THE RINGING WORLD

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PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

Recent letters in ' The Ringing World ' have revealed some of the difficulties which have been apparent to association officials, and some other people, for a long time in regard to peal compositions. It is not necessary to go over again all the ground covered by Mr. W. Barton and Mr. C. T. Coles, but there is one direction in which we feel the Exercise has been lacking in foresight, and that is in fixing some means by which peal compositions, whenever rung, can be accurately identified. Compositions like Parker's Twelve-Part or Thurstans' Four-Part identify themselves, and so does a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major ' composed by C. Middleton,' but the number of peals in which the identity of the composition is thus conclusively established is very small. The vast majority remain absolutely unidentifiable to all but the conductor.

Hitherto the general practice, when the report of a peal is published, has been to give the name of the composer. That in itself, as experience has frequently shown, is not necessarily a guarantee of the truth of the composition, and it is far from being sufficient to identify it, either to the public who read the report at the time, or later on to anyone who may be officially interested in it. After a lapse of time many conductors are unable to say what particular composition they called, unless they have special reason for remembering it. In days gone by the publication of the name of the composer may have been sufficient—it was all that interested those who read the peal report, but in these more advanced times, when the knowledge of composition, like that of ringing itself, has remarkably extended and ringers are more critical, what matters most is not the name of the composer, but the figures of the composition that has been rung. Quite a number of people now take an interest in these things, and some means of identifying all compositions would be an undoubted advantage. The late Mr. Arthur Knights adopted the very simple plan of numbering his compositions and such a helpful system might very well be followed by all composers; then, in case of any future question arising, it would be but little trouble to identify the figures of any peal performance.

It may be said by some people that it is too late to adopt such a scheme at this stage because of the difficulty of collecting and indexing the compositions of men now dead and gone. We agree that this offers something of a problem, but we are not sure that it is beyond all possibility to index the peals of old composers which are still rung. Among the composers who are now with us, however, the scheme should be quite feasible. We

(Continued on page 314.)

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don't know what Mr. Lindoff will say to this with the many thousands of peal compositions which he has got—those of London Surprise Major alone, we believe, run into six figures—but we imagine that a man who can evolve plans for the production of such a vast number of peals could fairly readily find some simple way of indexing them.

A scheme, undertaken at this date, is, of course, bound to have many gaps in it, and it would almost certainly take a long while to complete, even to the extent that completion is possible, but if the living composers would begin to use a numerical system of identification, such as Mr. Knights employed, conductors would gradually come to use the information when recording the peals they call. There will doubtless be objections to such a scheme, chiefly on the ground of the task of getting it under way so that it may be put to practical use, but with the help of the composers—and there are not a large number whose output can be described as prolific—we believe the difficulties can be overcome. The details are matters that can be worked out later when ringing comes once again into its own and happier days are with us. There is no reason, however, why in the meantime association officials and other ringers who are interested in the matter should not give it serious thought.

It is not suggested, of course, that such a scheme is any solution of the situation created by the unwitting ringing of false compositions, some of which, as Mr. Barton's work is now revealing, are coming to light after the lapse of years. Neither does it surmount the difficulties pointed out by Mr. Coles that crop up when, before the falseness is discovered, the figures are published in an association report or circulated by any other means. Once the figures have got abroad they cannot be overtaken, and we have no doubt that in the past false peals, withdrawn by the authors, have sometimes been called by conductors in complete ignorance. This side of the problem is truly a difficult one, but a system of identification such as we have suggested would enable all such peals to be traced, even years later, because once a composition has been given an index number, the identification would be attached to every report of its performance.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, June 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE COURT MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

The annual meeting of the Society of Sherwood Youths was held on June 21st at Vernon House, Nottingham. Naturally, owing to prevailing conditions, numbers were small, and the 'campanological flights' were not very high, but in spite of difficulties those present had a very enjoyable time. Visitors were present from Burton, Derby and Leicester.

The chief business of the afternoon was the passing of accounts and the election of officers. These may both be considered satisfactory, as the officers were all re-elected, and the treasurer reported an increase of 9s. 4d. on the previous balance.

It was decided to hold another meeting in a month's time at the same place, due notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

NOVEL 'SILENT APPARATUS.'

BUCKS RINGERS' EXPERIMENT.

The Central Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held its annual meeting in the parish of North Marston on Saturday, June 14th. The ringers began to assemble at the Parish Church at 2.30 p.m., and the bells (tongue-tied, alas!) were soon set going to Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor and Double Court.

A novel experiment was tried with a new form of 'silent apparatus.' Each ringer was provided with a partner armed with a handbell, who struck his bell as the man with the rope pulled off at hand and back stroke. A six-score of Doubles was rung in this way, but the Oxford Guild does not contemplate worrying the Central Council to sanction the ringing of peals by this method.

The bells of North Marston are a very musical ring of six, the old five having been recast and a treble added by Mears and Stainbank in 1926. The present tenor is 13 cwt. 2 qr. 27 lb. in F.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of the parish (the Rev. G. R. Robertson), who also gave a helpful address on the duties of bellringers in time of war. Twenty-eight members and guests sat down to a tea which would have horrified Lord Woolton, so lavish was the butter and so varied and numerous the sandwiches and cakes.

The annual business meeting which followed was under the chairmanship of the Rev. George Dixon (Rector of Waddesdon and Rural Dean). He was supported by Mr. Frank Gibbard, secretary of the branch, and by the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild.

The secretary made his report on the affairs of the branch during the past year, and read the statement of accounts, which showed a satisfactory balance.

The officers were all re-elected, with a vote of thanks to them for their able services in the past.

PRESENTATION TO REV. C. E. WIGG.

During the course of the meeting a presentation of candlesticks and table cruets was made to the Deputy Master as a token of the good wishes of the branch on the occasion of his recent marriage.—The Rev. C. E. Wigg replied, thanking the members for what was a totally unexpected and delightful gift.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of North Marston for his kindly welcome to the ringers, and to the members of the Mothers' Union who had provided such an excellent tea.

After the conclusion of the business meeting the members were greatly entertained by a lecture on the bells of the Oxford Diocese, given by Mr. F. Sharpe, of Launton. The lecture was profusely illustrated with lantern slides, and Mr. Sharpe kept his audience amused with anecdotes drawn from his long experience as a practical ringer. Commenting on the fact that some members of the public do not relish the sound of protracted ringing as much as the ringers themselves, he related how a certain bellringer in an Oxfordshire village was taken to task by one of the parishioners for the appalling noise that he had his fellows had made during the ringing of a long peal. 'It's your ears that are wrong, not our bells,' replied the ringer. 'You can't expect a person with ears shaped like the devil's to appreciate the sound of church bells.'

BOB DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Is it really necessary to find some other name for Bob Doubles when the bobbed leads are uncalled and the plain leads are termed 'bobs'? The suggestion of the Rev. Herbert Drake seems to me superfluous, for bobbed leads (whether called 'plain' or not) do not get you far without the use also of plain leads (whether called bobs or not).

Let us look at the method as we know it for the sake of simplicity of understanding. Two bobbed leads bring the bells round. Alternate bobbed and plain leads run to 60 changes only. Bobbed leads followed by two plain leads 'won't go'; it turns up false. Bobbed leads followed by three plain leads is, therefore, the only arrangement that will produce the extent, and that (whether you reverse the terms 'bob' and 'plain' or not) is just Bob Doubles—the Bob Doubles that have been known all down the ages.

By the way, I had a recollection of ringing, years ago, a peal of Minor which included College Single and Oxford Bob, and that, before starting, we were told that a plain lead of one was the bob lead in the other. I have tried to find out if my memory is correct by comparing College Single in an old edition of 'Standard Methods' with Oxford Bob in the latest C.C. Collection. Whether we rang the method as I have said, or whether I am mistaken, I cannot now say for certain, but I find that, while a plain lead of College Single (not the reverse method which appears in the Collection) is exactly the same as a bob lead of Oxford Bob, the College Single, with 4th's place made at the treble's lead, appears to require 6th's place at the bob; and it may be that that is what we rang. But, in any event, the case is not quite the same as that of the Bob Doubles.

OWD BOB.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

PLEASANT MEETING AT REIGATE.

In perfect summer weather a meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. About 40 members and friends attended, and it proved a very enjoyable gathering. Preceding the meeting, about half the company had a very attractive walk from Merstham to the top of Reigate Hill, where the excellent weather revealed the scenery at its best, and one of the finest views in the south-east of England was a fitting reward for those who made the climb. The walkers then proceeded by way of Wray Lane, where the overhanging foliage of the great trees afforded welcome shade, to Wray Common, and thence to the fine old Parish Church of Reigate.

Here the service was being held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Talbot, and attended by members who had not undertaken the ramble.

The Vicar extended a hearty welcome to the association, and those present will agree with his remarks that the church was the coolest spot which they had visited that day. In his address he deprecated a spirit of pessimism which he had observed amongst some of his fellow-men to-day, and disagreed absolutely with the belief that the failure of Christianity was responsible for the present state of affairs. Christianity can only fail after it has been properly tried, he said. The trouble was that it had not been properly tried, and it was, therefore, our duty to work for a practical Christianity which would apply to our whole existence.

After the service, the party adjourned to the very fine garden of Mr. Northover, who very kindly provided the tea. In the desirable shade of some lime trees a very welcome and enjoyable meal was held, after which Mr. Northover invited all present to make use of the grounds, and a walk round the various paths proved most interesting. After the meal was completed, the members expressed hearty appreciation of Mr. Northover's hospitality, and, in reply, he said that he would again like to welcome the association next year, provided the food question raised no difficulties.

No business was transacted, but those present stood a few moments in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Fred Woodriss.

The heat did not incite further activity, and members were content to talk over old times and other matters until the party finally dispersed about 8.30 p.m.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT AT MONKEN HADLEY.

Twenty-one ringers and friends, representing six affiliated towers, attended the North and East District meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at Monken Hadley on Saturday, June 14th. Handbell ringing took place in the ringing chamber of St. Mary's Church, and a short service was held, at which the Rector (the Rev. G. Richardson) officiated.

A welcome was extended to the association before an address by the Rector, who was glad to know that, despite present restrictions and the transfer of some ringers to other occupations, the art of ringing was still being maintained. The address was based on three thoughts—disappointment in the thought that restrictions prohibited the sound of church bells; satisfaction in the fact that handbell ringing was permissible under certain conditions, and that it was the accepted substitute for tower-bell ringing; hope in the future when we shall all be able to return to our cherished and mysterious art of campanology.

The business meeting was held in the church and was of short duration, Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president) acting as chairman. Those present stood for a few seconds in silence as a mark of respect to a deceased member, the late Mr. E. F. Pike.

Arrangements were being made for the next district meeting to be held at Stanmore.

The meeting expressed pleasure in the knowledge that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, editor of 'The Ringing World,' had returned home from hospital, and was making continued and satisfactory progress towards complete recovery.

Thanks were accorded to the Rector, organist and Mr. H. S. Arbin, captain of the local band, for their parts towards the success of the meeting.

More handbell ringing then took place until teatime, which was unavoidably later than advertised, but was worth waiting for. It was noticed that an unofficial Youth Movement had been created in the presence (at any rate at the tea table) of Master Peter Coles and Graham Lock, who may, by their pedigree, in a few years' time be commencing their ringing careers by starting off with Spliced Surprise and learning the intricacies of Grandsire and Stedman when they acquire the fruit of experience. The company dispersed after teatime, though this was a slow operation, as there was so much to talk about.

CROFT, LEICS.—On June 2nd, the thirteenth anniversary of the dedication of the bells, the usual peal was replaced by a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on handbells: John H. Bailess 1-2, C. H. Webb (conductor) 3-4, W. A. Wood (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 5-6.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 309.)

THE METHODS REPORT.

Soon after the appointment of the Methods Committee Law James sent round a draft of a proposed report. It was practically identical with the definition of a method he had brought forward at Norwich. The actual wording is now lost, but the original definition was as follows. A method is an arrangement of place-making and dodging upon an odd number of bells working about one or more trebles in one plain or treble bob hunt, so that at each treble lead-end the treble or trebles occupy a different position among the working bells; coming between each pair in turn; and provided also that the working bells are at each lead-end in their proper coursing order.

It was not the statement on methods that people were asking for, and it was very doubtful if it would be understood by ordinary ringers. It was therefore received very coldly by the members of the committee, and after some discussion, I submitted an alternative draft based on Bulwer's suggested rules. This was generally approved, but naturally James would not agree, and in the course of the discussion, the draft with its comments and criticisms got lost in the post or in some other way.

That really was a fortunate thing, for the draft was a poor affair and, if presented to the Council and adopted, would have done no good.

I had by this time begun to see that there was more truth behind James' ideas than people at first thought. A long and keen controversy sprang up which spread beyond the committee and was waged partly by correspondence and partly in the columns of 'The Bell News.' After some years I drew up a statement of what I thought had been fairly generally agreed on by those most competent to express an opinion, and I sent it in the form of a letter to 'The Bell News.' Bulwer warmly approved of it and suggested that it should be used as the report. The other members agreed, and Law James consented on condition that his amended definitions of a plain lead, a bob lead, and a single lead were included. I added some explanatory notes, and the whole was presented to the Council and adopted, five years after the committee had been first appointed.

The report was printed in the Council's Rules and Decisions, and still stands as the official statement on a method. Looking at it now in the light of greatly increased knowledge, I do not think it is anything like so good a statement on methods as could be made; but it served its purpose and it set the standard for methods which the Exercise has accepted. Some of its less important statements are rather open to question, but it finally decided the three main points which had been keenly debated, and on which the Exercise had been strongly divided. First it ruled that no bell may lie more than two consecutive blows in any position. That meant that methods like Bob Triples and Grandsire Major, which had for many years a measure of popularity among ringers, were no longer to be allowed; and that things like Treble Bob Triples and Caters, and Stedman Major were put beyond the pale. It did not, however, forbid certain seven bell methods (not triple changes throughout) with six working bells, which some of the older men such as Davies, and probably Heywood, would have ruled out, and which were not covered by James' original definition.

Treble Bob Triples and Stedman Major had always been looked on as more or less freaks, but Bob Triples for many years was a standard method, and Grandsire on even numbers was by some considered to be equal to Plain Bob. The Clavis claims that on twelve bells it is much superior. Bob Triples does not, perhaps, deserve the hard things which were said against it; the objections to it were largely academic, and no harm would have been done if it had remained in practice; but a logical line had to be drawn and Bob Triples was on the wrong side of it.

The second important ruling of the Method Report was that each lead in a method must be symmetrical. Every place made in the first half lead must be balanced by a complementary place made in the second half lead. This was strongly challenged by some people, who saw in it no more than a mere fad, an attempt to make a method 'look pretty on paper.' The criticism gained most of its strength and point from Union Triples which is not symmetrical, and was therefore ruled out. Union Triples had enjoyed a certain amount of revived popularity in the previous few years among peal ringers, and among a number of very clever composers like A. B. Carpenter, C. D. P. Davies and John Carter, who found in it a large scope for the exercise of their skill and ingenuity. It is probable that its popularity among practical ringers would in any case have been short lived.

The discovery by J. J. Parker of the falseness of Yorkshire Court Minor, due to its lack of symmetry, did something towards changing men's opinion, and the increasing interest taken in new Surprise and Treble Bob methods, with their problems of internal falseness, did more.

The keenest controversy centred round the third rule, that which said that a method must have what are called Bob Major Lead Ends. It was, and is, easy to criticise this rule. It was, and is, easy to recognise its value. But it is extraordinarily difficult to give any reasons for it which will satisfy anyone who is not himself convinced of its necessity. It led to the greatest amount of controversy and the keenest of arguments, but most of it was very poor stuff.

The strongest point in favour of these rules, and the thing which really led to their being accepted by the Exercise, is that they are really inherent in the nature of change ringing. They were not new things, though people thought they were, and Heywood was 'patiently amused at the earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionably axiomatic rules.' Others roundly declared that the Methods Committee was trying to dictate to ringers as to what they should ring, and they resented the dictation strongly. But these rules had been more or less observed by the Exercise throughout the ages, and consciously so, for the most part, by the best composers. At any rate, only those methods which kept them had proved of abiding value.

Apart from the three rules there is nothing much of permanent value in the Method Report. The definitions of a plain lead, a bob lead, and a single lead, and the definitions of a single method, a reverse method, a double method and a compound method have just sufficient amount of truth in them to obscure the whole truth; and the statement on the succession of the nature of the rows is a concession (quite unnecessary) to an opinion held at the time by leading men, but on insufficient grounds. The Methods Report was a halfway house be-

tween the merely opportunist code of rules asked for by Heywood and Bulwer and a really scientific explanation of methods. The latter, however, was not possible at the time, and it is doubtful if it is even now.

With all its defects and limitations the report served its purpose well enough, and it prepared the ground for the great expansion of Major methods. Controversy died down or was turned to other matters. But to that there was one exception. C. D. P. Davies had taken no part in the arguments, for they were outside his particular subjects. But one day in the year 1911 he visited John Carter to see his ringing machine, and he worked out and took with him a new Major method which he thought was typical of what a good Major method should be. It is sufficient to say that in the first lead of the plain course 8-2 dodge behind, with the 7th on the lead, and the lead end is 3462857. Afterwards he was told that it did not meet the requirements of the Methods Report, and it seems that some contemptuous remarks by Law James about it and about Union Triples came to his ears.—That stung him into an almost fierce antagonism not unmixed with personal feeling, and he set himself to the task of removing the Methods Report from the Council's decisions. At the London meeting in 1912 he brought the matter up, but was soundly beaten, for though he was genuinely working for what he thought were the best interests of the art and science of change ringing, his zeal was greater than his knowledge of this particular matter.

He had to wait until a new Council came into being, and then in 1915 in another attack, he made the longest speech ever delivered to the Council. Excessive wordiness was always his greatest defect, but on this occasion he spoke for an hour and forty minutes. The meeting, of course, was thoroughly sick and tired of the subject long before he had finished. James was not present, and I, as representing the Methods Committee, sat still and did not interrupt. It was a great test of Heywood's chairmanship, and it did not stand it very well. Davies was the secretary of the Council, and Heywood doubtless felt a difficulty in pulling him up. He let him go on and on, and then when at last he did finish, he got up, closured the debate and directed the Council to pass Davies' resolution. I had no intention of making the tactical mistake of prolonging the debate in such circumstances, but I did feel aggrieved that a resolution, which in effect reversed all the work we had done during so many years, should have been passed without giving me the opportunity of even entering a protest. Of course, the resolution was a dead letter, but Heywood should either have rigorously curtailed Davies' speech, or seen that the matter was held over. There was some excuse for Davies. He was so thoroughly in earnest that he did not realise how long he had been speaking.

A little later on he went to the trouble and expense of publishing a pamphlet of twenty-four closely printed pages, in which he attempted to justify his opposition to the Methods Committee and to give his own views on the matter.

One thing I think was made clear by these dead and now almost forgotten disputes. A dictum by an authority, or a formal resolution by the Central Council, passes almost unnoticed and has little effect; but a controversial statement, hotly challenged, stimulates interest, and by inducing people to think for themselves, helps progress in no small degree.

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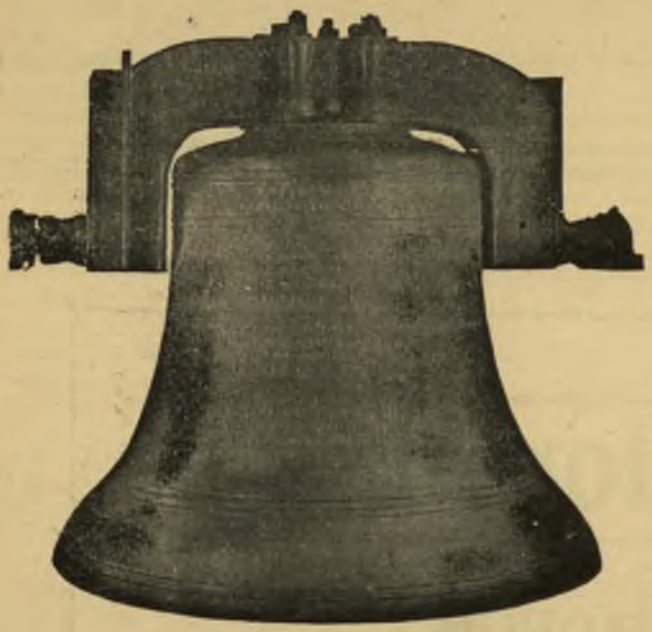
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the N.U.T.S. will be pleased to learn that Miss Edna Bedford, who is doing three years' training at King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor, has been successful in passing the State preliminary examination in general nursing.

The hon. secretary of the Kent County Association (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) and his family are to be congratulated upon escaping serious injury from enemy action. Raiders were recently over the area in which they live, and a bomb landed on a building about 15 yards from their residence. Mr. Mitchell, his wife and daughter were blown down the stairs by the blast, but happily sustained no broken bones, although they were bruised and shaken.

In our issue of May 30th we gave an account of the successive long lengths of Treble Bob Major. Mr. E. R. Martin points out that we mentioned all the composers except Mr. E. Timbrell, who was the first to beat Day's 16,608. Mr. Timbrell's performance was a very fine one, and we are sorry we did not mention it. He is still living at Chipping, near Preston.

The Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal on the twelve bells at Exeter Cathedral on July 5th, 1924. The method was Stedman Cinques, and the conductor was Mr. Albert Walker.

On July 2nd, 1886, the Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on handbells. John Carter rang 3-4 and called the bobs. Mr. Tom Miller, who happily is still with us, rang 5-6. Three years earlier he had taken part in the first peal on Coventry bells, which afterwards proved to be false.

The first peal at All Saints', Poplar, was rung on July 3rd, 1823. These bells have so far escaped destruction at enemy hands.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

WHO WILL RING THE BELLS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One of the reasons why Mr. Churchill, in newspaper pictures, always seems to wear the 'Sphinx's inscrutable smile' must be the enigma he and his Government have set us ringers by banning the ringing of church bells. As your 'leader' admits this week, questions have been asked for a whole year now as to:—

(a) Who is to ring the bells in case of invasion?

(b) What are they going to ring?

(c) How are the ringers, if unqualified, going to manage it?

First let us realise how these things will **not** be done.

(a) The ringers will not be change ringers, whether members of the Home Guard, the A.F.S. or any other defence force.

(b) The method will not be Double Court, Grandsire Triples or Norwich Caters.

(c) The striking will be by no means what it should. On the contrary:—

(a) The ringers will be German parachutists.

(b) The method will be 'Hitler Surprise.'

(c) The ringing and striking will be most unorthodox.

In support of theory (a), the Germans have accompanied their occupation of various countries with the ringing of church bells, the most notable instance being Vienna.

In support of theory (b), the Germans will not have the time or the amenities to learn the standard methods.

In support of (c), the Germans have done nothing orthodox in this war yet.

In the light of the above, let us re-read the Government's injunction as set out in your 'leader,' and we shall see that the ringing of any bells when the invasion begins will show us exactly where the Germans are. And that, surely, is what we shall want to know.

Perhaps our Government have been a bit cleverer in the matter than we thought.

A. TROTMAN.

LONDON CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Tourist' has apparently made up his mind quite definitely that London's churches are nothing like churches, and that is that.

It is a great pity he did not reply to the letters from Mr. R. F. Deal and Mr. E. A. Young, instead of confining his reply entirely to my poor effort at defending London's churches.

That 'Tourist' is entitled to his opinion no one will deny, but whether his experience of 900 churches entitles him to condemn with one sweep the work of a master of 250 years ago is quite another matter.

J. E. BAILEY

20, Swaisland Road,
Dartford, Kent.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

Many Unpaid Subscriptions.

The annual meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at the George Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 21st, when the following towers were represented: Bradley, Brewood, Cannock, Codsall, Coseley, Darlaston, Penn, Stafford, Tettenhall, Trysull, Walsall, West Bromwich (All Saints'), Willenhall and Wolverhampton (St. Peter's). Two welcome visitors were Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key and Lance-Corpl. James Fernley, of Norbury. Mr. T. Benton, of Cannock, attended on the 50th anniversary of his election as a member.

Mr. Robert Pickering presided at the meeting at which the committee's report was read and accepted. After some discussion, it was agreed that, in order to save paper, it should be produced on a single sheet. The accounts, presented by the treasurer (the Rev. C. H. Barker), showed a balance of £33 6s. 8d. on the right side. But it was pointed out that, while a majority of the members had paid their subscriptions, there were many who had not done so, and it was hoped they would do their duty in order to keep the ship afloat.

Three new members had been enrolled during the year. The officers were re-elected en bloc. The committee recommended that the next meeting should be held at Codsall, and the suggestion was adopted. It will take place towards the end of August or early in September, whichever is most suitable to those concerned.

A vote of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year was moved by Mr. A. E. Reed and carried unanimously. Handbells were then brought into use, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung slowly (in lieu of half-muffled ringing) as a last token of respect to the late John Perry, by old friends of his: R. Pickering 1-2, Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key 3-4, H. Knight 5-6, and B. Horton 7-8.

Miss Merle Barker (daughter of the hon. treasurer), gold medallist for elocution, delighted the company with several items of clever acting.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The last annual meeting was held at Wolverhampton in August, and was well attended. At the conclusion of the business transaction handbells were brought into use, and various touches were completed. St. Peter's (Wolverhampton) handbell quartette also played a variety of tunes. Meetings during the winter were abandoned on account of the black-out and the difficulty in transport. In April of this year a meeting was held at Wolverhampton, when a goodly number of members attended and which proved to be a social success.

No peals have been rung during the period under review, but now is an opportunity for practice on handbells, with the outlook for attempts for peals in the future. It is nevertheless realised that difficulties arise as to meeting for practice on account of so many members engaged on war work, both on munition production, A.R.P. work and for fire watching, etc. Twelve months have passed since tower bells were allowed to be used, and it is hoped that when the great day arrives for them to ring out the joyful news of victory members will be found at the rope-end ready to do their duty.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

SOME QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—What has happened to the Central Council—is it still alive? I admit I have not read of its death, but I ask the question because no one has heard anything officially about it for nearly, if not quite, two years, and we are now reading from week to week an interesting 'obituary' notice of this august body.

Seriously, however, ought not some kind of action to be taken to continue the Council's existence? The affiliated associations ought to be instructed as to their future action, if their membership is to be maintained, and as an association official I and, no doubt, every secretary and treasurer will be glad to know whether in these years, when no meetings are being held, associations are expected to pay their affiliation fees. If they have to do so, is it to be on the basis of the last elected number of representatives, although some associations have lost a lot of members and perhaps are not now qualified to send as many delegates?

If the Council is still functioning, what about the hon. members elected in 1937 and 1938 for three years? Without some kind of covering action by the Council or the Standing Committee, which they have not yet taken, surely these are no longer members? And they include the president!

If the officials want to keep interest in the Council alive, why do we not occasionally get some communication from them? This silence points to complete inactivity. Associations are doing their best to keep their members interested; why can't the Council through the officers try to do the same? What about publishing the peals analysis for last year for a start?

OBSERVER.

A TRIPLE MEETING.

THREE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS UNITE.

Quick Business.

The annual joint meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society was held at Wath on Saturday, June 21st, when the following towers were represented: Arksey, Bolsterstone, Doncaster Parish, Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Pudsey, Rotherham Parish, Sandal, Sprotborough, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's), and the local company. Handbells were rung in the Church House during the afternoon until 5 p.m., when the company adjourned for tea at Warburton's Cafe. The business meeting of the three societies took place in the Church House, and the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans, presided over them all. No time was wasted in long speeches, and the whole of the business was disposed of in about 25 minutes.

The Vicar said how pleased he was to meet the ringers and to welcome them to Wath and to know that they were keeping together. He said it was something new to have a gathering of ringers in his parish, as he had not been at Wath long, and this was the first parish he had had with a peal of bells. He looked forward to the time when he could hear the tower bells ring.

Mr. G. Lewis, vice-president, Yorks Association, offered the best thanks to the Vicar for the use of Church House, for presiding at the meeting and for the welcome he had given, and to the local company for all the arrangements they had made. This was seconded by Mr. E. Brookes, Barnsley District president, supported by Mr. Staveley, Doncaster Society, and carried with applause.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Barnsley and District Society at Penistone on Saturday, July 19th, and the next Doncaster Societies' meeting at Arksey on Saturday, July 26th.

At the opening of the business meeting the members stood in silence to the memory of Mr. C. Walsh, a ringer of the local band, and a course of Bob Minor was rung to his memory by: H. Chant 1-2, A. Nash 3-4, A. Gill 5-6, on behalf of the Barnsley Society.

Very good use was made of the handbells, both in the afternoon and evening, methods ranging from Minor to Maximus as follows: Minor, Plain and Treble Bob, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Little Bob Major, Plain, Little and Double Bob Major Spliced, Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Bob Royal, Grandsire Cinques, and Bob Maximus, and also a course of 'Clinker' Bob Minor.

A thirst among some of the ringers developed by the heat of the day had to be satisfied, and then, after a short social chat, a happy and successful meeting came to an end.

THE LATE REV. W. PENNINGTON-BICKFORD.

FUNERAL SERVICE AT ST. CLEMENT'S.

The funeral service of the late Rector of St. Clement Danes' was held on June 22nd among the ruins of the church he had served so devotedly for 37 years, one of them as churchwarden, five as curate, and the rest as Rector.

The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Bishop of Kensington, who gave a most impressive address. A notable feature were hymns written by Mrs. Pennington-Bickford, and set to music by the deceased Rector. Before and after the service rounds on ten handbells were rung and after the opening anthem a course of Grandsire Triples was rung. The ringers who took part, and who represented the Ancient Society of College Youths and the London County Association, were E. Fenn, H. Langdon, A. A. Hughes, H. Miles, A. D. Barker, R. F. Deal, G. N. Price, T. Groombridge, jun., and J. E. Lewis Cockey.

One of the wreaths was from the London County Association, 'in fond memory of our hon. chaplain.' It was in their colours, red and blue.

DORSET VILLAGE TRIBUTE.

The late Rector of St. Clement Danes' and Mrs. Pennington-Bickford were no strangers to the Dorset village of Kington Magna, where the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, hon. secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, is Rector.

On Monday, June 23rd, a simple tribute was paid to the memory of one justly held in honour among ringers. The Union Jack flew at half-mast over the Rectory, and at 1 p.m. a group of boys played 'The Bells of St. Clement's' in the church on handbells, while the ancient 'Requiem Æternam' was recited by the Rector, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards. Melodies composed by Mr. Pennington-Bickford were also played on the organ and handbells at evensong on the previous Sunday and the Feast of St. John-the-Baptist.

MRS. PENNINGTON-BICKFORD'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am to-day in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Pennington-Bickford, in which she says, referring to the memorial service at St. Clement Danes', 'Will you please thank all the ringers for me and express my deep gratitude.'

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PRESENTATION TO MR. NOLAN GOLDEN.

A most successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Bergh Apton on Saturday, June 21st. Members were present from Attleborough, Aylsham, Beccles, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft), St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Norton, Redenhall, Great Yarmouth, and the local tower. Various methods were practised during the afternoon on the six bells, with clappers tied. The good 'go' of the bells was commented on, this being partly due to the fact that one, and often two, practices are held regularly each week, in spite of the ban. Handbells were also rung.

The Rector (the Rev. A. St. J. Heard) preached at the service, and later a tea reminiscent of the 'Golden' age of the association (when Nolan was general secretary and England was at peace) was taken on the Rectory lawn.



MR. NOLAN GOLDEN.

At the business meeting which followed, Mr. F. B. Freestone (who was thought to be almost the only person remaining in Bergh Apton not yet a member of the association) was elected a member.

In the much regretted but unavoidable absence of the president of the association (Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, of Yarmouth), Mr. W. L. Duffield, chairman of the South Norfolk Branch, presented to Mr. F. Nolan Golden a silver bell inkstand, as a token of thanks from the association for all he has done as general secretary since 1937. Mr. Duffield recalled that for a number of years before becoming general secretary, Mr. Golden had been successively secretary of the South Norfolk and North Norfolk Branches. He hoped Mr. Golden would soon be with them again, when the war is over and the R.A.F. (which has unfortunately recognised Mr. Golden's brilliance) is able to release him. Meanwhile they gave this gift as a token of thanks for what he had done for the association, both as a brilliant ringer and as a most energetic worker.

Mr. Golden expressed his thanks for the gift, and for the warm friendship and support which members of the association had given him. He recalled a similar occasion when, at the great crisis of his life, in 1936, members had expressed their sympathy with him in a most practical way.

The new general secretary and treasurer (the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow) added some words of explanation. Referring to the difficulty of making such a presentation generally known, so that all would have an opportunity to subscribe, at such a time as this, he said that the balance left after paying for the inkstand would be presented to Mr. Golden in the form of War Savings certificates. He presented Mr. Golden with £2 15s. worth there and then, and said that

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MR. DRAKE AND BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I did not set a trap for Mr. Drake. I asked him a plain and straightforward question to find out definitely whether he knows what people are referring to when they speak of 'backward hunting.' He says he does not know, and that confession shows he is not competent to express an opinion on whether the term is a correct one or not. He further says that no one else knows (which is not true); and that I know least of all (which is both untrue and rude).

I did not invent the expression 'backward hunting.' It came into use spontaneously years ago, among the people who had occasion to speak of a definite feature in ringing for which there is no more convenient and natural name. Backward hunting is a real thing. As far back as 1667, Richard Duckworth, in the 'Tintinnalogia,' drew attention to the difference between forward and backward hunting, though he did not use those actual terms.

The word 'backward' is used with the same precise and limited meaning as is used by Henry Hubbard in his 'Campanalogia,' 1876; C. A. W. Troyte in his 'Change Ringing,' 1869; Woolmore Wigram in his 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' 1871; Jasper Snowdon in 'Ropesight,' 1879; H. Earle Bulwer in 'The Glossary,' 1903; Ernest Morris in 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' 1937; and E. S. and M. Powell in 'The Ringers' Handbook.'

The 'Clavis' (1788), in its somewhat pompous style, uses the word 'retrograde,' which is only the latinised form of backward moving. Shipway (1816) copied the 'Clavis,' and so did Benjamin Thackrah in 'The Art of Ringing,' 1852, and William Banister in 'The Art and Science of Change Ringing,' 1874.

Three random quotations will illustrate the meaning of the word.

'Dodging is nothing more than making a retrograde motion, or moving a place backward.'—Henry Hubbard.

'In effect a dodge is one step of backward hunting.'—E. S. Powell.

'A dodge is nothing on earth but hunting backwards.'—Henry Law James at Liverpool, 1931.

Backward hunting is not an expression one uses or needs to use in actual ringing, but that does not prove that it is not a useful and necessary term in other circumstances. In all my experience I have never heard a conductor tell a ringer during a peal to complete a Q Set; but 'Q Set' is a good and proper ringing term. The opinions given in your last issue by Mr. T. F. Thomas (whoever he may be) are merely beside the point.

The modern use of the expression backward hunting is illustrated not only by its employment in the articles on Standard Methods, but by a quotation from a recent letter by Mr. C. W. Woolley to 'The Ringing World' (February 14th, 1941). He writes that 'Bristol, which has a rich mixture of snaps, leads right and wrong, and forward and backward ringing, is one of the finest of methods.'

The word which Mr. Drake tells us is absurd and ridiculous has been used by almost everyone who has written about change ringing. Mr. Drake says that the men who use the expression 'backward hunting' have brought ridicule on change ringing. He is quite mistaken. The people who laughed, laughed at him, not at the term.

He has referred more than once to the Central Council meeting at Liverpool and to what I said there, which, characteristically, he has misquoted. What happened was this. He moved a resolution asking the Council to disapprove of the term 'backward hunting.' Law James tried (but in vain) to explain to him what it meant. When it came to my turn I said that every ringer knows what hunting is, and backward hunting is simply hunting backwards. The members of the Council (all except Mr. Drake) saw my point and laughed. Even the reporters, who, poor souls, were wondering what to make of a Central Council debate—even they felt that a joke of sorts was knocking about, and so next morning the citizens of Liverpool read all about the incident in their newspapers.'

'We do not understand these absurd terms,' writes Mr. Drake, 'and we do not intend them to be used. If we cannot ring changes without being made fools of in this ridiculous way, we will give up ringing.' That is splendid. It is good to know that, though he was laughed out of court at Liverpool, he has still authority and power enough to forbid us to use the terms we think proper. But, after all, the heroics are rather forced and unreal. The expression 'backward hunting' does not really concern him, for no one uses it who has not advanced to some extent from the elementary stages of practical and theoretical ringing, and the only person who in this matter can make a fool of Mr. Drake is Mr. Drake himself.

Ealing. J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

HUNTS AND HUNTING.

The history of the origin and growth of the words we use, what they once meant, and how they have gained their present meaning, is a fascinating study. It is one of the chief means of tracing the development of human life and thought, to it have been devoted much study and learning, and about it many books have been written.

In this matter, as in several others, the Ringing Exercise reproduces, on its small scale, the features of the general life around. We, too, have our special words and terms, come down to us from the past, words which grew up to meet some particular needs, and which have often developed as ideas have expanded. They are so familiar, and they serve their purposes so well, that we never stop to think where they came from, nor why they have their present meanings; yet a study of them may give us a great deal of insight into the minds of the ringers of old time, and tell us much about the development of the art and science of change ringing. Why, for instance, do we call the worsted part of a bell rope the ' sallie '? Why is the act of writing down changes termed ' pricking '? What history lies behind the use of the word ' scroof,' so familiar to London ringers?

Not much has, as yet, been done towards the study of our terms, and to those who do make the attempt, it presents some pitfalls. What seems the obvious explanation is not always the real one. Most people, when they come across the word ' belfry,' would naturally associate it with the world ' bell.' That seems to have been in the mind of the compiler of the Glossary, and to have led him to define a belfry as ' the part of the tower in which the bells are placed '; but etymologically a belfry has nothing whatever to do with bells. The word originally meant a pent house and then a watch tower.

When once we realise that the fundamental idea which produced change ringing was that of movement, it is not, however, difficult to understand why most of the terms were adopted. But there is one of them, as familiar as any, which, when we stop to consider it, makes us wonder how it ever came into use. ' Hunt ' and ' Hunting '—the words are common and in every day speech, but what has the thing they signify to do with bells and bell ringing? ' Hunt ' is an Anglo-Saxon word which has been used in this country for a thousand years, and all along with the same meaning. It signifies ' to go in pursuit of wild animals,' and though the meaning has expanded somewhat, there is always the idea of the pursuit of something. Nothing could well be further from the objects of change ringing.

We can without difficulty see why the early ringers used the words ' dodge,' or ' lead,' or ' bob.' They imply, and very largely describe, different sorts of movement. ' Hunting ' also implies movement, but in its ordinary use it requires some object to be hunted. Now we say that a ringer dodges, or we say that a bell dodges; but we never say that a ringer dodges a bell. We say that a ringer hunts, or a bell hunts; and we do say sometimes that a ringer hunts a bell. The expression is a very old one, handed down from the earliest times, and though its meaning has somewhat altered, it lets a flood of light into what was in the minds of the men who first developed change ringing.

How during the great days of Queen Elizabeth's reign the art of change ringing managed to grow up in the belfries of towns and villages we do not know. We can speculate, and we can make guesses more or less accurate; but we have no contemporary information. But we do possess a book written just when the general characteristics of the art had been fixed and its future development determined. That book was by a man who had a clear grasp of his subject, and complete command of words to express his meaning. In the ' Tintinnalogia,' Richard Duckworth gives us a description of ringing in the middle years of the seventeenth century just at the time when modern method ringing had become possible. It was possible because an earlier stage of development had been gone through. This early stage passed on to later years almost everything out of which our present day ringing was directly developed, but there was one very important difference. Instead of every man in the band having an equal share in the method and being always on the move, most of them had to remain just where they were, and only to alter their positions when they were directed to do so by the man who controlled the ringing and who probably was what we should now call the conductor. He moved the bells about one at a time much as a chess player moves the pieces on the board. One at a time; for though no bell can move unless another makes way for it, the position of the second bell, relative to the rest, remained the same.

One point is worth noting. Nowadays we associate hunting with a continuous path in which a step is made at every change, but originally a bell might make a step in hunting and then have to wait for a number of changes (it might be as many as thirty on six bells) before it made the next step. The exact equivalent of this in modern ringing is the dodging in Plain Bob where each of the working bells takes one step backwards and then waits for a whole lead before it takes the next backward step. When the course is finished all the dodges together make one continuous backward path.

Superficially this ringing was like modern stoney, which indeed is the debased and degenerate survival of it, but with the important and vital distinction that the early movement was made according to scientific rules and with full regard to truth of changes.

When the conductor moved a bell by successive steps through the others up from the front to the back, or down from the back to the front, he was said to hunt the bell, and then by a transition, natural in English speech and inevitable in the circumstances, the bell which was moved or hunted was said itself to move or hunt. Not till later was the man who rang it said to hunt.

We have said that the hunting was done at the direction of a conductor. That seems to have been so in the ordinary bands, but the more skilful companies had no conductor and each man had to look out for himself.

But why did the old ringers use the particular word ' hunt '? That we cannot say. There seems to have been no corresponding use in ordinary speech, but these men had an instinct for finding distinctive and suitable terms. Perhaps there was some idea in their minds similar to that which makes men talk about ' pursuing '

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DEATH OF MR. JOHN PERRY.

WELL-KNOWN STAFFORDSHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Perry, of Brewood, which took place on June 17th, after an illness of three months caused by a seizure. The funeral was at Brewood on the 20th.

The deceased had been a prominent member of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society since 1900, and for the greater part of that period he was a member of the committee.

When he took over the control of the tower and bells of SS. Mary and Chad's Church, Brewood, he immediately set about training a band of young men in the art of change ringing. Up to then 'Churchyard Bob' had been the rule. He encountered many obstacles, but persevered until he got a band round him that could ring Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major, and Double Norwich.

As is often the case in a village, one or another of the band left the district, with the result that his teaching capabilities were frequently tested. He, however, succeeded in conducting a peal of Grandsire Triples rung by the local Sunday service ringers.

He rang 200 peals for the Archdeaconry of Stafford Society, including Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Triples, Caters and Cinques, Plain Bob Minor, Major and Royal, Cambridge Minor and Major, New Cambridge Major and Superlative Surprise. He took part in a strictly unconducted peal of Stedman Triples and one of Stedman Caters in hand. He conducted peals of Grandsire and Erin Triples, Stedman Doubles (on handbells), Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Plain Bob Minor and Major.

An outstanding performance was on February 3rd, 1902, when a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on handbells by John Perry, who rang 1-2-3 and conducted, and Thomas Perry, who rang 4-5-6. The conductor had the treble in his right hand and 2-3 in his left. His brother had 4-5 in his right hand and the tenor in his left. Mr. Perry was a painter and decorator by trade, but was better known as clerk, for 14 years, to the Brewood Parish Council, clerk and sexton of the Parish Church, secretary to the Dole Trustees, secretary of the 'Royal Exchange' lodge, Ancient Order of Oddfellows and the Jubilee Hall Community Council. He was for many years secretary of the now defunct Brewood Horticultural Society.

At a meeting of the Cannock Rural Council, on Tuesday, the chairman (Mr. W. E. Hawthorne) referred to the death that morning of Mr. John Perry, of The Lowlands, Brewood, and it was agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent to his widow. The chairman and other members spoke highly of the keenness of Mr. Perry in his work and of his interest in the village.

He leaves a widow and daughter to mourn their loss.

WEDDING OF SURREY RINGER.

PTE. R. V. FULLER AND MISS MARY FRY.

The wedding took place at Farnham Parish Church on Saturday, June 14th, of Miss Mary Fry, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Fry, of Farnham, and Mr. Richard Victor Fuller, Army Dental Corps, youngest son of Mrs. R. Fuller, of Walworth. The Rev. T. F. Griffith officiated, and Mr. G. C. Macklin, at the organ, accompanied the hymns, 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,' and 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us.' The bride was given away by her father. She wore a gown of ivory figured satin, with a short train cut in one with the skirt. There were three bridesmaids, Miss E. Fry (sister of the bride) and the Misses Josie and Peggy Green. The bridegroom is a well-known ringer in the Guildford area, having started ringing at Reigate and continued later at Aldershot, Farnham and district.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 320.)

the fund for more certificates would remain open for the benefit of those who had not yet had the opportunity to subscribe.

Members of the association should note that the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow's address is 52, The Close, Norwich.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Rector for the use of the bells and for his address at the service, also for providing a bus free from Norwich for members' convenience, and for wishing to give the tea (though the visitors wouldn't hear of receiving it all for nothing, and promptly subscribed 1s. each for church expenses); also to the organist and organ blower, those who had arranged the tea, and those who had saved up materials for it.

It was announced that Mr. Arthur J. E. Smalls, of Norwich, serving in His Majesty's Forces, was reported missing.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, if possible, at Diss on September 13th.

After the business meeting, members rang handbells, played bowls, and inspected the Rector's lovely garden, which all agreed had been the setting of one of the most delightful meetings of the association for some time.

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, 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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be at Moorside on Saturday, July 5th. Tower bells and handbells available. All ringers and friends welcome. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.) — Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by handbell practice.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, July 5th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.15, at Swan Hotel, meeting and handbells after.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, July 5th. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Bring sandwiches and sugar. — Peter Crook and John H. Ridyard, Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Maldon, on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Will all those requiring tea please let me know by Tuesday, July 8th, so that the essential arrangement may be made? — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Please inform Mr. G. Horner, 91, Clifton Green, York, by Thursday, July 10th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea. It is essential that all intending to be present should notify the secretary not later than Wednesday, July 9th, to make the necessary arrangements for tea.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Corby on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 6 p.m. No tea. Handbells before and after service. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, nr. Kettering.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School on Saturday, July 12th, 6 p.m. onwards. Handbells available.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Anstey on July 12th. Bells (8, silent) will be available from 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., will be provided for those who notify Mr. A. Disney, 11, Dalby Road, Anstey, by Tuesday, July 8th. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, South Croydon, on Saturday, July 12th. Eight bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. until black-out. Also handbells. Service 4.30. Tea to follow for all notifying Miss Pat Terry, 110, Brighton Road, South Croydon, by Wednesday, July 9th. All welcome, but please remember—if you don't send in your name you will get no tea.—Ivy R. Housden, Dis. Sec., 25, Southbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, July 12th. Tower will be open from 3 p.m. Handbells will be available, also front 8 (silent). Meeting at 5 p.m. Tea will be arranged for those who send word of their intention to be present. A good attendance is requested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Ampthill Road, Liverpool 17.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The July monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, July 12th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow at 4.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. — This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those intending to be present kindly notify me not later than Monday, July 14th.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

JOINT MEETING AT HAGLEY

TEA IN THE PARK.

The joint meeting of the Dudley and Districts Guild and the Northern Branch of the Worcester Association, at Hagley on June 21st, was held in glorious weather and was well attended. The church bells were available for silent practice, and good use was made of the handbells. Tea was served in the beautiful park surrounding the church.

The Ringing Master of the Dudley Guild, Mr. C. H. Woodberry, presided over the quarterly meeting of that society. Another joint meeting was arranged for September 20th at Clent.

Thanks were given to Mr. E. M. Ashford, scoutmaster, of Hagley, and the Scouts, and to the Misses Parkes for serving the tea. Altogether it was a most successful meeting.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from page 321.)

a course or a path. The term was a good one. Think how much feebler it would have been if they had used the more obvious word ' move.'

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