tenor. The clock hammers were lifted because the church is close to the hospital.

It was with deep regret that I learned of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's serious illness. My latest 'Ringing World' is dated March 7th and contains the news that he expects to go under the major operation

(Continued in next column.)

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was not my intention to make any comment, either on the letter from Mr. Bunce, or your recent editorial, but in order to clear up any wrong impressions which may have arisen as a result of these two articles, or even scepticism and hints of leg-pulling about reports of our progress, I feel I must make some reply.

First with regard to Mr. Bunce's letter: where, may I ask him, have I stated that I have tried to make children, not in their 'teens, try to ring Double Norwich double-handed after a few practices? He is correct in saying that some of our ringers are not in their 'teens; he is also correct in saying that we have rung Double Norwich double-handed; but he is incorrect in combining these two statements, and most incorrect in stating that any of us have rung Double Norwich 'after a few practices.'

And now, sir, a few comments on your editorial. Your first paragraph, quoting from the account of one of our 'at homes,' stated quite correctly that on a recent afternoon we rang courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus, and half a course of Sextuples. But we accomplished this only with the help of our visitors, and although we did not state it in our account, actually four members of our society and three visitors attended that afternoon; and so to state as you did that 'we feel sure we are right in saying that never before in the whole history of the Exercise has one band at one time rung such a wide and varied selections of methods' you are reading far more into our account than we ever stated. Not only was a lot of what we rang that afternoon 'first attempts' for members of our society, but for our visitors as well; and never have members of the society by themselves, as yet, rung anything more than Major. Such a misstatement in the editorial of a newspaper is bound to give very false impressions, and help to increase the scepticism and hints of leg-pulling with which our efforts are being greeted in some quarters.

Later on you hint that we are employing 'short cuts to success.' I quite agree that the more complex methods on handbells can only be accomplished 'by constant practice, close application, and a thorough knowledge of ringing in general and the special methods in particular.' But this is exactly what we are doing: we study conducting, composing, method construction, shunts, effects of place making, and many other of the branches of ringing theory. And as for 'constant practice,' many of us are getting four practices a week of about one and a half hours each, and when this is spread over six months we have had as much ringing as a lot of our handbell ringers get in as many years.

Nowhere have I hinted that practice and a thorough knowledge of ringing 'has largely been made unnecessary by a new system of teaching.' Recently, in answer to one of your correspondents, I stated quite clearly that the methods we employ are ordinary commonsense methods. A knowledge of the difficulties which are peculiar to handbell ringing, and the means of meeting them based on experience, coupled with constant and concentrated practice, is our formula for success, and not, as you appear to believe, a system which largely evades them.

Highcliffe Society, Swindon.

THE SECRETARY.

(Continued from previous column.)

in a week's time, which means as I sit here writing this that the operation was performed a week ago. I sincerely hope and trust that by the time this reaches you he will be well on his way to recovery and that he will soon be on the active list again.

A thought has just struck me. I was wondering if I were your only reader in this island. If there are other ringers stationed here I should certainly like to drop across them. I have not met any so far; there are none in my own company now. When we were in England there were three more in the same company as myself, but much to my disappointment they were regarded as unfit for foreign service. While we were in England we thought of trying to buy or appealing for a small set of handbells, but my going abroad spoilt our plans.

Being a member of the Shropshire Association and also of the Hereford Diocesan Guild, it is with regret that time after time I receive my 'Ringing World' only to find that there is nothing in about either. It makes one wonder whether our associations are doing all they might be towards keeping the spark alight even if only handbells are available. Personally, I would give quite a lot at the present moment for a touch on the handbells.

When we first landed in this country we were stationed in a large town for a few days, and the day before we left while on a route march I noticed a funeral in a cathedral burial ground. Later in the day as I was passing on my way into the town there were two bells being tolled. I am no musician, but to my mind they sounded like treble and tenor to a peal of eight. Tenor about 30 cwt. was my guess. I almost went up to investigate, but being a stranger in a strange land and not understanding the language deferred me, and I missed the opportunity. If I get back there at any time I shall certainly try to find out more about them.

Well, I could ramble on for pages yet, but I have to finish somewhere, so it might as well be here. So, looking forward to being home in time for a victory peal, I will set. Thanking you once again,

JACK F. BUTLER.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

A WORTHY CANDIDATE.

Among the simpler methods in the Surprise Major group which are as yet generally unknown, Cornwall seems to be the one best fitted to become a standard method. It has been published three or four times, and the first peal was rung by the talented Helmingham band on October 19th, 1936, but its merits have not yet been recognised.

The method belongs to the Double Norwich family, and its good qualities are largely derived from its ancestry. Here is its pedigree.

A.	CORNWALL S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7
X 2 4 3 6 1 5 7 8	2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 5 1 8 7	4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5
2 4 3 6 1 5 7 8	4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 5 1 8 7	6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5
2 4 3 6 5 8 1 7	4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1	6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1
2 4 3 6 5 8 1 7	6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1	3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1
Y 2 4 3 6 5 8 7 1	6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1
4 2 6 3 8 5 1 7	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
2 4 3 6 5 8 7 1	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
4 2 6 3 8 5 1 7	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
2 4 3 6 8 1 5 7	3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 8 7 5	2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7
2 4 3 6 8 1 5 7	2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 8 7 5	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
Z 2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5
2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 8 3 5 7
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	4 2 1 6 3 8 7 5
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 8 3 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 3 8 7 5
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5	1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5

First of all we write down a lead of Double Norwich, adding Sevenths when the treble lies behind, and so producing Pershore Bob.

This we turn into a Treble Bob method by pricking every pair of rows twice, which will give us the lead above marked A.

A is a Surprise Major method, but it has no practical value since it is very false. It is, however, the foundation of a large number of very excellent methods.

It is necessary to get rid of the falseness, and to do that there are scores, and, indeed, hundreds, of simple and obvious means.

In our present example Oxford places in 5-6 are made in the first two sections and, of course, in the corresponding two sections in the second half-lead. That disposes of all the repetitions above the treble.

We notice that in A below the treble the four bells in 1-2-3-4 dodge continuously from the time the treble leaves 3-4 until it returns there again; this dodging lasts for four sections or sixteen changes. But sixteen changes is the number needed for a Treble Bob hunting course on four bells, so that if the four bells hunt Treble Bob fashion among themselves, at the end of the four sections they will be in the same positions as they would be if they had continuously dodged. That will get rid of the repetitions below the treble and give us a first-class Surprise method.

But it is capable of still further improvement. In the lead A, sixth's place is made at the two cross sections marked X and Z, and seventh's place is made in the change marked Y. Notice that in all three instances 5-7-8 are together, and that each in turn makes a place. Whenever this happens in a method (and it very frequently does happen) eighth's may be substituted for sixth's at the two cross-sections, and fifth's for seventh's at the half-lead. This is one of the standard ways of varying a method, and makes no difference to its internal truth.

Those who are interested in the finer points of method construction may notice that this variation is a precisely similar one to the substituting a Treble Bob hunting course for continuous dodging in the other part of our example. At X, Y, and Z the three bells 5,7,8 go through a Six, the changes at Y (which are below the treble) being reversed. When we make the variation we substitute continuous dodging.

The value of making the variation in our method is that we get rid of the excessive dodging of A. Instead of 5-pull dodging we have 3-pull and single dodging.

Cornwall therefore is developed from the lead A by three very simple operations. It is quite easy to see many more which would give us methods. We could have, for instance, two Plain backward hunting courses on the four front bells instead of the one Treble Bob hunting course. We get them in Peterborough and in Leatherhead. And here is another rather more complex operation which may be compared with one in Bristol Surprise.

2436	2436	2436
4263	2346	4263
2436	3264	4623
4263	3624	6432
2436	6342	4623
4263	6432	4263
2436	4623	2436
4263	4263	4236

Examination and experiment will soon reveal many more variations both below and above the treble, but Cornwall is much the best of the lot.

(To be continued.)

VARIATIONS OF HOLT'S SINGLE.

FROM CANON G. H. RIDOUT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A Holt's Single has five bells lying still, while one pair of bells makes a change. The changing pair could be at six different points: 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, or 6-7. These may be referred to as H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 and H6.

In H1 the treble changes with the hunt bell: this must, therefore, be made as the treble goes off the lead (back and hand). The first H would be called at the word 'go,' and at the first change 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 all lie still. The corresponding call (at half-way, or wherever used) brings the bells from 1235476 into the plain course. It is, therefore, the simplest, most familiar and safest way of getting over the Holt. It has been used by G. Lindoff and others.

H2 is the form used by Holt himself and by many others.

H1, H2, H4 and H6 all produce twofold shunts.

H3 and H5 produce fourfold shunts; therefore, they could only be used in a series of four.

It is regarded as permissible to use two kinds of Holt in one peal, one being a plain lead single and the other a Bob single (used by C. D. P. Davies and others).

If it were allowable to use H3 and H6 in the same composition, two perfect eight part peals could be produced.

No. 1.—Calls at 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 5, 5.

No. 2.—Calls at 5, 5, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 1, 5, 5.

Each seven times repeated.

All calls are Bob, except the final call at the part end. The scale of part ends runs:—

H3 352476	H3 452367
H3 543267	H3 534276
H3 425376	H3 325467
H6 243576	H6 234567

In any two complementary parts the repeating bells, 6 and 7, will be six courses in the Hunt; six courses coursing each other, 6 after 7, or 7 after 6 as the case may be; and six courses apart. The composition has the irreducible number of 80 calls.

In H3 the bell which the treble turns makes 2nd's, and into the Hunt. The bell which was in the Hunt works as in Holt's Single. The two back bells also work as in Holt's Single.

The new work is that the bell which should dodge in 4-5 up has only one blow in fifth's place; and then makes second third's place and returns to lead. And the bell which makes first third's will take the place of the bell in 4-5 down; will have one blow in fifth's, and return to lead.

In H5 the two bells in front work as in a common single. The bell which would dodge in 4-5 up works as in Holt's Single. The bell which would dodge in 6-7 down also works as in Holt's Single (7th's place, one blow in sixth, 7th's place again, and again one blow in 6th; 7th's place a third time, and down). The new work here is that the bell coming out of the Hunt may be said to have a single dodge in 4-7 down; and the bell which would be called 'Home' at a Bob has a single dodge in 7-4 up.

W. H. Thompson once remarked that a regular eight-part peal is impossible with the ordinary calls. This is true because the linking up process involves long parts and short parts, making only a lop-sided four-part as the result.

St. Alban's, Johannesburg.

G. H. RIDOUT.

P.S.—Perhaps H3 should be called a 'Middle Single,' and H6 is really an 'Extreme,' or 'Single at the Back.'—G. H. R.

A SUFFOLK PEAL ATTEMPT.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Stowmarket, Friday.—On Tuesday last, the Stowmarket Junior Society of Ringers ascended the tower and pulled down for a peal of 5,264 changes of Bob Major, when after ringing about 4,000 out of that number, unfortunately the sixth rope broke: but still not dismayed, after a little rest and refreshment, they struck off a second time, when they rang and completed the peal in 3 hours and 10 minutes. The band were stationed as under, viz.: William Stevens, jun., treble; Thomas Stevenson, second; John Elmer (who composed and conducted the peal), third; John Garnham, fourth; Robert Cuthbert, fifth; James Warner, sixth; William Stevens, sen., seventh; and George Easlea, tenor.

From 'The Suffolk Chronicle,' March 13th, 1841.

MORE REMINISCENCES.

FIRST PEAL ATTEMPTS.

In the 'Bell News' for 1892, page 79, the following appears: 'Little Heath, Essex. On Wednesday, April 27th, at St. James' Church, four six-scores Bob Doubles, eight six-scores Grandsire, eight six-scores Antelope; F. Gillingham 1, W. Pye 2, E. Pye 3, W. Watson 4, G. Pye (conductor) 5.'

I wonder when this appeared who could foresee that the names of three of this band would live as long as ringing lasts.

I first met them 42 years ago when they were frequent visitors to Erith. I used to go over whenever they were coming, on the off chance of finding them one short, as I badly wanted to ring a peal of Double Norwich. This never happened.

I have never been a 'safe' ringer and my father for this reason had little patience with me. Whenever I broached the subject of a peal he would reply, 'You shall have one when you ring without making so many trips.' From what I remember I did not improve, so one day I plucked up courage and asked Bill for one. Bill smelt a rat and said, 'What about your father? He ought to call it.' I explained matters and he said, 'All right, come over on Sunday week; you shall have one.' We rang it and I can picture him now telling me I rang very well.

I wondered going home how the news would be received, as I had said nothing about it. However, when I broke it father was as pleased as I was and said, 'It shows what you can do when you try.' I think he admired my determination to ring a peal of Double Norwich if possible.

In after years I asked Bill for my first peals of Surprise. These opportunities were given as promptly as the Double Norwich, but were not as successful. A rope broke in the Superlative, we met short for Cambridge and rang Stedman Triples (this, incidentally, was Bob's 400th peal), and I forget what happened to the London.

It was also to him that I made the request for my first peal of Treble Twelve. He rang few of these, and I waited a year or so for it to mature, but it came along one day at Waltham Abbey. There must have been several like myself in this peal for there were five 'firsts' in it.

I told him one day I would like to ring a peal of Cambridge Maximus, but lacked the confidence to start without practice. He said at once, 'I'll get Tom to put a quarter-peal on one Sunday at Cripplegate.' This came along in less than a month and the peal a fortnight later at Canterbury.

My last request was less than ten years ago for my son's first peal of Spliced Surprise, and this was given him as promptly as those given to myself.

I have written the above to try and show how willing he was to help the ordinary ringer. Much has been written about his great performances, but very little about this side.

It needs someone far more able than me to try and do justice to Ernest Pye. Has there been so great a ringer in the history of the Exercise? I have on more than one occasion lost myself in ringing through watching him on a heavy bad going bell. And what a lovable man he was. Those who never knew him cannot begin to appreciate what they have lost.

'Bob,' we are thankful to say, is still with us, and we trust will be for many years. His name is honoured no less than 'Bill and Ernie.'

E. B.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

An enjoyable meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held last Saturday, when a good number of members turned up, including the following members of H.M. Forces: Lieut. G. E. Debenham, Lance-Corpl. F. Shorter, Lance-Corpl. J. Waugh and Aircraftman I. Nelson Elliott.

After the business meeting Stedman Triples and Caters and Bob Major were rung until 5 p.m., when all adjourned for light refreshment. Others present besides the officers were G. N. Price, J. M. Cripps, R. J. Cousins, E. F. Pike, E. A. Young, E. Murrell, R. F. Deal, H. Langdon, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles and J. A. Pryor.

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NOTICES.

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. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

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.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

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.—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.—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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th. 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.

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Worcester, on April 26th. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Staverton on Saturday, April 26th. Tower and handbell ringing. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 22nd. Kindly bring your own sugar.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

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.

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.

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.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 26th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

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 2d. 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 (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

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