THE RINGING WORLD

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ASSOCIATION RECORDS.

All who realise the value of the books and manuscripts which have come down to us from old times, and the importance of documents in carrying on the ordinary life of a society, will have noticed with satisfaction the steps taken by several associations to safeguard their records, or at least to reduce the risk of their loss to a minimum.

At one time it seemed as if the chance of any particular steeple being destroyed was a very remote one, but now, as we near the completion of a full year of intense bombing, we know from bitter experience that hardly any place can be considered safe, and the plan is being adopted of dispersing the property of a society among several of the leading members, so that, if some part is destroyed, all will not suffer the same fate. That seems the best thing to do, except in the comparatively rare instances where a place can be found which may reasonably be considered as absolutely safe. We would urge the authorities of all associations which have not so far taken any steps to consider this matter.

An example of the inconvenience which may attend the destruction of papers was mentioned last Saturday at the meeting of the Society of College Youths. Mr. Herbert Langdon, who called the long and record peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton in 1922, had preserved in his office the original manuscript, signed by the composer, of the composition. It was the final authority on what was rung. As it happened, the figures when they appeared in this journal were given with a mistake, a small one, but still a mistake. Suppose that fifty years hence someone turns up 'The Ringing World,' and, having noticed the error, casts doubt on the truth of the peal. Had the original manuscript survived, an appeal to it would have decided the matter offhand, but the paper perished when Mr. Langdon's office was burnt out some time back in one of the air raids. He suggested, and the society decided, that Mr. Miles, the composer, should write out and sign a copy, and that it should be placed among the society's records.

That was a wise thing to do, although the chances, we imagine, of anyone challenging the truth of the Appleton peal, either in its composition or its execution, are very remote.

The discussion led to a further question being raised. Why are not the figures given in the society's peal book? It is a question which has been raised before, and as far back as 1879 Jasper Snowdon wrote in the introduction to his collection of peals of Treble Bob, 'Of what use are the costly and carefully kept books of such societies as the College and Cumberland Youths, when they do not

(Continued on page 254.)

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even attempt to preserve from oblivion the only particulars of permanent interest connected with the performances they record? Were all these by-gone performances true, and thus worthy of record? If so, surely the men who spent their time and wearied their brains over their production should have their work preserved from ignominious extinction.'

History supplies an answer to Snowdon's questions. The old societies at first did put the figures in their books, and a great deal of what we know about the early composition comes from the records of the Eastern Scholars, the Union Scholars and the College Youths; but there came a time when men began to look back at those figures, and they found many of the peals false. That, and the scare caused by the discovery of the internal falseness of Treble Bob, led to a wholesale destruction of peals lest they, too, should fail to stand the test. Men who had called peals kept the figures to themselves as the best way of insuring that others should find no fault with them. When once the plan of recording the figures was lost, custom and prejudice prevented it being revived.

Things have changed much since those days and, indeed, since Snowdon's time. Peals and compositions have multiplied so enormously that the truth or falsity of any individual one is of little importance except to the people immediately concerned, but truth, after all, is the fundamental essential in change ringing—truth of composition and truth of execution—and everything which ensures it should be fostered. In the case of record and outstanding peals, there should never at any time be any doubt about what actually was rung.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, May 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MAURICE HODGSON	1-2	SERGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C.	5-6
*GNR. C. W. DENYER, R.A.	3-4	PTE. L. J. FOX, P.C.	7-8

Composed by GEO. F. WILLIAMS. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.
* First eight-bell peal 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, May 20, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
Tenor size 18 in G.

EDWIN A. BARNETT	1-2	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	3-4	†FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW...	7-8

Composed by W. HARRISON. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.
* 50th handbell peal. † First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL AT CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Much interesting information has been given us of the history of the Cambridge Youths by Mr. Trollope and by Mr. Slater, for which I thank them.

Their accounts differ, however, as to whether J. Bartlett or J. Bowtell called Holt's Original at St. Mary's on June 2nd, 1797.

Mr. Trollope is correct in saying J. Bartlett called the peal, as a board on the wall of the ringing chamber in good preservation recording the peal clearly gives the name of Bartlett as conductor. Bowtell was not in the band.

Mr. Slater writes of a tablet recording Holt's Original rung on the same date with J. Bowtell as conductor, but there is no tablet in the tower now recording this peal. Whether one was erected and has since been taken down and lost or whether the peal was rung at all I do not know.

E. G. HIBBINS.

23, Hemingford Road, Cambridge.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE PEAL COLLECTIONS.

(Continued from page 244.)

The Appendix of 1895 showed that the attempts by the Council's committee to publish a collection of peals were so far failures. Nobody was satisfied, and in 1896 Nathan Pitstow and Charles Henry Hattersley retired. Hattersley had been dissatisfied from the beginning, and had taken very little interest in the matter. His opinion was that the expense of printing would be too great for the object to be achieved, many of the peals were not worth the paper they were written on, and he did not see any good to be served by publishing them in book form. The event showed that he was right, but the Council was anxious to have something in print, and so the Appendix appeared.

Charles Henry Hattersley represented the best elements in the Exercise during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He came of a distinguished ringing family, his grandfather, William Booth, was one of the leading ringers in the North of England during the earlier years of the century, and his brother Thomas was hardly less well known than himself. Hattersley inherited strong traditions, but he was open to new ideas. He was an excellent ringer, and he had high standards, both of striking and of composition. Personally he was a likeable and popular man with a strongly marked personality. He was a first-class judge of the quality of compositions, but naturally his standards were those of his time and, like the others, he looked on a peal as an independent thing and (apart from the recognised and very restricted rules of variation), as 'original.' He did not object to the peals sent to the committee because they were not original, but because they had no merits as compositions. He knew nothing about the art of putting a book together, and in any case was not the man to produce a good collection. At the same time, if his particular skill and knowledge had been used in the right way, he could have done much good. What the committee needed was a Jasper Snowdon to put into shape the material the others collected, but that they lacked.

Nathan Pitstow held a position in the Exercise not unlike Hattersley's. He, too, was a skilled composer of the old type, and a good practical ringer. He had not the marked personality of the other man. I met him several times, but retain no impression of his attitude towards the various problems which were then discussed and argued about in the Exercise.

When the committee was reconstructed, Davies remained, and Earle Bulwer, Dr. A. B. Carpenter, and Henry Dains were brought in. These changes strengthened it in some ways but not in all.

Dr. Carpenter was an intellectual man and a clever composer, but his interest, like Davies', was mainly centred on Triples methods, and there is no reason to suppose that he had studied composition as a whole. The whole mass of the peals in Major methods would be left mainly to Dains.

Henry Dains was a man with many admirable qualities. I knew him well, and for several years a close friendship existed between us. I may have something more to say about him in another connection. He was an industrious and, within limits, a skilled and successful composer, but he had marked limitations, and he possessed scarcely one of the qualifications necessary for producing a good collection of peals or any other text book on ringing. Neither he nor anyone else recognised his limitations; they knew he had composed many good peals of Treble Bob, Surprise and Double Norwich, and had definite opinions about them; and that was all they thought was needed.

He had one good quality, he did try to extend knowledge; but he had the defect which often goes with that sort of man, he was sometimes very careless and inaccurate in his work. There have been few among the men who have made names as composers who have not, at one time or another published false peals. That is inevitable, but Dains was specially unfortunate, and Snowdon's books and the Council's collections contain far more false peals by him than by anyone else. He would put together a peal by the course ends on a plan which seemed to promise success. If it came out with the required qualities and number of changes he would prove it and, according as it was true or false, he would retain it or throw it away. He had developed a very large amount of skill in working in this experimental way, and he was a thoroughly competent prover of peals. But after he had produced a peal, he often put it aside, intending to prove it, but not doing so; and then, when he came across the paper later, he assumed it was true without further thought.

He was one of the stoutest believers in the ownership of peals, and he was frequently in controversy with other people who had, as he maintained, published variations of his compositions. His attitude to composition was not sufficiently detached for him to make a really good collection, and he knew nothing of the art of putting a book together.

Earle Bulwer evidently came into the committee with the idea of taking general charge and putting the work of the others into order. For that he had many qualifications. He and Heywood thought out a scheme which promised success, and it might have produced some good collections, but, unfortunately, before anything was published he died, and meanwhile most of his energies had been taken up by the Glossary.

The scheme was to invite a number of men to assist the committee. Each man was given the job of collecting the peals in a particular method. When he had made his collection he was to hand it over to the committee, who would assume the final responsibility for the selection, arrangement and printing of the figures.

In my early days I had taken a lot of interest in the composition of Bob Major, and had made a very fair collection of peals. Bulwer knew of this, and he and Heywood treated it as the model on which the others were to be formed.

The scheme was a good one so far as it went, but it did not go anything like far enough. A great mass of figures was got together, but it was left to the individual collectors to decide how they should work, whether they should themselves search for peals, or sit still and wait for interested persons to send them; whether they should decide what was original; whether they should make a selection or just pass on what they had got together; and it was generally assumed that they took no responsibility for the truth of the peals. Consequently the work done was very unequal in quality.

However, there was enough material to make a good and representative collection provided it was handled

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

properly. But that was just what the committee could not, and did not, do. It is possible that Bulwer might have acted as a strong editor had he lived, but it is doubtful. He and all the others were far too much occupied with solving particular problems in particular methods to study composition as a whole with the interrelations between different peals and different methods. A useful and entertaining book might have been made if a good and small selection of peals had been printed giving those most suitable for the conductors' use and those which best illustrated points of composition, with well-written explanatory letterpress. But such a book was not to be hoped for. There was no one to write it, and it would have been sure to have provoked a storm of protest from the 'owners' of peals whose 'right' had been infringed. As I have said, all the composers wanted was to have their peals in print with their names attached. They were very little interested in other people's work.

When Bulwer died, the committee had no one who could act as the general editor and see that the final book was put into right shape. Each method was left more or less as the collector had sent it in, and the proof reading was very bad.

The first book was published in 1903, and dealt with Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques; and Union, Oxford, Court and Double Court Triples. The Grandsire Triples was the work of Davies, and was an excellent collection, well arranged and free from mistakes. The other peals of Triples were dealt with by Dr. Carpenter, and they, too, were without mistakes, but to print 67 peals of Union Triples was altogether out of proportion, since the method was seldom or never practised, and 34 peals of Oxford Bob, though not so disproportionate, was still too many. Three good peals of Oxford Bob and none of Union would have sufficed for any good collection.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A MEETING PLACE IN SOUTHWARK.

At the College Youths' meeting on Saturday a letter was read from Mr. R. T. Woodley, who is one of the society's oldest members, and was one of its representatives at the first meeting of the Central Council. The following is an extract:—

'The article in "The Ringing World" on page 208, headed The College Youths, mentioned the meeting houses of the society, but left out one of the most frequented in the years 1880 to 1890. I mean the house in the Borough Market under the shade of St. Saviour's. What the sign of the house was I cannot remember, but it was managed by a very genial and obliging chap named Tom Powell. Ringers from away have stayed there, and I have stayed there with them. I have cause to remember that house, for when I was elected secretary of the society I found I had over 100 emblems and rule books to issue, arrears left by poor old Muskett.

'We had some hectic nights there and we used to get poor old Tom Powell's rag out by not clearing out at the proper time. We used to upset him over his dog. He had a collie, which he had taught to fetch the cat out of the kitchen, so every chance we had we used to say, "Bob, fetch the cat," and out would go Bob scragging the cat back, swearing and spitting. Poor old Tom used to call us everything but gentlemen. He was a decent fellow and eventually left the house and went to manage a house back of St. Mary-le-Strand. For the world I cannot think of the name of the house in Borough Market, but probably Bob Newton or Frank Dawe could tell you, and it ought to have been mentioned in "The Ringing World" article of May 2nd.'

BEDFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your issue of February 7th you published three peals of Bedford Surprise. In the first course of the first peal alternative calling must be used. Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, has kindly pointed out that there is falseness in 7-8. I was quoting from memory of 30 years ago when I said that the method was only false in 1-2.

Saffron Walden. F. DENCH.

LONG PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

THE SUCCESSIVE RECORDS.

May 18th was the fifty-eighth anniversary of a very notable long peal, 16,608 changes of Kent Treble Bob, rung at Mottram-in-Longendale, Cheshire, by the Ashton-under-Lyne men, and conducted by Samuel Wood.

Treble Bob was for many years the most popular of all eight-bell methods and it was natural that it should be chosen by the old ringers for long lengths, but they were greatly hampered by the lack of true compositions.

The first was the 10,080 rung as far back as 1727 by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's Coslany. Although it was so early, there is good reason for believing that the composition was true.

This length was not beaten until 1800, when George Gross conducted a peal of 10,112 changes, his own composition, at Edmonton, with a band of Cumberland Youths. The figures are lost and we do not know whether they were true.

On August 27th, 1814, the Yorkshire men rang at Otley a 12,320 composed by Shipway. Two men were needed for the tenor and the bobs were called from manuscript by a man who did not ring himself. This was rather strange, as the band included Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, a noted composer and conductor.

William Eversfield produced a 14,016, and this was rung single-handed in 1821 at Oldham. It was in the Kent variation; all the earlier peals were Oxford.

Ten years later at St. Mary's, Elland, the Yorkshire men rang 15,168 changes composed by Hugh Wright. Ten men took part as the ringers of the 3rd and 4th had to be relieved. Two men shared the bob calling.

In 1832 Thomas Day succeeded in producing 15,648 changes, which he afterwards extended to 15,840, and that length was accomplished at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on April 27th, 1868, by a band of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Henry Haley conducted, and Cooter, Pettit, Horrex, Matt. Wood and J. M. Hayes were in the band.

About the same time Thomas Day obtained two longer lengths, 16,032 and 16,608. The latter was in 1872 attempted by a band at Earlsheaton in Yorkshire, and for some time it was thought they had succeeded, but it leaked out afterwards that the bells had got wrong and were jumped home at the finish. It was the Lancashire men who, as stated above, first accomplished the peal.

This length could not be beaten for many years because there was no true composition, but about fifty years ago the Suffolk men made several attempts to repeat it in the Oxford variation. On one occasion in 1891 at Debenham, with James Motts as conductor, they rang 9,024 changes and failed. Later on in the same year another and rival band, with Mr. Charles Mee as conductor, made an attempt at Eye, the 24 cwt. tenor being turned in by that fine heavy bell ringer, John Souter. The peal actually was accomplished on June 6th, 1892, at Debenham. Mr. Fred Tillett, happily still with us, rang the tenor.

This was the record for 14 years, but in 1906 the Ashton men again at Mottram, and again with Samuel Wood as conductor, rang 16,800 changes of Kent, and that was beaten at Over in Cheshire by 17,280 changes, composed by Mr. J. W. Parker and conducted by Mr. Robert Sperring.

The record in the Oxford variation is 17,824 changes, rung at Heptonstall in 1927, composed by Mr. T. B. Worsley and conducted by Mr. E. Jenkins.

In 1922, 18,280 changes of Kent had been rung at Mottram, but the composition turned out to be false. It was one of the greatest peal ringing disappointments in the history of the Exercise.

GRANDSIRE CINQUES.

A NOVEL QUARTER-PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following quarter-peal of Grandsire Cinques is a novelty inasmuch that it contains only four plain leads.

Where handbells continue to be practised it would make an unusual touch when there is not time for a whole peal.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

1,254

234567890ᴇ	1	2	3	4	5
3245678ᴇ90	—	S		—	—
2367458	S	—	—	S	S
2347658	—	—	—	S	—
3267458	—	—	—	S	S
234567809ᴇ	S	S	—	S	S
23654	—	—	—	S	—
32456	—	—	—	S	S
2365479ᴇ80	—	S	S	S	S
2345678ᴇ90	—	—	S	S	—

Rounds by Bobs at 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1.

MANCROFT BELLS.—St. Peter's, Mancroft, in the city of Norwich, though it remains the last peal of twelve, is by some deemed the first in point of merit.—'The Clavis.'

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

BELLS LOOTED FROM BOMBED CHURCHES.

By invitation of Mr. A. A. Hughes, the College Youths last Saturday held their meeting at the Whitechapel Bellfoundry. In the absence of the Master, Mr. Alexander Young occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Hughes, the hon. treasurer, and by Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary. Other members present included Messrs. Deal, Miles, Cockey, Murrell, Collins, Stannard, J. Marks from Bletchley and Isaac Emery from Bromley.

The Chairman expressed the society's sympathy with Mr. Herbert Langdon in the loss he had sustained through the destruction of his office by fire. Mr. Langdon, replying, mentioned the great kindness he had received from many people who had offered him assistance, especially Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon.

Mr. Hughes reported the sudden death of a past Master, Mr. C. H. Horton, of Watford. Several members made sympathetic references to him, and the company stood as a mark of respect to his memory and that of Mr. Frederick Woodiss.

Mr. Young reported that he had received the books of the late Frederick Pike and presented his copy of the second edition of 'The Clavis' to the society. It would serve as a memorial to him and replace the copy lost in the destruction of The Coffee Pot.

Mr. Hughes gave some particulars about the destruction of bells in recent air raids and names of churches were mentioned, which, though quite in order at a private meeting, may not yet be done in the public Press. He said he had inspected St. Andrew's, Holborn, and found that most, if not all, the bells, though they still hang in their frame and can be swung, have been ruined by the fire, and that the destruction at St. John's, Vassal Road, was complete. The five pre-Reformation bells of St. Bartholomew-the-Great had been taken down from the steeple, and the six early 17th century bells of St. Andrew Undershaft would be taken down during the following week.

There had been a bad case of looting at the neighbouring Church of St. Mary, Matfelon. Some persons had driven up to the church with a lorry and taken away five of the bells which lay broken at the base of the tower. At St. Lawrence Jewry among the debris had been found some basketfuls of broken bell metal, which apparently had been got ready by some unknown persons for illicit removal. The police had warned all the incumbents of City churches to be on the alert against attempts at similar looting.

Mr. Isaac Emery was congratulated on completing 50 years' membership of the society, and a very interesting letter was read from a still older member, Mr. R. T. Woodley. We give an extract from it elsewhere in this issue.

After some handbell ringing the members went a little further up the street and there finished a very enjoyable meeting.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANOTHER EXCELLENT COMPOSITION.

We have received from Mr. Joseph W. Parker another peal of Spliced Surprise Major of outstanding interest and value. It contains 5,088 changes in five methods, with three full courses each of Bristol, Cambridge and London.

There is a slight error in the figures of Mr. Parker's peal given in our issue of May 16th. The thirty-third course-end should have been followed by the letters L C R, not C R L as printed.

5,088

M	W	H	23456	R	7B
		—	64352	L	4C
—			34256	4C	L
—		—	62453	R	S L
	—		56423	L	C L
—	—	—	32465	R	S L
	—		63425	L	S L
	—	—	42635	7L	B
		2	26435	L	C R
	—	—	43265	R	C R
		—	24365	L	S L
	—		62345	L	C R
	—		46325	R	C R
—	—		23564		

Twice repeated.

Each course-end is followed by leads of the various methods, shown by letters on the right, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, L for London, R for Rutland, and S for Superlative. Where no figure precedes the letter, one lead is implied. The calling on the left produces the next course-head. The peal contains 1,248 changes of Cambridge, 768 of Bristol, 1,824 of London, 864 of Rutland, and 384 of Superlative.

THURSTANS' REVERSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been casting my mind back again and I am fairly certain that the Singles were not consecutive calls, as, of course, they would have to be if it were the one-part. To the best of my recollection the second Single was about half-way. So it must have been some variation of the four-part, which was then and is even now practically unknown. I did not say it was the one-part. I merely stated what someone else said, and it is now fairly evident that they did not know what it was. I. EMERY.

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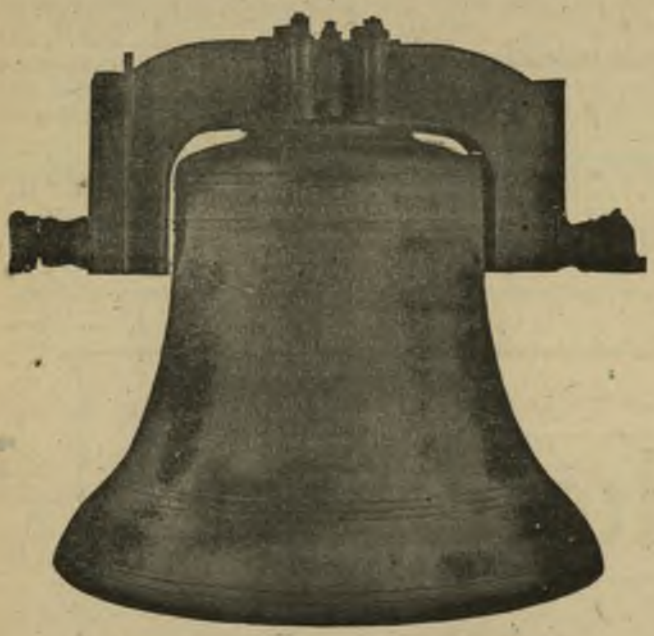
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that the Editor has now returned home from hospital. It will, however, be some time before he can resume his normal duties.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. William Hewett is one of those who has suffered at enemy hands. He tells us that his house was left with no roof, no windows, no doors, no ceilings, and all the walls cracked. It is not surprising, therefore, that he decided to change his address, and he is now living at 119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

He is towerkeeper at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and reports that so far the bells are intact and the only damage done is two sides of new louvre boarding blown down.

The two oldest rings of bells in the City of London have been taken down from the steeples and put in places of safety. The five at St. Bartholomew-the-Great are all pre-Reformation bells, all by the same founder, and all of the same date. Only one other complete pre-Reformation peal exists in England—the five at St. Lawrence's, Ipswich.

The six at St. Andrew's, Undershaft, are early 17th century bells from Whitechapel. It was at this church that Fabian Stedman was buried.

It is good to know that it is intended to restore St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and to replace the destroyed ring of twelve. The design for the new frame has already been made, and new concrete floors will probably be put in the tower before long. The bells and the general rebuilding will, of course, have to wait until the war is over.

No one has taken a greater interest in the ruined City churches and their bells than Mr. Richard F. Deal. He informs us, on the authority of the Vicar, that five of the eight bells in the suburban church referred to in our last issue are sound and unbroken.

On May 28th, 1787, the ancient Society of College Youths rang at St. John's, Horsleydown, the first peal of Stedman Caters ever accomplished. It was composed and conducted by John Reeves. The tower at St. John's is one of the smallest in which a ring of ten has ever been hung. It was for a long time a popular place with the Metropolitan societies for peal ringing, but the bells had been out of order for many years and there are not many men living who have rung on them. In one of the earlier raids on London the church was burnt out and the bells destroyed.

A notable peal was accomplished at Hornchurch, Essex, on May 27th, 1912, when a band of the Middlesex County Association rang 15,264 changes of Bristol Surprise Major. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, and the band included such well-known ringers as Isaac Shade, John Cheesman, Bertram Prewett, Alfred Grimes and Ernest Pye. They are all dead now, but Mr. Reuben Sanders and Mr. George R. Pye, who rang the treble and second, are happily still with us. A little more than a month earlier a band of the Hertfordshire Association, with Mr. George N. Price as conductor, had rung at Knebworth 12,160 changes in the same method.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith conducted the first Surprise peal rung outside England on May 28th, 1901. It was one of Superlative at Bray in Ireland.

On the following day members of the same band rang the first handbell peal on the sea. It was 5,173 Stedman Caters on the S.S. 'Cambria' between Ireland and Wales. Mr. W. Short conducted.

To-day is the centenary of a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. The board that records it is the oldest still remaining in the Metropolis.

The first peal in Earle Bulwer's method, New Cumberland Surprise Major, was rung at Burton-on-Trent on May 31st, 1886, and on the same date in 1898 the Birmingham men rang at Aston 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells. That remained the record length of the method in hand until June 1st, 1912, when the Guildford men, with Mr. A. H. Pulling as conductor, rang 14,031 changes.

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

SILENT APPARATUSES AND PEAL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leading article of March 7th you say that however good a silent apparatus is, it should be used only for practice, not for peal ringing.

Could you inform me if 5,000 changes were rung on the Seage apparatus such as we have at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, would it be recognised by the Central Council as a peal? Some years ago 5,056 of Bob Major was rung at Great St. Mary's and recorded on a board in the tower as the first peal on this apparatus.

E. G. HIBBINS.

Cambridge.

MR. JAMES HUNT.

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

Yesterday Mr. James Hunt reached his seventieth birthday, and his many friends in all parts of the country will join us in congratulating him.

Mr. Hunt is a Devon man, born at Tiverton on May 29th, 1871. For many years he was one of the leading ringers in the Guildford district. He then removed to London, where he was employed by John Warner and Sons, the bell founders, who had among their staff a complete band of ringers. For many years Mr. Hunt has been associated with St. James' Church, Taunton.

Among the many interesting peals in which he has taken part are a 'grandfather's' peal of Stedman Caters by members of the Royal Cumberland Youths, the first peal of Stedman Caters by a resident band for the old Winchester Diocesan Guild which he called, the first peals of Double Norwich Major and seven Surprise Minor methods for the Bath and Wells Association, the first peal of Cambridge Major by a resident band west of Bristol, and the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major by a band resident in Somerset.



MR. JAMES HUNT.

His outstanding performance was the record handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung at Guildford in 1912. There was at the time in that town a band who rang peals of Stedman Triples and Caters almost on every evening in the week, and it was only natural that they should think of ringing the record peal in hand. This they did by ringing 14,031 changes, but, not satisfied with that, they proposed to beat all records on handbells or in the tower, and started for a length of 22,220 changes. But they began rather late, and so when 11 o'clock came and they had passed all previous lengths, they not unnaturally thought they had done enough and let the bells come round at 19,738 changes. Mr. Hunt rang 7-8 to this peal, which, we imagine, will not be beaten for many years. It was his greatest performance, but he has taken part in many other good peals.

Since 1920 Mr. Hunt has represented the Bath and Wells Association on the Central Council, and he is one of the best known of the members of that body. Indeed, the Central Council meetings would hardly be themselves without his presence and his speeches. Not that everybody always agrees with all he says, but everybody recognises the sincerity of his opinions and the fact that they are based on real experience and knowledge. For Mr. Hunt has had a wide experience of ringing in many parts of the country, and is not only a first-class ringer himself, but has associated with some of the leading men of the last 40 years and more.

He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocese, his subject being, of course, bells, he is a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council, and has been Ringing Master of the Taunton Deanery for 20 years.

Mr. James Hunt is one of those men on whose exertions and work the very existence of the Exercise depends. Besides being a peal ringer and a conductor, he has done a great deal of teaching, has always made a point of ringing twice on a Sunday whenever possible, and has been a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years.

(Continued from next column.)

May I add that the non-churchgoer ought to be asked to help because the bells, in addition to being the Church's responsibility, are the heritage of all British people. Every bellringer should see that our bells have *got* to be insured and nothing must stand in the way. Let us see to it everywhere that our bells are not overlooked. If our area is in a safe place, let us think of the less fortunate and make the Government scheme work.

F. B. LUFKIN.

73, St. Mary's Road, Prittlewell, Essex.

FIRES AND BELL FRAMES.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to the letter by A.F.S. headed 'Iron Bell Frames,' I can cite one case in the City of London, i.e., St. Andrew's, Holborn. The frame is of cast iron mounted on a steel girder foundation, and the headstocks are of cast iron. The only items left in the tower are the eight bells hanging in their framework. (One can stand on the ground floor and look right up through the tower to the sky.) All timber parts of the fittings have been destroyed, but the bells can still be swung to and fro in their bearings. Alas, however, most of them, if not all, are cracked.

The important point for consideration is not the material for the *bell frame*, but that of the floors. Concrete floors would prevent such disasters, and, in addition, would considerably strengthen the tower. The old objection of resonance in concrete can now be overcome by the application of acoustic plaster.

ALBERT A. HUGHES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRECAUTIONS.

Dear Sir.—The Exercise will, I am sure, feel thankful to you for enlarging on the pros and cons in debating what is doubly a burning question—the extraordinary vulnerability of our towers and their contents. I have already some three months since given my views and also voiced a strong warning.

It is clear from your summary that the foremost thing is to remove all valuable things, including, of course, the bells to a *place of safety*, not necessarily to the church floor. If that is the only available place then they should be fully sandbagged. Valuable peal boards and books should be taken to some reasonable place of shelter away from the church.

The tower itself could be well protected by bricking up all openings leading into the church, including the windows which overlook the same. Spirelets of wood could be enclosed with corrugated iron sheeting on light steel framing.

I will only add that expert advice should always be taken on these occasions *and followed*.

E. ALEXANDER YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retired.)

ST. MARY'S, SOUTHAMPTON.

Sir,—After the loss of St. Mary's, Southampton, what can one suggest for real safety against fire? There to a casual visitor was an ideal tower for bells to be safe from fire. The whole place was concrete, and, if my memory is correct, the only wood was the trap doors. If our information is right, the door at the bottom leading to the church was either burnt or opened, and the tower acted as a chimney. When we heard the church was burnt out we thought the bells would be safe, and it came as a great sorrow and surprise to hear they had been destroyed.

I had the pleasure of ringing one peal of London on the eight and one of Stedman Caters on the ten, and both peals were rung without a thought of catching a train, so we received to the full the benefit of the music of those beautiful bells, which will live as long as memory lasts.

Perhaps Mr. Faithfull, of the local band, or Mr. Pullinger, who knows the church well, can tell us how the fire spread to the tower. It might be useful to other towers to take precautions during this Hitler madness.

One good thing is that they were a modern peal and we can be assured that the same firm will put in as good a peal as was lost.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

CHURCH BELLS AND INSURANCE.

URGENT NEED FOR ACTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been given to understand that the fabric of our churches is insured free against enemy action, but all furniture, fittings, organs, bells, etc., have to be paid for at 30s. per £100 for the period up to September 30th. One-third must be paid before the end of this month. Should the income be good and enemy action not too great, it will probably be reduced for the next period. Churches are going to have difficulty in raising the money to insure everything, so it is the duty of all ringers to face this question at once and to see that bells are insured, so that we may be able to hand down what we have received. There is the danger of the bells being overlooked, or through lack of funds being left out, for what some might think more important things.

It has already come to my notice that a certain church complaining of the expense was told by their Bishop to insure one bell only, as that was all that was necessary. This town may never again have bells should they be so unlucky as to lose their present very fine peal.

I think the best way is to insure every bell. It would be the cheapest and the fairest in the long rung. Those more fortunate should help those less fortunate.

(Continued in previous column.)

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. HORTON

PAST MASTER OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles H. Horton, which took place very suddenly last week. Mr. Horton was a Bristol man and learnt his ringing in that city. Later he moved to London and became associated with the Ancient Society of College Youths. He held the office of Master for two years shortly after the last war.

At the time of his death he had been for many years the hon. secretary of the Watford District of the Hertford County Association, and he carried out his duties with great enthusiasm and success. Since the beginning of the war he had arranged a regular handbell meeting at Bushey, which was particularly successful.

It was largely owing to a suggestion made by him at a College Youths' dinner that the annual dinner of the Bristol United Guilds was started.

He was in business in the City of London as a commercial photographer and had taken many fine photographs of churches. Unfortunately, all his negatives perished in the great fire raid on London and with them the set of handbells which had belonged to Challis F. Winney.

In his younger days he had accompanied a scientific expedition to Central Africa as the official photographer in connection with research into tropical diseases.

The funeral was at Watford Church last Monday.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

VISIT OF MISS DOROTHY SAYERS.

Miss Dorothy Sayers, the distinguished writer, was present on Wednesday afternoon, May 21st, at a meeting of the O.U.S.C.R., of which she is an honorary member.

After tea the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice (New College) said how pleased he was that Miss Sayers had been able to come to the meeting and extolled the 'Nine Tailors' as one of the best recruiting agents the belfry had ever had.

Miss Sayers said that when she wrote 'The Nine Tailors' she had never seen a bell rung. People had often asked her how she came to write the book. It was no sudden impulse, but rather the maturation of a number of ideas: the danger of remaining in the bell chamber while the bells were ringing, the magnificence of the bells ringing out over the fens (a district well known to her), and the story of the bursting of the sluice at Denver.

Having evolved the scheme, the next job was to learn about change ringing. It was no good to ask an expert about such a subject, as one always gets to know a lot that one doesn't really require, and never exactly what one does want! In the Charing Cross Road one day she came across an 1898 edition of Troyte's 'Change Ringing for Beginners,' and from it the 'Nine Tailors' was developed. Three of the mistakes in the book were due to the use of Troyte.

She was glad the book had attracted people to change ringing. Some had written to her and said that previously they had not known such people as change ringers existed. Even the Press were now more kindly disposed towards ringers. Some teetotal ringers had complained that the book put too much stress on beer drinking, but in a Croydon tower she had visited excessive emphasis on this subject was claimed to be impossible.

She thought it noble that a ringing society should be able to keep going in such conditions as the present, and to keep alive what was so completely a national institution. If ringers had a fault, it was, perhaps, that they did not always get on well with the local parson, but the University ringers, with the clergy represented in their ranks, were apparently free from any feuds.

Since the invasion scare she had done her best for the safety of church bells by constantly writing to the papers, hoping that if invasion came the ringing of the bells would be left to those competent to do so. She concluded by wishing the society the best of luck in its future activities.

The Rev. C. E. Wigg (president) thanked Miss Sayers for her amusing talk. As a ringer himself, he saw both sides of the question when it came to feuds between church and ringers. He could not, he said, emulate Miss Sayers' tales, but he quoted a German writer as saying that the English were fond of loud noises, be they from bells or guns.

Mr. Miles, the vice-president, traced the society's history during the last few years, and said how well the practice of investing the official positions on undergraduates had worked out. He was convinced that the ringing of bells on Sundays had a good effect on the nation, and wished that the ban could be lifted for ringing for Sunday morning services.

A well-rung course of Grandsire Caters by undergraduate members of the society brought the meeting to a close.

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CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his attempt at a reply, Mr. Trollope seems to go rather heavily, and to make something like mistakes—which he does not often do. If he would only apply to himself his own words at the end of page 232, he would, I am sure, be much happier. He there writes: 'The writer . . . should aim at giving what the Exercise as a whole has found to be worth while, and should put aside his own personal preferences.' I have shown what the Exercise as a whole thinks of these foolish terms. He makes no attempt to answer that part of my letter, for, of course, it is incontrovertible. Let him, therefore, take the medicine which he sees is so good for other people, and 'put aside his own personal preferences' for such terms.

However, to come to his letter. He first gives the example of setting a clock. But he forgets that an ordinary clock, unlike a bell, is built to go one way only; and that is why we call that way 'forwards.' I have just turned round to look at an electric clock; this is made to go either way equally; and when I set it I have to take care to start it the right way; if I did not, it would gaily go on 'forward' all right—but the wrong way round!

It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that Mr. Trollope makes a similar mistake in applying his illustration. He says that if, after the first change, four has changed places with three, four has hunted forward. If she has changed place with five, she has hunted backward. (He does not use those exact words, but I will not stop to examine the wording, as I think we are agreed as to the thing.) One can only reply that this is not so. No bell moves either forwards or backwards in either case, except in the sense that some bells move up and others down; and this Mr. Trollope does not mean—puzzling though this may seem! I am not denying that there is a difference (Mr. Trollope seems to think I am); I am only denying that this difference can be described as either forward or backward.

He goes on to say that backward is 'only because it is the opposite to the normal direction.' This gives the case away. For the opposite to normal is not backward, but abnormal. If we talk of 'abnormal hunting,' we see how wrong it is.

Nor is he right in saying that four is hunting differently if she changed places with three, from the hunting when she changes place with five. In each case the hunting, as hunting, is exactly the same. All three words are quite wrong, and Mr. Trollope has said nothing to show that they are right.

Now let us see exactly what happens in the case mentioned by him. If changes begin with contrary motion (four changes places with five), the treble having already led once at back stroke, will now be leading again at hand stroke. Three will be the next bell to lead, also the wrong way, and so it will go on, hunting being the one thing that will not be altered; until there is a snapping lead or some odd number of places made, when ordinary motion will supervene. In short, the rows will be inverted.

In my former letter I said that none of the three differing explanations were any use for Stedman. Mr. Trollope now gives a fourth explanation; but Stedman is still left out. Mine covers not only Stedman, but every possible method.

Moreover, the idea of motion means that *all* the bells that are ringing are included, which is the case. Hunting implies the idea of only *one* bell: or that *some* may be in one motion and others in the other. This can never be.

To sum up. We have now got one word instead of four. A simple word for a simple thing. So simple that a child can understand it, in place of what makes all the ribald world to laugh. Something that is correct, complete and compact. Something that will help ringers and ringing, in place of what is hindering them, and, furthermore, causing an unreasonable and ludicrous stumbling-block.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

At the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Sandal on May 10th, about twenty members were present from Badsworth, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rothwell, Wath and the local company.

A room was reserved at the Duke of York Hotel, and handbells were rung in the afternoon until 5 o'clock, when tea was served. The Vicar, the Rev. A. Walls, joined in at the tea and presided at the business meeting which followed. Business was soon disposed of. The secretary announced that a suggestion had been put to the Doncaster District Society to hold a joint meeting at Wath. This was agreed to and the date fixed for Saturday, June 21st.

On the motion of Mr. E. Brooks (president), seconded by Mr. F. C. Wilson (Rawmarsh), thanks were tendered to the Vicar for presiding, and the latter, replying, said he was pleased to welcome the society once more and was very thankful to know that the ringers were meeting regularly and keeping together. When the time came they would be ready to go back into the tower and man the ropes again. He sincerely hoped it would not be long.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell practice. Touches of Minor and Major and a course of Grandsire Major were rung, the last at the request of the oldest member, who himself took part.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE BRISTOL GROUP.

The qualities which go to make up a good method are many and usually contradictory, and it is therefore only a waste of time to try to arrange methods in any definite order of merit. If, however, we were asked to name one in which the things we desire are most happily and successfully combined we should probably mention Bristol.

Bristol is not so musical as Double Norwich or Cornwall, it is not so difficult as Glasgow, it is not so interesting to ring as London, but it provides a better combination of all these qualities than any one of the others. From the point of construction also, it is one of the most interesting of methods. Much of its good quality is due to the fact that it deviates very little from the natural coursing order and, like so many more excellent methods, it is an offshoot of the Double Norwich group.

In Double Norwich the natural coursing order of the working bells is maintained throughout the course, the treble changing position twice in each half-lead, with the bell hunting next in front of it.

This alteration in coursing order is effected by the bell in front of the treble making a place, crossing the treble's path and then making another place. In a half-lead of Major there are two positions where this can be done at backstroke, and three where it can be done at handstroke, the result being the same in every instance.

The handstroke place making in two of the three positions inevitably causes a bell to lead or lie for three blows in succession, so we will ignore them and consider the other three only. They are :—

A.	C.	B.
12345678	12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857	24163857
42316587	42613587	42618375
24361857	46231857	46281357
42638175	42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351	64827351

Each of these by itself would produce the first lead-end of Bob Major, 3527486, but as in a symmetrical method the corresponding shunt must be made in the second half-lead, we get the second lead-end of Bob Major, 5738264.

A gives the method which in the Plain Major Collection is called (not quite accurately) Shipways Double Court, A and B combined give Double Norwich, and A, B and C combined give Double Coslany Court. To all three, either or both of the two Extremes (seconds and sevenths at lead-end and half-lead-end) can be added, but when the total number of shunts within the lead is seven, the bells will run round at the first lead-end.

We are at present concerned with the combination A + B + C, with and without the two Extremes.

Here we have two Plain methods which in construction are very simple variations of Double Norwich and Double Oxford, but the addition of the handstroke work and the backward hunting puts them into an entirely different class. In actual practice Coslany with its rapid movement will be found to tax the skill of even the most competent company. Several years ago a peal of it was all but rung at Willesden by a band which included Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. G. R. Pye and Mr. J. E. Davis. The bob was then made in sixth's place because the conductor thought that to call the method from an inside bell with a fourth's place bob was beyond his capacity. When, however, the peal was actually rung a year or two ago, he turned the job over to a younger man and far abler conductor, and Mr. E. C. S. Turner called it with a fourth's place bob, using a peal of Bristol doubled by singles.

Double Coslany C.	Double Mancroft B.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24135678
42315768	42315768
24351786	24351786
23457168	23457168
32547618	32547618
23456781	23456781
24365871	32547681
42638517	23456718
24368157	32546178
23461875	35241687
32416857	53214678
23146587	35124768
21345678	31527486
12436587	13254768
14263857	13527486

Coslany Court is hardly suitable for being a standard method, but it is worthy to rank high among those that a first-class band needs for special peal ringing, and it is important in construction for it is the foundation upon which Bristol Surprise is immediately based.

We first of all turn it into a Treble Bob Method, and because we are dealing with double methods in which the natural coursing order is regained at the half-lead-end, we need not pick more than a half-lead.

X.	Bristol S.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
12345678	12346857
21436587	21438675
24135678	24136857
42316587	42316587
24135678	24135678
42315768	42315768
24351786	24351786
23457168	23457168
32541786	32541786
23457168	35247168
32547618	53427618
23456781	35246781
32547618	32547618
23456781	23456781

X is a Surprise Major method, but it is useless, because six rows in every half-lead are repetitions, and those we must get rid of.

The way we do it is simplicity itself. In the first six changes the four hind bells are continuously dodging. Each takes one step forward and then one backwards

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

three times. Instead of that we make each take three steps forward and then three steps backwards, which, of course, brings them to the same opinions.

	P
5678	5678
6587	6587
5678	6857
6587	8675
5678	6857
6587	6587

We then make a similar movement on the four front bells below the treble, the backward steps coming before the forward ones, and that will give us Bristol Surprise.

But Bristol is only one method in a group, though it is the best in that group. The first and obvious variation is to add the two Extremes, which will give us Premier. One extreme only we may not add, for that would make the total number of shunts within the lead seven, and so bring the bells round at the first lead-end.

We cleared the falseness of X by making the four hind bells take three steps of forward hunting, followed by three steps of backward hunting instead of dodging continuously.

Another way would have been to make two bells take three steps forward and three steps backwards, while the other two are left to their dodging.

Above the treble the first pair must for practical purposes be those in 5-6, but below the treble they may be either the pair in 1-2 or the pair in 3-4.

R.	S.	T.
5678	2345	2345
6587	3254	3254
6578	3245	2354
5687	2354	3245
6578	3245	2354
6587	3254	3254

When we work out the various combinations of these variations we get a number of quite good methods, all very similar to Bristol, but all differing in some respect.

Some of them have already been rung. As R above the treble and as Bristol below is Dublin Surprise. As Bristol above the treble and T below is Reverse Dublin. As R above and T below has been rung and called Double Dublin. That was inaccurate, for it is not the double of Dublin, which, in fact, cannot be doubled.

THE CURFEW.

'Oft, on a plat of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide-watered shore,
Swinging slow with sullen roar.'—
John Milton, Il Penseroso.

J. A. TROLLOPE'S 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'
A History of the Society
5/6 (post free) from
'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD WOKING, SURREY.

ELIJAH ROBERTS.

A FAMOUS TAPPER OF CHANGES.

Last Friday was the one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the birth of a man who, by reason of some very remarkable achievements, holds a unique place in the history of the Exercise.

They were remarkable achievements, speaking generally they were praiseworthy achievements, but they were not achievements that ordinary persons would wish to copy.

Elijah Roberts was born in Birmingham on May 23rd, 1807, and at the age of twelve began to take an interest in ringing, first by tapping changes, and then in the belfry. About the year 1821 he rang the second at Aston to a peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Thomas Day, the well-known composer of Treble Bob. What he did in the next ten years we do not know, but in 1830 he rang the fifth in Day's peal of Stedman Triples, and for some few years after that he took part in most of the performances by the Birmingham, St. Martin's, Youths. Among his peals was 5,104 Treble Bob Cinques, 6,000 of Kent Treble Bob Royal, and 6,282 Grandsire Caters, the two latter of which he composed and conducted.

But it was as a tapper of peals on handbells that he particularly distinguished himself. The first was in 1824 when he was 17 years old. It consisted of a plain course of each of Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Triples; Grandsire Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major; Grandsire Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Caters; Grandsire, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Royal; Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Cinques; Grandsire, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Maximus; and Treble Bob 16-in. The whole took 3 hours and 27 minutes and was a marvellous feat of mental concentration. It, however, was not Roberts' greatest achievement. In 1827 he tapped a peal of Kent Maximus, 5,040 changes; and in 1830, 7,536 of the same method in 4 hours and 51 minutes. The bobs were called by Joseph Powell and the truth of the peal attested by several competent witnesses, including Henry Cooper, James Jarvis and Charles Thurstans.

Three years later Roberts tapped a peal of Stedman Cinques, composed by himself and conducted by Cooper. John Hopkins, John Lates, Henry Johnson and Daniel Woods, of Norwich, were among those who witnessed this peal.

About 1837 Roberts left Birmingham and eventually settled in Liverpool, where he was the landlord of the Derby Arms tavern. Here on March 23rd, 1837, he tapped the last and greatest of his peals, 19,440 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 13 hours and 43 minutes. There were no expert witnesses to this, but there is no reason to doubt its truth.

Elijah Roberts died by his own hand on January 26th, 1865, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. This has sometimes been given as an example of the danger a man may run by over-stimulating some of his mental faculties at the expense of the others, but there is no reason to suppose that his tapping had anything to do with his suicide. The evidence at the inquest was that he had been drinking heavily and the verdict was the usual one of temporary insanity.

In recent years two or three men have to some extent emulated Roberts' feats, though the system they used was considerably different. They tapped many more complex methods than did Roberts, but did not attempt the higher numbers. Mr. John Seager tapped peals in several Minor methods and so did Mr. Olave E. Broyd. Mr. Arthur T. Morris tapped peals of Triples and Major, including Cambridge and London Surprise.

Tapping is a form of change ringing which necessitates much practice and marked mental faculties. It has, in its simpler and cruder forms, a fascination for many people, but is quite outside the main stream of the art.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your excellent article on this subject you say that the one difficulty now left is 'to ensure that the handbell in the belfry will strike at the exact point of time that the clapper of the bell above would have done.'

But is this necessary? Certainly it is convenient. It would be inconvenient if a bell struck, say, false at one stroke on the handbells and at the other on the tower bells. But, after all, it would be only like having two different rings of bells in the same belfry, and every beginner ought to learn how to ring on strange bells.

What is essential is that the handbell should always strike at a known time, so that the striking should be under the control of the ringer. This is where exactness is needed,' is it not?

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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.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.), on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Bells (6, silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting. —Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells 2.45. Service 3.30, followed by tea (if possible) and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 31st? Please make an effort to attend.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying for tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Cheadle, Staffs, on or before June 1st? No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 7th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Surfleet on Saturday, June 7th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea at Mermaid Inn, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, bowls and topical talk on lawn at Glyn Garth. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. R. Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, not later than Tuesday, June 3rd?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ramsey on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. All those requiring tea must notify the district secretary by June 10th, or bring their own teas. A good bus service from Colchester via Mistley.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, for which notice must be received by me not later than June 9th, about 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. —The summer meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock, names to Mr. W. E. Dransfield, 21, Westgate, Almondbury, not later than Tuesday, June 17th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 19th, please, to B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. William H. Hewett's new address is 119, Coleman Road, S.E.5, not 'Street,' as given in our last issue.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

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ROBERT SOUTHEY on Bell Ringing.—The country's best music, a music hallowed by all circumstances, which according equally with social exhaltation and with solitary pensiveness, though it falls upon many an unheeding ear, never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates, and some which it softens.

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